

HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

Chair and Representative Members

HB 2177 eliminates the voter registration process as we know it. It is Oregon's version of Universal Voter Registration.

If ever this state needed a lesson in responsibility, it is now. We are changing our state from its adventurous, hard-working ethic to one of entitlement and laziness. This bill illustrates how irresponsible our thinking has become. Under this bill, people will not register themselves. The state will ascertain the data from the DMV and automatically register everyone in that data base. Universal-registration-threatens-electoral-integrity. As a patriot, every qualified voter should have the opportunity to experience and take responsibility and pride in their own registration. If a person doesn't have the pride for patriotism to register, then what kind of voter would he make?

Voting originally was a privilege and you had to have a vested interest to vote. That was extended to every citizen acknowledging that everyone has a vested interest in the function of the state and country. But, that makes it no less a privilege to be exercised. This bill takes that privilege away and puts the fate of our state in the hands of non-citizens by asking them not to vote and to physically take action to opt out so they won't be sent a ballot. The Oregon Constitution says that citizens shall be entitled to vote if they meet requirements. This bill violates the constitution by not having voters take the action to meet requirements nor the state verifying the meeting of requirements either at registration or when voting.

The use of DMV's data base is inconclusive on citizenship as stated in the letter from State Elections Director, Jim Williams to Rep Sal Esquivel. Legal non-citizens can get a driver's license in Oregon. DECA non-citizens can get a driver's license. So, this bill would authorize an unproven source without a means for checking. There is nothing in this bill that says the Secretary of State will assure that only citizens are registered to vote.

The ease of auto registration may be touted as cost saving, but the problems it causes are more costly: Identity theft, non-citizens voting, no correction to voting outcomes. The losses are an astronomical price to pay when it comes to securing our rights and freedoms. This bill cannot stop the hundreds of thousands of non-

citizens from being registered to vote, nor does it provide for a way to find out who is qualified to vote. Every vote by a non-citizen takes away the rights of citizens to determine their countries leaders.

We know from the CCES study in 2008 and 2010 that enough non-citizens voted to change those elections. States that have granted 'undocumented immigrants' to get a driver's license are finding that there are many who have committed identity theft. Those state officials are telling agencies to overlook these crimes if done by those who are not here legally.

There is more than enough evidence why this bill is bad for Oregonians. Please vote no.

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