

February 11, 2016

Dear Governor, President Courtney and Chair Rosenbaum,

In the last day, more than 300 Oregonians have signed a change.org petition asking you to take immediate action to preserve ballot access for Oregon's third parties, including all minor political parties.

We have not had much success trying to work with the Secretary of State's office to address several issues related to major and minor party status and we have now reached a crisis point that will cause several political parties to lose ballot access in 2018, based on calculations that will be made in the 2016 election unless the Oregon legislature takes action. Yesterday, I sent you an email outlining the basic facts of the situation.

We do not believe that it was the intent of the Motor Voter legislation to eliminate or weaken several Oregon third parties, so we are simply asking you to "hit the pause button" by using whatever means are at your disposal to protect all of Oregon's third parties, including the Independent Party of Oregon.

To accomplish each of these tasks, we recommend that the -1 amendments to SB 1501 be adopted:

Sec. 9. **(1)** For the purpose of maintaining status as a minor political party:
(a) under ORS 248.008 [(4)(b)] **(4)(a)** for the general election to be held on November 8, 2016, the total number of registered electors in this state is deemed to be the total number of registered electors identified in the elector registration records of the Secretary of State on July 1, 2015.
(b) under **ORS 248.008 (4)(b)** for the general election to be held on **November 3, 2020, the total number of votes cast in the state or electoral district for all candidates for Governor at the most recent election at which a candidate for Governor was elected to a full term is deemed to be that occurring at the November 4, 2014, election.**

And that new legislation be introduced to protect ballot access for the Independent Party of Oregon.

(2) For the purpose of maintaining status as a major political party under ORS 248.006 (1) for general elections to be held on or before November 3, 2020, the total number of registered electors in this state is deemed to be the total number of registered electors identified in this state is deemed to be the total number of registered electors identified in the elector registration records of the Secretary of State on July 1, 2015.

Thank you for your service and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sal Peralta
Secretary, Independent Party of Oregon

Petitioning Governor Kate Brown, Senate President Peter Courtney, Senator Diane Rosenbaum

Signed by 308 Oregon voters as of 11 am, 2/11/2016

Last year, the Oregon legislature passed legislation that was intended to greatly increase the number of registered non-affiliated voters in Oregon. One of the side-effects of that legislation is that Oregon parties (Constitution, Progressive, Working Families, Independent) could lose their ballot access or be eliminated outright.

We ask that you take immediate action to preserve and protect all Oregon political parties from what we hope was an unintended consequence of the Motor Voter law.

LETTER TO

Governor Kate Brown
State Senator Peter Courtney
State Senator Diane Rosenbaum

In the 2015 legislative session you helped to pass legislation to make it easier for people to vote. One of the consequences of that legislation is that it could effectively kill several Oregon minor political parties (Progressive, Constitution, Working Families) and cause the Independent Party of Oregon and its 110,000 members statewide to lose access to the primary ballot.

We ask that you protect the rights of all of Oregon's political parties from any unintended consequences of the Motor Voter law.

COMMENTS:

Save voters rights and minimize paid for legislation

Timothy Kenyon, Coos Bay, OR

I am signing this to protect my rights to belong to the Independent party. I do not believe the two party system is working. I do not want to belong to every of the two ineffective parties in power at this time.

Patsy Wegner, Portland, OR

"Minor" parties can have positive major effects - IF we let them survive! The Dems are so dead! They will never get another vote from me!

Pamela Allee, Portland,, OR

Please protect all Oregon Political Parties now.

Roberto Lovato, Milwaukie, OR

The two party system is devastating our state and our country.

Mariah Waite, Corvallis, OR

While I'm not a member of the Progressive Party, I support their ballot rights, as well as all other parties. Please do amend this important piece of legislation to further enable all Oregonians to fair representation.

Richard Hervey, Corvallis, OR

Freedom of choice.

Ryan Thomas, Gresham, OR

I believe in the Independent Party!!

I carry registration cards in my purse so I can hand them to people on the spot and urge them to reregister Independent.

Patterson Donna, Union, OR5 hours ago

I'm an Independent

Walter Kortge, The Dalles, OR6 hours ago

I do not wish to be affiliated with either political parties. The "motor voter law" is just another reason why.

George Berry, Medford, OR9 hours ago

It's Democracy

Dann Bradley, Portland, OR4 hours ago

I'm signing to request to preserve and protect our Independent party

Patricia Ramirez, Portland, OR4 hours ago

I have become more and more disenchanted (even disgusted) with the things the Democratic Party has done over many years now. Ralph Nader was very close when pointing out the D's & R's are like Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum. I guess we need to constantly fight for the right to have more than 2 parties.

