

I am here today to speak against Senate Joint Resolution 2, which is summary to:

“Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution to allow citizens to register to vote in election not later than day immediately preceding day of election. Refers proposed amendment to people for their approval or rejection at next regular general election. “

I stand in opposition to this effort. As it stands now, the law allows verification of eligibility to vote or at the very least gives the state the opportunity to ensure that the vote is participated with eligible voters. I myself have been observing elections within Multnomah County for at least five years now and have seen the vetting process in action leading up to the elections.

If this bill is passed.. it poses a danger of fraud and essentially turning all county elections offices into impromptu voting places. This would put even larger burden on those election offices to issue ballots on the same day as the election than is already occurring for people who come in to replace damaged or lost ballots.

After the night of the election, most voters are expecting to know the results in this day and age.. The verification process afterwards is a tedious process but essentially.. Costs will rise to provide manpower to take 14 days to verify eligibility to vote after the election.

Also, the way the system operates now, how do you send the ballots to the counting machines to determine which is the vote by mail ballots as the system is set up now.. and the ballots for the “same day”? This measure does not state those safeguards, but we the citizens should have that spelled out to us now instead of trusting the administration process afterwards.

Oregon Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden both have been making calls bestow the Oregon Vote by Mail system at the federal level. But this measure to the voters would in a sense split the vote by mail system to become a hybrid with what would become a system with what will become polling places along with vote by mail. A Step backwards from what was once touted as “we don’t need polling places anymore”. Plus another concern is the costs of manpower that is needed in the elections office to cover those people walking in to get ballots over what is done now. Does the state and the county elections office have the proper budget to pay for such a move if the measure passes?

As I understand the supporters are all for “getting the vote to the people” which I myself support.. but We owe it to our system to ensure that those vote are made by people who are eligible. Most people who are to receive ballots have established mailing addresses.. Those who do not have them now are able to travel to the county elections office and obtain a ballot under current law. Why do we want to loosen requirements more?

I thank you for your time and trouble

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