



Established 2007

History

- Voters submitted more than 30,000 signatures to form the party. This, in response to 2005 legislation that made it more difficult to run for public office by petition and that removed the word “independent” as a descriptor on the ballot for such candidates.
- Nominated candidates via caucus in 2008. First nominees included Ben Weslund for State Treasurer, Vicki Berger for State Rep, Jeff Merkley for US Senate.
- In 2009 helped repeal the law making it harder to run for office via an assembly of electors. Helped to pass Oregon’s “fusion voting” law, which clarified Oregon’s existing law allowing candidates who accept multiple party nominations.

History (cont'd)

- In 2010, IPO became the first party in US history to conduct a binding statewide primary via the internet and the first political party in Oregon to conduct a primary election at its own expense.
- In 2011, IPO pioneered the use of the internet to deliver vote-by-mail ballots and became the first minor political party in US history to hold a televised candidate debate on a network television affiliate.
- IPO has conducted 3 binding statewide elections and one congressional special election at its own expense.

2014-2015 Party Platform

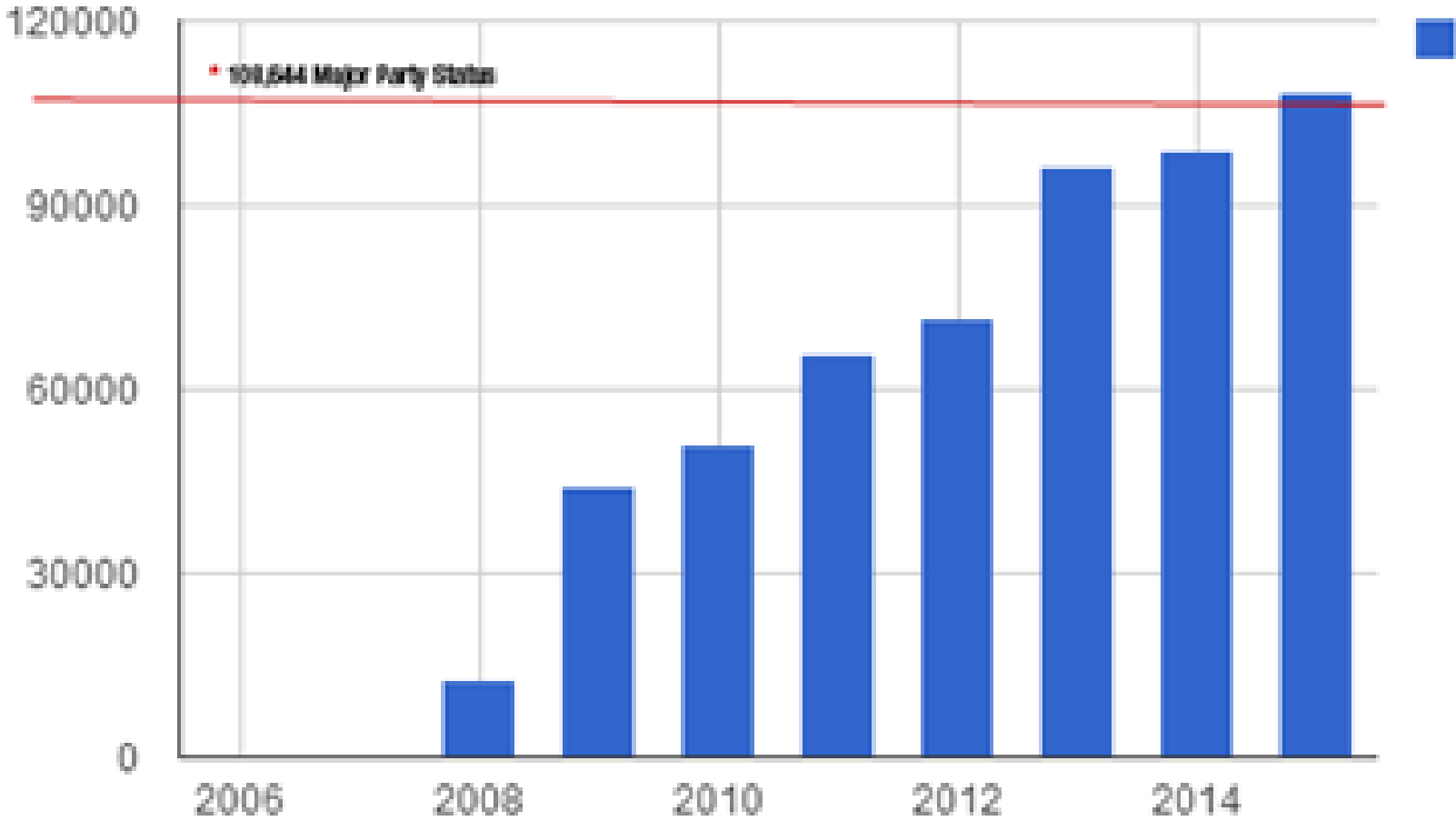
1712 members participated in adopting the party platform and policy goals.

