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5/17/2017

ATTN: Senate Committee on Rules

Chair Burdick and members of the committee,

HB 2945 gives potential candidates an extra 3 days to file for public office and file a voter's pamphlet statement if an incumbent legislator withdraws shortly before or shortly after the filing deadline.

We filed more extensive testimony in the house that we encourage the committee to review.

Although IPO supports this change, we believe that more time is needed than just 3-days. There are specific legal reasons why more time is needed that Rep. Parrish addressed in her testimony in the house. We also note that the people who have direct experience with organizing a response to incumbents "Pulling a Whitsett" (withdrawing after the filing deadline to hand the seat to a successor) or "Pulling an Unger" (withdrawing shortly before the filing deadline to hand the seat to a successor) all favor a longer time period. This includes the community leaders and the candidates who stepped forward to run in response to the Whitsett resignations -- Klamath Falls Mayor Todd Kellstrom, Todd Kepple and Al Switzer.

Most of these people, myself included are not able to attend today's hearing. Nevertheless, we recommend that the legislation be passed with the -1 amendments, which allow a 14-day window.

Sincerely,

Sal Peralta  
Secretary, Independent Party of Oregon