

I am a very active PCP that lives in Sandy (Clackamas County) and also am Chair of the Oregon Trail Democrats. One of the things that I have appreciated in our political process as we try and get people involved and willing to take leadership roles in our party is the open elections for PCPs. For that reason I oppose HB 2571 which would remove the election of PCPs from county ballots.

I agree with what another active member of our group and House District 52 Leader Jan Lee said about this process. She noted that if the changes in SB 211 regarding the PCP election process were adopted, that would significantly reduce the county clerks' workload. One of the changes provides a process for pre-qualification of write-ins; there are also timeline changes and other housekeeping changes that would benefit the PCP election process. SB 211 was requested by the Oregon Association of County Clerks and moved forward with the sponsorship of the interim Senate Committee on Education.

What really becomes cumbersome for the clerks is the write-in candidate process. SB 211 propose a pre-qualification process for write-in candidates that would significantly reduce the number of write-ins. PCPs have a serious role in party operation and those willing to take on that responsibility should voluntarily appear on the ballot. There are currently write-ins where neighbors or friends just gather 3 votes to push someone into the position, often without the candidate's knowledge. That is not a good process for the parties or for the candidate.

Some of the special district local governments in Oregon had the same write-in issues and legislation enacted a few years ago used the pre-qualification process defined in SB 211 for pre-qualification of write-in and that has really cleaned up the write-in process.

Please consider that removing this race would make it harder for us to get people willing to serve as PCPs. Some of them are more "local" oriented and still can do good work getting out the vote in their neighbor but don't always have the time to deal with a cumbersome process.

I would appreciate your taking the time to relay some of these concerns. And also that HB 2571 is not what many of us want inacted.

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