

For the record, my name is John Serra. I am a former organizer for the Oregon Bus Project and a Political Science graduate from Oregon State University. Working for the Bus Project as a Public Organizer, it was my responsibility to register, engage, and educate voters leading up to the 2012 election. Based on this experience with the Oregon voting system, I strongly support HB 2017, which effectively and securely expands the potential for registration updates and helps tackle one of the biggest barriers to voting in this state-- re-registration. We ask you to support this bill because doing so will further establish Oregon's place in the national vanguard for voting rights and ensure that Oregon remains a bulwark for the true spirit of Democracy and inclusion.

Oregon has one of the more modern voting system of the US states with vote by mail. However, this system creates unique issues with our voter registration system that other states do not face. For example, under this system, voters are forced to update their addresses each time they move, or else they will be unable to vote by mail. In my experience registering voters, it is obvious that this has a disproportionate effect on mobile voters, such as youth, students, and low-income individuals, who change residencies most frequently and are by far the largest population of people who require registration updates.

In order to offset this issue, we need to streamline the system that registered voters utilize in order to update their information to ensure that they receive ballots at their current address. HB 2017 modernizes our online voter update system by allowing currently registered voters to use the last four digits of their Social Security Number to verify their identity and update their information, a change to the current law which requires that the voter also have a valid Oregon Driver's License. This is important because the current law bars any person who does not have a valid Oregon Issued State ID.

Based on my interactions in the field, the biggest demand for voter registration was to update information. Of these people, at least thirty to forty percent opted to use their SSN number as opposed to a driver's license. This is often the case for students, others living in the city, and low-income individuals who have no need for a car or lack the income to maintain one, and therefore do not have an Oregon Driver's License. These are some of the largest populations that face disenfranchisement, but by current law they are unable to update their registration online. There is no reason that a SSN should not be sufficient to update a registration because the signature of the voter is already on file as a registered voter.

Web registration has the potential to reach an unprecedented amount of voters, and because of that, the State of Oregon is rightly spending a large amount of resources and effort to utilize it. However, If the online system remains hobbled by arbitrary identification requirements then all that money and time will be for nothing, the populations which need the vote the most will continue to be subverted. We will be unable to fully realize the actual potential of our democracy in the online world in which we live. I support HB 2017, and I ask that you all do the same to better allow the voters to accurately represent the state which we love, and move Oregon forward as one of the most inclusive states in our country. Let's keep

Oregon a national force to be followed.