

SB 571 which would allow convicted felons to vote while still in custody is outrageous. Allowing someone to participate in our democracy while being convicted of a felony for violating our societies norms and laws is a bad idea. Convicted Felons should be stripped of their right to vote until such a time as they are paroled and/or released from custody, which is currently the law in this state and is just and fair. You lose other rights when you go to prison, why should voting be any different. In 2016, 10 Oregonians were convicted of voter fraud. Many were initially charged as felonies but were reduced to violations with plea agreements. In Oregon, voting with or signing another person's ballot is a Class C felony punishable by up to five years in prison. Imagine how ludicrous the sentencing hearing would be "You are sentenced to 5 years in prison for committing voter fraud because the right to vote is something we hold very dearly in this state and tampering with that right is a serious offense. And to show you how seriously we are about voter fraud, we will allow you to vote in all city, county, state, and national elections." This bill is not talking about misdemeanors, a night in the jail or something minor. This bill is about people who's crimes are so egregious to the laws in this state that they must be physically removed from society and placed in confinement. They have forfeit their right to participate in our society and our democracy until a time they are released. Allowing currently incarcerated felons to vote is a slap in the face to Oregonians and should be rejected. Please oppose and toss out this bill.