



DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

To: Oregon House Committee on Rules
From: Chris Wig, Chair, Democratic Party of Lane County
Re: Support for HB 4076/Small Donor Funded Elections

February 4, 2018

Dear Chair Williamson and Members of the Committees,

I am writing on behalf of the 100,084 Democrats in Lane County to urge you to vote Yes on the Small Donor Funded Elections Bill – currently designated HB 4076 – which would help to level the playing field so that those with large incomes have slightly less overwhelming influence on our political decisions.

Democrats in Lane County strongly believe that it is in the public interest to enhance the effect of those able to give small contributions to candidates, so that more candidates better represent the interests of a greater cross-section of people, and not just the interests of the wealthy.

Small Donor Funded Elections have been successful in other jurisdictions. They change how a candidate campaigns. Candidates spend more time campaigning in all neighborhoods, allowing more people a chance to connect with their lawmakers, and engagement and participation increases.

Small donor matching allows for a more diverse pool of candidates, allowing more candidates to better represent lower-income communities. People of all backgrounds are more able to bring their perspectives to the conversation.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information. I look forward to working with you to create a more representative and inclusive Oregon.

Sincerely,

Chris Wig
Chair
Democratic Party of Lane County