

Chair Burdick and members of the Senate Rules Committee:

In this email, NAV means Non-Affiliated Voter.

I am opposed to SB 225 for the following reasons:

1. For voters who **specifically have chosen to NOT** have a political party, this bill tells those voters they essentially have to join a political party of people who don't want to be members of a political party.
2. **NAVs are NOT AFFILIATED with each other and are NOT AFFILIATED with any party intentionally.**
3. NAVs have widely divergent views on many if not all issues.
4. NAVs don't want to be pigeonholed into a party.
5. This bill **does not fix any problem**. It does create a problem which is loss of independence from party politics for NAVs. One key reason NAVs choose to be NAVs is that they do not want to be part of party politics.
6. This bill **creates unnecessary work and generates unnecessary expenses for the state of Oregon and for the Counties and Cities.**
7. This bill will create animosity between the Legislature and the over 600,000 NAV voters.
8. There is no value added by implementing this bill. In other words, there is no improvement in the Primary election process or system for the voters.
9. This bill states that only one candidate who is a NAV can appear on the general election ballot. This again goes with the thinking that the NAVs are a political party. Wrong Wrong Wrong!!!
10. This bill was requested but by a former candidate for office that ran in 2016 as a member of the Green Party.
11. We have four freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution
 1. Freedom of the press. You can write and publish your views on any issue. You also have the option to NOT write and publish your views.
 2. Freedom of speech. You can speak about your views to anyone who will listen. You also have the option to NOT speak about your views.
 3. Freedom of assembly. You can assemble and have a group focused on one or more issues. You also have the option to NOT assemble and be a part of a group.
 4. Freedom of religion. You can join any religious group you want and be a part of it. You also have the option to NOT have religious views nor join any group.

Preserve the right of independence for voters!

Please vote NO on SB 225 and allow NAVs to continue to vote and maintain their independence from any political party or structure or process.

Thank YOU!

Best Regards,
Tom Messenger
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