

## **Testimony in Opposition to SJR 2**

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### **Election-Eve Registration Will Increase Clerical Error**

An election-eve registration deadline is essentially the same as same-day registration. In Oregon, if passed it would cut 20 days from the calendar for election officials to process and verify voter registrations. Receiving a windfall of voter registrations, the evening before Election Day will increase the chance of clerical error. The National Conference of State Legislatures reported that same day registration can result in administrative burdens for election officials, given that eligibility must be verified at the same time that the registrant provides his or her information.

### **Election-Eve Registration Will Increase Costs**

If a voter is a procrastinator that will wait until the 21st day before an election to register, they will very likely still procrastinate and wait until the day before the election to register. An election-eve deadline will greatly increase the number of voters that will NOT receive a ballot by mail. Instead, they will be lined up at the county election office counters, requesting their ballot. This will likely increase staffing costs.

Election-eve registration will likely increase the need for issuing provisional ballots which will also increase election costs. Provisional ballots are issued when voter eligibility cannot be immediately established (i.e. name is not on voter database). Oregon Election officials have 14 days after the election to verify the voter's identity and eligibility to vote, and may require the voter to provide further information. "Because it takes longer to process provisional ballots than regular ballots, legislators and administrators may be motivated to reduce the use of provisional ballots." (National Conference of State Legislators)

If provisional ballots cannot be verified, they are not counted. Uncounted ballots are always a big concern for voters.

### **Election-Eve Registration Jeopardizes the Integrity of Elections**

County election officials need the time to verify registrations before ballots are mailed. Once ballots are mailed, registration should cease so that voters do not receive more than one ballot. This amendment could allow someone to vote in more than one county.

Furthermore, election-eve voter registration does not allow election officials the time to verify if last-minute registrants are registered and/or casting ballots in more than one state. Oregon participates in a program (ERIC) that helps states verify their voter registration data to make sure voters are not registered in other states. However, not all states are participating in the program yet, nor can a verification be done in real-time. Comparisons are only made periodically, so election-eve registration diminishes the effectiveness of this process.