Steven Wright, Dallas, OR5 hours ago

I am signing because Oregon needs to be represented by a third party.

Martha Calvert, Portland, OR5 hours ago

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The Progressive party and Working Families party are critical to holding power to account in the Democratic party!

James Tyree II, Portland, OR8 hours ago

Voters need more voices and choices during elections as the 2016 races have shown!

Jason Kafoury, Portland, OR8 hours ago

We need to keep our election process inclusive and democratic.

James Hanna, Portland, OR8 hours ago

We need a Progressive Party

Beth Kerwin, Portland, OR9 hours ago

I want our party to be able to vote! I don't want to be forced into one of the other parties.

Lorraine Wilkins, Bend, OR9 hours ago

I am a member of the Oregon Progressive Party. Can anyone name one valid reason not to protect Oregon's minor parties from the unintended consequences? In the absence of a valid reason, the legislature should take immediate action.

David Hess, Beaverton, OR9 hours ago

Every eligible voter needs the opportunity to vote And not be erased do to chicanery with the Motor Vehicle law.

Margaret Johnson, Idledale, CO20 hours ago

I am signing because there needs to be integrity, honesty & accountability in our individual Voting Rights!

Linda Banks, Portland, OR2 hours ago

We are in sincere need of a party
that represents thinking people.

Robert Richardson, Creswell, OR2 hours ago

This is important to the future of Oregon

Dan Becker, Prairie City, OR2 hours ago

We want to have a voice in our government.

Thanks

Alan & Polly Hebert, Portland, OR22 hours ago

I'm signing this because all US citizens, residents of the State of Oregon, regardless of political affiliation, should have ballot access.

Paul Dewhirst, Roseburg, OR22 hours ago

I don't like the 2-party system

Andrew Millbrooke, Canby, OR22 hours ago

I'm a independent voter!

I find it very troubling that one city in oregon controls the voting results for the rest of the state

David Cook, Grants Pass, OR22 hours ago

I believe our democracy was designed to accommodate more than a two party system and I'd like to see it stay that way. As one of "we the people" please stop trying to limit our freedoms.

James Hislop, Portland, OR

I have been a Registered Independent Voter for many years. I do not believe in the two party system, and encourage you to continue to seek ways for this very important Party to continue its right to vote and be counted! Help preserve the Independent Party.

Charlotte Fleming, Eugene, OR

This is crucial to ensure fairness in Oregon's electoral process.

Joseph Crawford, Medford, OR

Keep a voice for the 20% in the middle.

Ken Bronson, Sweet Home, OR

We need an Independent third party in Oregon!

Jim Inkster, Bend, OR

My right to vote should not be limited to either Democratic or Republican candidates! Remember Ross Perot?

Robert McFarland, Hood River, OR

A two-party political system is more like an oligopoly than a representative democracy, and that's true especially at the state and federal levels.

Victor Conway, Ashland, OR

As former Mayor of Waldport, and a proud Independent, I ask the legislature to do the right thing.

Herman Welch, Waldport, OR

All parties need to be able to present their candidates to the people and let the people decide who to vote for in an election.

Lorraine Garcy, Brownsville, OR

I think the two party system is strangling our nation, and Oregon is in position to lead the way to a new way of doing things. Please support the independent party's existence in every way that you can.

Teresa Gryder, Portland, OR

I choose to be represented by the Independent Party of Oregon.

Myron Switzer, Eagle Point, OR

don't take away my constitutional right to vote in Oregon --I should have the right to vote in all Oregon/national elections without being tied to being republican or democrat.

John berland, Portland, OR

I hate the liar we have as a governor and the rest of liars that help her

clarence cannon, gales creek, OR

Democracy is at risk

Frederick Melden, Hillsboro, OR

Having won recognition as a majority party, I am worried that many new voters won't be informed enough to know they have real options as to which party they will be affiliated with. We ask that you protect the rights of all of Oregon's political parties from any unintended consequences of the Motor Voter law.

Stephen Foltz, Gresham, OR

The present two party system is no longer representing the people and big money runs them.

Joe Majors, Beaverton, OR

I'm fed up with being forced in to voting in a corrupt two party system. I became an independent for that reason. The motor voter law has spoiled the IPO chance of survival, likely on purpose. This level of underhanded politics has got to stop.

