

Voter Roll Maintenance

Dear House Rules Committee Chair House Leader Smith Warner and Committee Members,

I oppose HB2681

I oppose particularly SECTION 4.

“Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the registration of an elector may not be considered inactive due to an elector not voting or updating the elector’s registration for **any period of time.**”

According to the List Maintenance from the EAC Election Assistance <https://www.eac.gov/news/2017/03/10/fact-sheet-voter-registration-list-maintenance> also see attached.

“Why is voter registration list maintenance important?

Maintaining accurate voter registration lists is essential to protecting election integrity. Americans deserve an election system that produces an accurate result based on each eligible voter casting a single ballot in their proper jurisdiction. Maintaining an accurate voting roll enfranchises voters because it lowers the likelihood of lines at the polls, reduces voter confusion and decreases the number of provisional ballots. Updated records also allow election administrators to plan, to better manage their budget and poll workers, and to improve voter experience.

What is the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)?

Commonly referred to as the “motor voter” law because it contained provisions about voter registration at local DMV offices, the NVRA provides guidance for when a state may remove the name of a voter from a list. The 2014 Election Administration and Voting Survey found that states removed over 14.8 million voters from voter registration lists that election cycle. The NVRA allows states to remove voters who have not voted in two consecutive federal general elections and failed to respond to a confirmation notice from an elections office. Other reasons for removal include death, felony conviction, having moved from one jurisdiction to another, mental incompetence, or at the voter’s request.”

As I understand it, Oregon allows 10 years of inactivity before removing an inactive voter. The NVRA only suggests 4 years and then removal. This bill would even remove the 10 year safeguard. People registered at local colleges and universities would never have their voter record updated from the dorms. Apartment dwellers and others would have numerous ballots delivered to them from the previous residents for this time forward, every election.

People often do not notify the Elections Division of their move out of state. New people at that address do not always notify the Elections Division that the person is no longer living there.

HB 2681 will increase costs of elections by sending ballots to addresses that are no longer accurate for that voter.

Facilitate voter fraud opportunity.

Disclose protected voter status, by delivering mail to an address that is no longer, but once was a valid address.

Please vote no on HB 2681 and protect Oregon Voter Rolls by providing good list maintenance.

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Thank you,
Janice Dysinger
Gresham, OR