

Opposing HR 2211

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I adamantly oppose this bill. If passed, I believe the Open Primary Act would result in an overall weakening of the democratic process in Oregon, the disenfranchising of more than half of Oregon voters, and a significant downturn in the number of Oregonians who register and vote.

- Such a law would discriminate against voting members who belong to smaller political parties, in that their party candidates would, for all practical purposes, never be allowed to participate in the general election, but only in the primary. This would significantly weaken the smaller parties in Oregon, weakening the likelihood of their members participating in the politics, and thereby weakening the richness of our democracy.
- Oregon counties vary in the relative balance of their major party representation. When two members of the same party win the primary, then the members of all other parties would be forced to vote for a candidate they:
 - do not support at all,
 - do not fully support, or else
 - not vote at all.

Many of these voters would decide not to vote at all. The U.S. already has one of the lowest voter turnouts in the world. If implemented, this bill would effectively disenfranchise huge numbers of voters in Oregon. This is not democracy. This is not acceptable.

I implore you to vote against this democracy-weakening bill!

Thank you!