

March 30, 2021

Re: House Committee on Rules Public Hearing

Dear House Committee,

I am writing to oppose HB2681. I am against allowing voters to stay on registration rolls indefinitely. I disagree with this for several reasons. First, having a registration roll that has numerous inactive voters but who are still on the roll will possibly create confusion, error, vulnerability for fraud, and will most definitely cost money that could be used to help keep elections secure and transparent otherwise.

Second, our election integrity is of utmost importance and any sort of far-reaching move such as allowing people to remain on voter rolls indefinitely is beyond comprehension. Already, in Oregon, we have such ability to register people to vote immediately upon their registering with the state for something else, sometimes without their knowledge even. But there is no common way for the counties to be able to accurately keep up and maintain their registration rolls currently. I have even seen this first hand when my deceased father-in-law got ballots for several years until we finally addressed the problem during this last election with our county clerk.

Allowing for this kind of bill is excusing the county clerks from doing their jobs. This is a duty that must be maintained to preserve the integrity of the voters that are active. Trying to maintain a voter registration roll filled with possible deceased or otherwise inactive voters is absurd, will hurt our elections, is a waste of time and money, confuses the delivery system, and is not even a smart thing to do. The only reason this would be done is to further cripple our system. The previous director of elections highlighted the known security issues and failings of the Secretary of State to keep the election system up to date.

I am part of an organization called Oregon People's Vote, which has been formed in accordance with open dialogue discussions with our community members and our county clerk about elections. We intend to make our voices heard to support election integrity and transparency at all levels. We intend to make sure that our government is working for us and representing the voters' best interest. We support making sure that all voters have equal rights, but that also means maintaining the registration rolls so that election security and integrity can be observed. That is why I am writing to you today to oppose HB2681.

Oregon is supposed to have an ideal mail-in ballot system, so let's keep doing this right. There is absolutely no need for this type of thing, and I invite anyone to tell me why this bill is a good idea, how it would help ensure voter integrity, and how it can keep voter fraud from escalating.

Thank you for your time,

Amy McKenzie Watts
Stayton, Oregon