

From the Desk of
Representative Paul Holvey



The League of Oregon Cities Urges a “NO” Vote on HB 2617

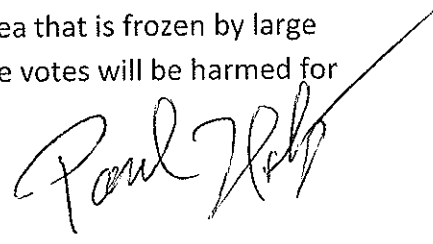
HB 2617 would require a double majority election for islands larger than 100 acres when annexed by charter annexation vote cities.

HB 2617 affects whose vote counts.

- This bill hurts current city residents
An island within a city is an area that is surrounded on all sides by incorporated areas of a city. So, it is a pocket of unincorporated land surrounded by a city, with roads and services that connect and overlap. As a result, non-residents live inside a city and access the services that a city provides to its residents at the same level and rate as a resident, but they do not pay for these services. Instead, city residents carry the burden of paying for these services for themselves and those in the island.
- This bill provides gives veto power to non-residents
If a majority within a large island voted against the proposed annexation, their votes are the only votes that mattered, regardless of if the majority of voters in the entire affected area voted in favor of annexation. Essentially, this bill gives non-residents the power to prevent themselves from paying the same level of taxes that everyone else around them pays but receive access to the same services as their neighbors.

HB 2617 interferes with the current, carefully balanced land use system

- SB 100 contemplated a system to grow without leading to the urban sprawl seen in so many of our neighboring states. This included the urban growth boundary process, which allows a city to develop onto lands that have been designated for growth.
- When a city needs to grow its urban growth boundary (UGB), it first must examine if there is already sufficient land within its current UGB to serve the expected growth. An island is counted in that land supply, and if it cannot be annexed because the voters inside the island vetoed the annexation, the city cannot extend the UGB.
- Eventually, the population growth in an area will exceed an area that is frozen by large islands that refuse to annex into the city. Cities that do require votes will be harmed for opting for citizen participation.



PLEASE VOTE “NO” ON HB 2617