Kathryn Lysaght, Tigard, OR

I like TRUMP

HARVEY KEMPEMA, Hillsboro, OR

I am 80 yrs old and thought finally I can vote as I want. I have been so disappointed with the current two parties and want another choice. Please listen.

Patrecia Glau, Newport, OR

I want to be fairly represented according to my values, not forced to align with immutable party lines.

Michael Hiveley, Portland, OR

I hope to make a difference.

Erhardt Wachs, Redmond, OR

people deserve a choice. our two party system is broken and has caused a division in Salem that keeps good legislation from being passed due partisan politics !

WILLIAM KING, Sandy, OR

We need another option!

Elissa Edge, Salem, OR

The Independent Party (and other small ones) are able to present viewpoints that the two majority parties stifle with their lock on the system. Please work for diversity in the viewpoints to strengthen our democratic principles.

Edward and Mary Hoffmann, Roseburg, OR

I'm an Independent and my vote matters.

Jeanne Rog, Canby, OR

Every vote should count

Christine Blackledge, Portland, OR

I am a member of the Independent Party of Oregon.

Jennifer Barker, Beaverton, OR

I believe the two party system is unfair and does not give everyone equal representation.

Christopher Pizzuto, Portland, OR

It is important for Independent Party voters to have the same access to elections as the two major parties. The manner by which a party is recognized needs to reflect this equal access standard.

Daniel Perin, Dallas, OR

A democracy only works when those who wish to vote get to vote. When the right to vote is compromised then the use/abuse of government will prevail.

Geoffrey Pruettt, Clackamas, OR

It is important to maintain all Oregon political parties!

Kathleen Bolton, Portland, OR

The Independent voter, many times, decides elections. It is not right to phase us out.

Frank Farey, Bend, OR

Every Citizen needs to be able to vote for the person he/she wants to.

Verl Shields, Springfield, OR

It is important to have a third party.

Linda Rose, Hermiston, OR

Ignorance is Not Bliss. Too many are unaware of this set-back. PROTECT ALL OREGON POLITICAL PARTIES and keep the ballot access so as not to be eliminated from all voting! Thank You.

Pamela Gardner, Beaverton, OR

I believe a third party will be good for Oregon

Charles Hulings, Medford, OR

I'm signing because all independent parties that have followed the laws of the state should have the right to put candidates on the ballot.

Glenn Johnston, Portland, OR

We need more than 2 parties to vote for

John Peterson, La Pine, OR

A two-party system is ultimately not a healthy system.

Tara Taylor, Portland, OR

I WANT TO BE INDEPENDENT!

MALLORY ANTONESCU, Rainier, OR

I want the Independent Part to be able to have candidates on the Oregon ballots

Dale McCoig, Bend, OR

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING? HAVE WE LOST THE FREEDOM TO VOTE?

CLYDE RUSSELL ROSS, Springfield, OR

We need to be heard!

Jeff Glover, Bend, OR

thanks my wife Sandra Kirk would like to sign also thanks.

Royce Kirk, Prineville, OR

In a true democracy, all voices deserve to be heard...

Howie Harkema, McMinnville, OR

I am signing because I am disenchanted with both the Democrats and the Republicans as the only major parties. I think choice is important.

Joy Fraley, Salem, OR

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I belong to Independent Party and want my party to be recognized in Oregon.

Irina Phillips, Portland, OR

they and her are a bunch of idiots.

Royce Kirk, Prineville, OR

We need this party in Oregon. There has been way too much democratic rule for far too long. Please consider this petition and the ramifications if you let the new motor voter law take effect.

Wendell Alverson, Tillamook, OR

I'm signing because strong third-parties are needed to counter the powers of the oligarchical Democrats and Republicans.

Craig Higdon, Portland, OR

If the Democrat and Republican parties are the only options then the 'people' have lost any influence because these two parties do not respond to voters but to special interests.

Ival Secrest, Sierra Vista, AZ

It is all about having a choice.

William LaPolla, Roseburg, OR

A predominantly two-party system has failed us. The divisiveness and inability to work together is ridiculous. That's why there is a growing number of registered Independents. Please do not silence our voice.

Liz Malliris, Newberg, OR

More than 2 major parties is healthy for all Oregonians.

Tony Caito, Salem, OR

The Independent Party is Oregon is growing because everyone is disgusted with our 2 party system. It should have a major voice in the state.

Richard Meissner, Tualatin, OR

As an American citizen I have the right to vote no matter which party I am registered with. In the past, as a registered "Independent" I was not allowed to vote on some issues. THAT IS MY RIGHT TO BE ABLE TO VOTE!

