

Submitter: Amanda Winn  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB579

RE: Support Guaranteeing the Right to Vote, SB 579  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

January 27, 2023

TO: Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Amanda Winn, and I live in the city of Portland. I am writing to testify in strong support of Guaranteeing the Right to Vote, SB 579, which will ensure every eligible Oregonian can register to vote, update their voter registration, and vote in elections based on where they resided prior to incarceration.

The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy, and the foundation that our country has been built. Yet over 10,000 people in Oregon are currently denied their right to vote, leading to low-income, Black, Indigenous, and Latine people being disproportionately disenfranchised.

The entirety of the carceral system in our country and in our state is in desperate need of reform. The prison pipeline has affected individual rights, destroyed families, and diminished our communities for decades. There must be reform. Passing SB 579 and guaranteeing the Right to Vote fulfills the promise of our democracy while advancing public safety and addressing racial and socioeconomic inequities.

As an Oregonian, I know personally that connection to the community through civic engagement while incarcerated leads to healthier communities, that voting is a civic right and responsibility, and we can address the unjust impacts of mass incarceration.

The legislation is supported by over 40 civil rights organizations, faith-based groups, as well as currently and formerly incarcerated people. Please ensure that Guaranteeing the Right to Vote, SB579, is passed out of committee.

Thank you for your support of this bill.  
Amanda Winn