

Honorable Senators,

I oppose HB4056.

I am all for protecting medical information. Indeed, I did not make the connection between this bill and the voter rolls until a couple of days ago. So let me lay out my concern that death certificates not recorded with the County Clerk or Recorder eliminates the requirement to remove these folks from the voter rolls.

A simple solution would be to redact the cause of death and still record the document. It would be good to check and then follow up with the recorders office to make sure deaths are reported to our clerks and removed. Accurate Voter Rolls are vital to honest elections.

Last year I reported to the House Rules Committees my findings regarding the Oregon Voter Rolls. I had McCullough Research compare the Social Security Master Death list with the Oregon Voter Rolls. Apparently the file is quite large and McCullough only compared the Washington and Oregon portion of Social Security Master Death list with the Oregon Voter Rolls. The other 48 state records were not compared. Yet, of these 2 states, the results showed 877 Active and Inactive matches. Of those were 92 folks deemed active and 785 inactive voters. 381 had been on the list for over 5 years past their death date. Of the 92 Active we found 6 had voted. We found 2 death certificates that we could obtain and give to the Elections Division and also sent a copy to each Oregon County Clerk. I also gave the Master Death List to Tim Scott at Multnomah County Elections so he could share it with the other County Clerks to help them clean the voter rolls. Several of the Clerks told me when I called to follow up, that the Secretary of State's office had told them not to talk to me, but that the Secretaries office would be communicating with me. I never heard a word from her office. That was most disappointing. So I do not know the status of the voters if they are still on the rolls or not.

If no death certificate is filled. Then it is pretty easy to take over that person's registration. Especially if they live in the same house or have access to their mail. But a fraudster only need to know the name, address, birthday and they can update the registration with a new address and the fraudster's signature and a strange can over take the registration. (This information is on the Social Security Master Death List, and a birthday is not difficult to obtain on a dead person. Their obituary, facebook, tombstone are a few examples of easy access to this information.) Both the original and the fraudster's signatures are valid. As long as no one notifies the elections about the death, the fraudster can vote as the dead person. Thus my concern regarding this bill.

I ask for your help to assure that our voter rolls are kept accurately. A few days ago, I showed you a study of the Cross State Voter check and that Oregon had 115,000 matching records for registrations in more than one other state in the study. I am concerned that our voter rolls may still have some inaccuracies. We do not require that voters even attain HAVA compliance when voting in Oregon state and local elections. The person only needs to attest to the fact that they are qualified for those ballot choices. They do not need to offer any proof. The last time I checked there were around 13-14,000 NON HAVA registrants in this category. The Park Rose school bond passed by a mere 6 votes a few years ago, in Multnomah County, a county that had over 3000 NON HAVA registrants. Millions of dollars were a stake.

Again I remind you that the PEW research study shows 1 in 8 voter registrations is inaccurate in the US. Please make sure that Oregon deaths are recorded at the county level and this is transmitted to the elections clerk so that we do not contribute to these inaccuracies.

Thank you,

Janice Dysinger