Judy March, La Pine, OR

I belong to the Independent Party and we deserve all the rights and privileges the other two parties have.

Linda Armstrong, Salem, OR

I'm asking to put a halt to the political maneuvering that is attempting to discredit the Independent party's status as a viable third party in Oregon. We need to preserve the independent party's earned status. This is foolishness and America is tired of it! And so am I!

Joe Johnston, Astoria, OR

If you are truly interested in better choices for voters, then allow full status for all parties, including Independent Voters.

Raymond Lombardi, Medford, OR

WHY AREN'T WE RAISING HELL ABOUT THE X-CROOKED GOVERNOR???

DAVID J MOCK, SALEM, OR

Stand up for democracy! You're called the Democratic party after all. In an effort to register people who have no interest in voting the Democrats are taking away the votes of over 100,000 Oregonians who have willingly registered and joined political parties

Robert Harris, Hillsboro, OR

It is vital to protect the Independent party

Beverly Patzke, Klamath Falls, OR

We need to save major party status!

Julie Glover, Bend, OR

we need more than 2 outlooks on important issues

sheri dornhecker, La Pine, OR

It is imperative the Independent party has a say in what's happening in this country when the Dems and Repubs can't get anything done either Washington DC or locally.

Gary Washburn, Gresham, OR

See a different prospective.

Roger Arnold, Portland, OR

i believe the two party system leads inevitably to corruption. i changed my affiliation this year to democrat simply to be able to vote against the hillary machine. i'll change back after the election! by the way, how about open elections in oregon?

chris hjerrild, ashland, OR

WE NEED TO KEEP THIS PARTY!

JOHN SERLET, Canby, OR

I'm tired of being forced to vote for only of 2 politically dominant parties. Even more so when of them tries to block access to healthy competition.

Benjamin Stowell, Portland, OR

We NEED alternatives to the broken and all powerful major political parties.

Terri Zunino, Central Point, OR

This country, and state, is in desperate need of more political choices (i.e. Pro-Choice) and the two major, firmly entrenched, political parties have done a marginal job of representing and executing the will of the people.

Thomas Wilde, Happy Valley, OR

I believe that the two party system needs to be challenged. They don't seem to working in the best interest of us all any more.

Susan Blair, Aloha, OR

I'm Non-Affiliated and that's ok.

Christine VanOrder, Gladstone, OR

having a 3rd party option is SO important for oregonians!!! We need to support alternative points of view. This is democracy and freedom of expression, IN ACTION. Thank you!

cheryl hollatz, Portland, OR

I support the Independent party

Thomas Dietz, Portland, OR

As a Registered Democrat I want **all** parties to have equal ballot access and I find the actions of my own party, The Democratic Party of Oregon, to be a blatantly venal, petty, cowardly and mendacious attempt to kill the Independent Party in it's infancy.

Either our ideas are better or they are not and The People have the Right, the Privilege, and the Duty to tell us so by voting.

Attempting to rig the system in our favour lacks integrity and virtue and shame on us !

Kathleen O'Brien Blair, McMinnville, OR

It's the only fair thing to do. As an Independent I think my vote is equally important as a Dem. Or Rep.

Robert Stewart, Klamath Falls, OR

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Democrats are corrupt and suppress any other parties.

James Stubbs, Portland, OR

Please support the rights of Independents and other third parties.

thomas renne, Canby, OR

I want choices in politics!

David Ball, Salem, OR

Because the Independent Party threatens Oregon's Legislature is the best argument to encourage its growth and acceptance in our state's political process

marvin sannes, salem, OR

The status quo political structure continues to fail in their mission to represent we the people. This is clearly a protectionist move by the political elite to protect their political power.

Cindy CallowY, Grants Pass, OR

Protection for Oregonians voices.

Denice Adams, Seaside, OR

I'm sick of unregistered Democrats.

Roger Hamilton, Medford, OR

I am an independent because I want to do away with voting for either two parties. It needs to be more choice.

Harriet Smith, Beaverton, OR

Please ensure that all Oregon political parties are kept. This is the democratic way. No political individual or group should have the power to eliminate existing parties.

shirley wood, Grants Pass, OR

Protect the Independent Party

THOMAS CLARK, NEWPORT, OR

I feel like this is an unfair bias towards the 2 party system. Also only american citizens should be afforded the right to vote, period.

Gabe Cogswell, Corvallis, OR

The two party system has failed us

James Gyovai, Albany, OR

it's the right thing and the fair thing to do!

gerard dernbach, Portland, OR