

To the Senate Committee on Rules,

My name is Emily Beckstrand and I am a long-standing citizen of Oregon, born in Eugene. I'm writing to you today because as a voter I want current and future generations of Oregonians to have a real choice and voice in presidential elections. At the present moment we, as a voting body, cast our votes way too late to make any real impact for any candidate (approximately two months after the decision is effectively made).

On a personal level, this means that I don't get the opportunity to vote for the candidate I want to support. I have also witnessed many close friends and fellow Oregonians in my age demographic grow increasingly apathetic towards voting in general. When our voices don't matter in deciding presidential primaries we become accustomed to losing faith in how our votes can change our local and regional communities for the better.

Oregon's current role as the 46th state to vote has bred indifference for getting involved and carefully considering candidates and the issues we should all care about. If Oregon is moved to Super Tuesday this would promise candidates to visit our state, take our questions, and bring the issues that affect all Oregonians to the national media traveling with them. It would ensure Oregonians the full range of candidates to choose from, and would promote civic engagement and political awareness.

Our neighboring states of Washington and California vote early, and I believe we, as a collective voting body, should too. We should vote early and actually have an impact. Oregon should matter in the presidential election.

Please vote for this bill and move us to Super Tuesday.

Thank you,

Emily Beckstrand