

79th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY--2017 Regular Session

Senate Committee on Rules

Regarding a public hearing May 7th, 2017 on HB 2945

To the Chair Ginny Burdick, Vice Chair, Ted Ferrioli, Members; Lee Beyer, Brian Boquist and Arnie Roblan.

Thank you for the time invested by all parties on this important election issue of filing deadlines and potentially coordinated withdrawal scenarios. This is a re-submission of essentially the same ideas proposed to the House Committee on Rules for their March 9th Public Hearing with some additions based on the bills current disposition.

Transparency about a candidate's intentions to run for public office should be our focus here and is definitely the concern of the electorate. The proposed changes in, and amendments to, 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 and circumstances demand.

I would like to thank Chief Sponsors; Senators Ginny Burdick and Ted Ferrioli, Representatives Jennifer Williamson and Mike McLane, as well as the Regular Sponsors; Senator Haas, Representatives John Huffman, Mike Nearman and David Brock Smith in this effort. I ask all the above to include members of the Senate Rules Committee to consider once again, or for the first time, a Simple Election Nonsense Solution, SENS.

Make the last day to withdraw before the primary election the 100th day before said election. By doing it this way the electorate can know who intends to run and who does not, *well in advance of the filing deadline*. Doing it this way recognizes that any candidate who will file under this statute, if adopted, has already lost 170+ days of campaign opportunities before the primary election.

The 100th day facilitates just enough time for another potential candidate to do all that need be done to run a successful campaign and does not burden the timeline for candidates to file for and be included in the voter's pamphlet. The current proposed solution, with amendments, discount the 170+ days already lost to run a real campaign in the wake of an unannounced, intended or not, withdrawal.

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 and many of them dealing with elections. SB229 is on the agenda for today as well.

I respectfully request the members of the Senate 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 would like to thank and acknowledge Representative Parrish for her work in this effort and wish to make known that it is in my Senate District, District 28, just over a year ago, when and where the Whitsett maneuver took place.

Michael Stettler
Christmas Valley
[541-576-4659](tel:541-576-4659)