



## **Oregon Online Voter Registration Modernization Testimony**

Re: Support OVR+, HB 4133

**February 7, 2022**

Chair Smith Warner, Co Chairs Breese-Iverson and Fahey, and members of the House Committee on Rules,

My name is Elena Langworthy and I'm with State Voices. Our organization serves an alliance of 24 state-based coalitions, called Tables, and more than 1,200 additional network partners in all 50 states working to increase in lifelong voter participation, increase capacity of community-based organizations and win on racial and gender equity issues. We write today on behalf of Oregon Voice, Oregon's 501(c)(3) nonpartisan civic engagement table comprised of thirty-five state partner organizations, in strong support of Online Voter Registration Plus (OVR+) in Oregon, HB 4133, an act to create an Online Voter Registration System because it will expand accessibility to the current system and accommodate current eligible Oregonians who do not possess a driver's license.

Oregon's OVR system is currently limited to people who have either an Oregon driver's license or a non-driver ID card issued by the Oregon DMV. HB 4133 will help modernize our online voter registration system (OVR+) and allow for registrants to upload an image of their signature and register online with the last four digits of their social security number. The expansion of Oregon's existing online voter registration system will improve access to eligible voters who may not possess a driver's license, including the estimated 10% of eligible voters in the state. The current driver's license requirement exacerbates existing registration disparities.

Moreover, the benefits of online registration are well established and include cost-savings, increased voter roll accuracy, and improved election administration planning and efficiency. Alternative signature collection would both allow more individual users to submit registrations and lay the foundation for registration drives to submit registrations electronically, increasing the accuracy, efficiencies and cost-savings. Ensuring that the system works well for *all* users will increase these administrative benefits in addition to directly serving voters.



Online voter registration systems have already been expanded across the country, including Delaware, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Vermont and Missouri. Indeed, election officials in the states that have expanded OVR access have less manual data entry, which reduces labor costs for transcription and production of paper voter registration forms. In Oregon, these cost savings are projected to be \$4.71 per registration<sup>1</sup>. Alternative signature collection would both allow more individual users to submit registrations and lay the foundation for registration drives to submit registrations electronically, thus increasing voter roll accuracy as well as efficiencies and cost-savings.

Oregon has a long history of modernizing elections in order to better serve all voters, OVR+ is another opportunity to continue this path. Expanded online voter registration can lead to cost-savings administrative benefits while directly serving all Oregonian voters. State Voices urges the committee to support HB 4133.

Thank you,

*Elena Langworthy*  
*Deputy Director of Policy*  
*State Voices*

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<sup>1</sup> [https://wecanvote.us/registration-related-costs\\_030817.pdf](https://wecanvote.us/registration-related-costs_030817.pdf)