“The Independent Party of Oregon favors reducing special interest influence over our government processes; increasing transparency in government, particularly with how our tax dollars are spent and how the public's business is conducted in Salem; protecting Oregon consumers, particularly with respect to banks, insurance companies and private utilities; providing incentives for small businesses to thrive and for larger businesses to expand in Oregon in a way that returns more benefits to the public than it costs.”

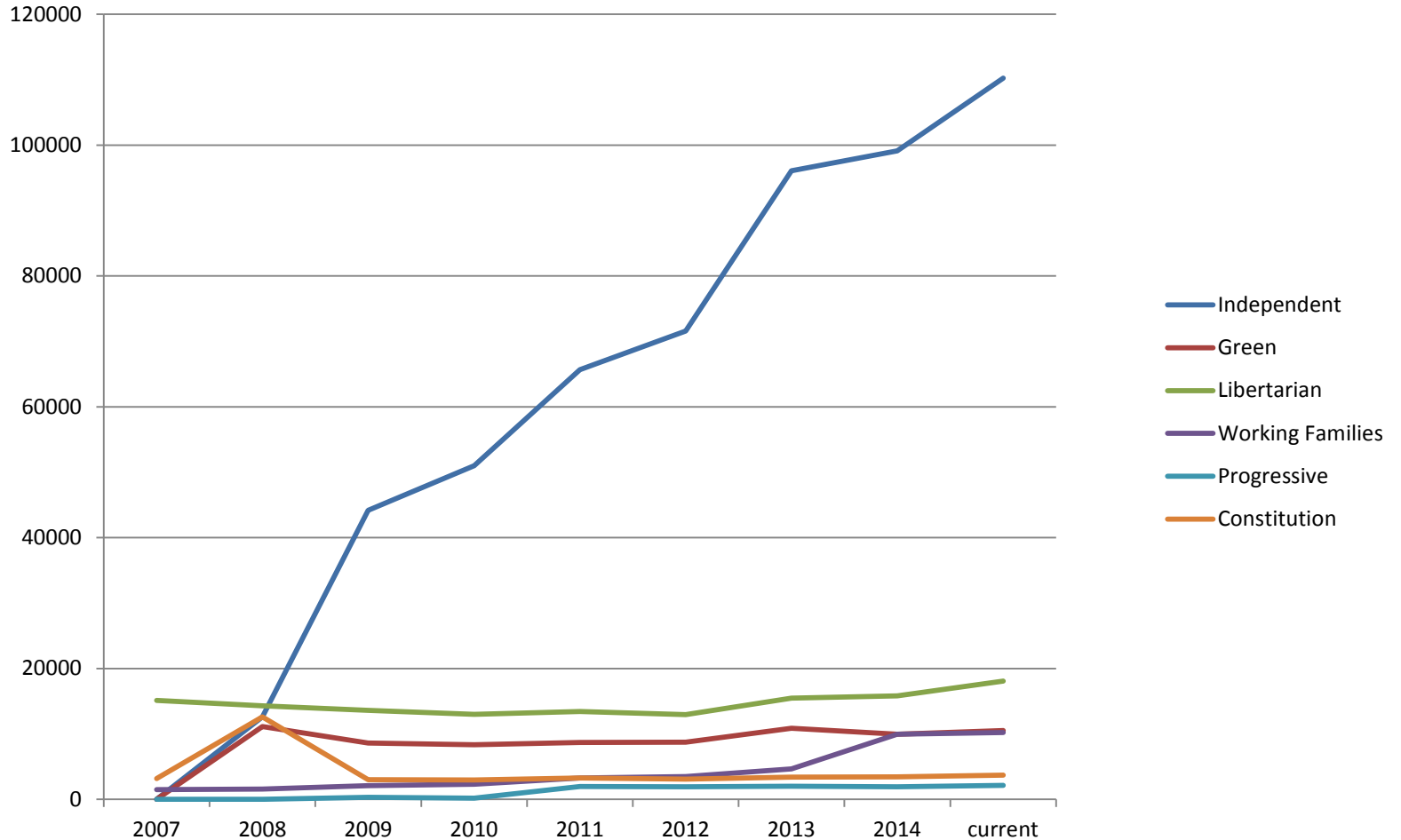
2014-2015 top 5 policy goals

- 83.7% - Requiring that political advertisements identify their main sources of funding.
- 79.0% - Increasing vocational training opportunities for students in high school and community college
- 74.4% - Ensuring that tax dollars spent to encourage economic development return more benefits to the public than they cost.
- 73.4% - Establishing limits on political campaign contributions.
- 68.3% - The state should look at ways to make college more affordable.
- 66.5% - Reforming the state primary election so that more voters can participate.

Independent Party Growth



IPO Comparison to minor parties



Voter participation rates by party

2014 GENERAL ELECTION TURNOUT

Republican	76.2%
Democratic	75.9%
Green	73.7%
Progressive	66.5%
Independent	64.8%
Constitution	62.7%
Libertarian	62.6%
Non-affiliated	57.6%
Working Families	48.3%

2012 GENERAL ELECTION TURNOUT

Republican	87.9%
Democratic	86.3%
Green	78.2%
Independent	77.4%
Progressive	74.1%
Libertarian	73.5%
Constitution	69.8%
Non-Affiliated	71.9%
Working Families	54.2%

Party nomination methods

- IPO is the only organization in the state of Oregon to conduct its own statewide nominating processes of any kind.
- All other minor political parties conduct via caucuses or conventions that are usually attended by fewer than 30 people.
