

5/17/2017

Senate Majority Leader, Chair Ginny Burdick
Senate Republican Leader, Vice-chair Ted Ferrioli
Senators Beyer, Boquist, and Roblan
Senate Rules Committee

Oregon State Legislature 900 Court St. NE

HR B

RE: House Bill 2945

Having given public testimony regarding House Bill 2945 during the public hearing on the bill to the House Rules Committee, I am suggesting a serious review of the extension suggested by the -1 amendment added by Representative Julie Parrish. In my opinion, the current -2 amendment from Secretary of State Dennis Richardson is not sufficient to address the problem of changes in the primary election process.

The initial intent of Rep. Parrish's bill HB 2429 was to guarantee a reliable access to a proper news-cycle time-frame in the event an incumbent withdraws. If you investigate my submissions to the public hearing for my presentation you will also find a constitutional approach to the bill. An incumbent should not be treated any differently than any other candidate, and I would ask that whatever is decided considers Article I Section 20 of the Oregon State Constitution:

"Section 20. Equality of privileges and immunities of citizens. No law shall be passed granting to any citizen or class of citizens privileges, or immunities, which, upon the same terms, shall not equally belong to all citizens.—"

Incumbent language does not currently exist in the statutes regarding our primary election. Adding special rules in this case, where a primary election can be contingent on the decisions of an incumbent – also requiring a different last day to file – is patently unconstitutional. Also, the current proposal may still not grant enough time for rural news outlets to publish a last-minute change to a primary.

I have asked, repeatedly, for a fixed 7-day withdrawal window before the last day to withdraw, in which a withdrawal by any candidate would create a fixed 7-day extension. I am constitutionally opposed to the word "incumbent" being used in this bill.

Sincerely,

Jonah Hakanson
Resident, Klamath Falls, OR