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02/06.2018

ATTN: Senate Rules Committee

Chair Burdick & members of the committee,

My name is Sal Peralta. I am testifying on behalf of the Independent Party of Oregon and its 120,000 members statewide. I am testifying today on SB 1510. Our party supports the bill, which appears to be an elections "cleanup" bill that makes several small changes, including:

- Clarifies contribution, expenditure and statement of organization reporting deadlines for committees.
- Removes ineligible candidates from the ballot in district elections.
- Extends time for filing officers to process write-in ballots.
- Clarifies definition of independent expenditures.

The bill also contains a provision to allow non-affiliated voters who are eligible to participate in a major party primary to request ballots electronically or in writing. IPO supports this expansion of service.

However, the party opposes the decision of the legislature and Secretary of State to eliminate funding for notices that have been sent to voters in each previous occasion that a political party has opened its primary to non-affiliated voters that informs those voters about their rights in relation to the primary election.

In 2016, the SOS as part of its effort to fulfill the statutory obligation to administer major party primary elections sent the attached notice to non-affiliated voters.. The result of that mailing was a significant and measurable boost in primary election turnout, especially in the Independent Party of Oregon primary. More than 50,000 non-affiliated voters requested ballots for the IPO primary and more than 17,000 of those voters participated, making it the largest participation of NAV's in a party primary election in Oregon History. The participation rate of NAVs in the 2016 IPO primary was more 35%, whereas participation rates for non-affiliated voters overall in that election was 20.7%.

Given that the need for this notice (as well as its high cost) is driven by the large number of people who are registered through the Motor Voter system that do not complete the registration process (85 percent of all registrants never return their card), we believe that the legislature should direct the SOS and DMV to determine the best way to allow for the entire voter registration process, including party registration, to be completed at the DMV. This would greatly reduce the number of non-affiliated voters in the state and reduce the impact that the state's Motor Voter law has on the ballot access for several of the state's minor and major political parties.

Sincerely,

Sal Peralta

Secretary, Independent Party of Oregon

JEANNE P. ATKINS
SECRETARY OF STATE



JIM WILLIAMS
DIRECTOR
255 CAPITOL STREET NE, SUITE 501
SALEM, OREGON 97310-0722
(503) 986-1518

Dear Voter:

This is election year! On May 17th Oregon will hold its primary election. On the ballot will be choices for the November Presidential Ballot as well as for other state and local leaders.

You are currently registered as a nonaffiliated voter, meaning that you are not a member of a political party. However, you can take action to participate in a party primary as described below. **Here are your options:**

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<p>Do nothing.</p> <p>You will be mailed a ballot that includes all nonpartisan races for which you are eligible.</p>	<p>Choose to vote in a major party's Primary Election by joining that major party.</p> <p>You could join any one of the three major parties in Oregon: the Democratic Party, the Independent Party, or the Republican Party.</p> <p>To do this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> go online to www.oregonvotes.gov and complete the electronic form; OR Complete a paper voter registration form and submit it to your County Elections office. <p>Registration changes must be made by April 26, 2016.</p>	<p>Choose to Vote in the Independent Party Primary Election <u>without changing your registration.</u></p> <p>The Independent Party has opened its primary to voters who are not members of any party for the May 2016 election.</p> <p>To participate, return the attached postcard to your local elections office by 5:00 pm on April 26, 2016 and request the Independent Party ballot. You will remain a non-affiliated voter but you will receive a ballot that contains all open offices in your district.</p> <p>Postcards may be returned by mail (postage required), returned electronically by fax, or attached to an email to your County Clerk (http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/countyofficials.aspx).</p>

Even if you do not want to participate in an upcoming major party primary, Oregon law allows you to change your party affiliation at any time. If you wish to join a major party or a minor party visit www.oregonvotes.gov/parties to view your options.

If you have any questions please contact your County Elections Official.

Sincerely,

County Elections Official



Secretary of State
Jeanne P. Atkins
Salem OR 97310-0722

first class
postage
required



Multnomah County Elections Division
1040 S.E. Morrison St.
Portland, OR 97214-2495





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___ I request an official Independent Party ballot for the May 17, 2016 Primary Election.

Voter ID:

Name:

Address:

Address to mail ballot to (if different than above): _____