

# HB 4044: PARITY FOR MINOR PARTIES

Nearly 200,000 registered voters across Oregon belong to a minor political party. Unfortunately, many of these parties are in jeopardy of losing their party status.

*Under current Oregon law, minor parties can maintain their party status one of two ways:*

## **RUNNING A STATEWIDE CANDIDATE**

Candidates must receive 1% of all votes cast in the previous election.

## **MINIMUM STATEWIDE REGISTRATION**

Parties must have one half of 1% of all registered voters across the state.



## **PROBLEM**

Minor parties need autonomy when running a statewide candidate — not out of an obligation to maintain status, but as an opportunity to put forward candidates who share their values and represent their voters.

Because of this, minor political parties have relied on their ability to meet the one half of 1% registration requirement — a status that most minor parties are able to maintain. However, due to the incredible increase in nonaffiliated voters across our state from automatic DMV registration, meeting this threshold is an increased challenge.



## **SOLUTION**

Adjusting the threshold requirement from one half to **one quarter of 1%** would account for the influx in automatically registered voters and ensure that minor parties are not impacted by the subsequent increase in nonaffiliated voters. HB 4044 ensures an equitable and attainable number can be met, as was originally intended.

## *Why does this matter?*

Minor political parties play an important role for many Oregonians. With an opportunity to reach party status in a more equitable way, minor parties can focus on what matters most: shared values, common goals, and presenting candidates when the time is right.

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