

79th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY--2017 Regular Session

House Committee on Rules

Regarding a public hearing March 9th, 2017 on HB 2945

To the Chair Jennifer Williamson, Vice Chairs; Mike McLane and Dan Rayfield, Members; Greg Barreto, Jodi Hack, Paul Holvey, Bill Kennemer, Rob Nosse and Barbara Smith Warner

Thank you for the time invested by all parties on this important election issue of filing deadlines and potential coordinated withdrawal scenarios.

Transparency about a candidate's intentions to run for public office is our focus here and the concern of the electorate. The proposed changes in HB 2945 take a step in the right direction. Clarity and finality should be built into the election schedule.

Extensions which are activated by circumstances and leave the ultimate filing deadline in flux do not go far enough to create the transparency our electorate deserves.

I would like to thank Chief Sponsors; Representative Mike McLane and Jennifer Williamson, Senators Ted Ferrioli and Ginny Burdick as well as the Regular Sponsors; Representative John Huffman, Mike Nearman and David Brock Smith in this effort. I ask all the above to consider a Simple Election Nonsense Solution, SENS.

Make the last day to withdraw from the primary the 100th day before the election. By doing it this way the electorate will know who intends to run and who does not, well in advance of the filing deadline.

This facilitates enough time for another potential candidate to do all that need be done to run a successful campaign. There would not be a need for an extension period to be activated and also fixing the last day to withdraw does not leave the filing deadline in quasi control of incumbents and temporarily uncertain.

There are other bills that are addressing this as well. SB 229 is a "house keeping" bill filed by the Secretary of State which proposes many small changes to statutes, about forty. One is regarding withdraw deadlines and ORS 249,170. Proposed there is moving the deadline for withdraw to the 63rd day before the primary.

I respectfully request the members of the House Rules Committee, all sponsors of HB 2945 and all parties concerned take into account these suggestions as deliberations continue on this important election issue. Remember my suggestions as the 100th day is the last day to Play, Say or Pay.

I thank and acknowledge Jonah Hakanson, Klamath Falls for his work in this effort and wish to make known that it is in our Senate District 28, on this very day one year ago, March 9th, 2016 when and where the Whitsett maneuver took place.

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