- The other major political parties are only obliged to conduct their own nominating processes in the event of a legislative vacancy (Hoyle, Smith-Warner both nominated this way). Usually these involve between 20 – 60 people depending on the size of the district.

Internet Participation Rates

2000 Alaska GOP	1.8%	Presidential primary straw poll.
2000 Arizona Dems	4.3%	Internet primary
2007 Estonia	3.4%	National Election

Other examples:

2012 Americans Elect spent \$35 million organizing an “online Presidential primary” but suspended the effort due to a lack of participation. 1.4% of people who signed up on web site participated.

2012 Facebook cancelled internet voting on policy due to a lack of participation after 342,000 out of 900,000,000 (0.038%) facebook users participated.

Fairness Concerns

- Historically, the Oregon legislature has done more work to attack or to weaken the rights of other political parties other than Democrats and Republicans when one or both of those other groups feel threatened. (Examples: 2005 response to Nader campaign was to make it harder to qualify via petition, 2011 IPO “Death Penalty bill”.)
- Since 2011, IPO leaders have engaged the Secretary of State in numerous conversations about party nomination processes and the basic fairness but no action has been taken by the SOS or the legislature to address concerns that have been raised.

Specific Policy Recommendations

- **“Open Primary”** - Eliminate requirement that postcards be mailed to voters to invite them to participate when a single major party opens its primary election to such voters.
- **“Election Fairness”** - Provide state funding for minor party elections and allow minor parties to participate in the May Primary or in a special election shortly after the may primary.
- **“Freedom of Association”** - Replace 180 day membership requirement and redraft write-in statutes to allow political parties to establish their own eligibility rules for candidates who are not members of that party.