

09 February 2023

House Committee on Rules

Re: House Joint Resolution 4

Dear Chair Representative Fahey, Vice-Chairs Representatives Breese-Ivernson and Knopf, and members Representatives Nosse, Scharf, Valderrama and Wallan;

I am opposed to House Joint Resolution 4.

From legislation passed in the last few years it should be plain that some people just aren't interested in voting, period, no matter what the legislature wants nor how easy it attempts to make it.

The whole idea of helping Oregonians vote' probably began years ago with mail in ballots, of which I have no beef. Oregon's motor-voter legislation was passed more recently because it was thought (by some) that registering to vote on one's own was just too onerous a task for the average citizen, so the state would do it for them. Then came ballot postage prepaid at tax-payers expense because it was also thought that obtaining a stamp was just too onerous a task for the average citizen, let alone having to actually affix it to an envelope.

Yes, yes I know there are some exceptional circumstances. But, if a citizen is interested in voting they will register to vote in a timely manner. All on their own. It is not the state's duty to do it for them.

With each legislative session the whole voting scheme is getting to be as if, collectively, we sink a little lower as a "can-do" society. Is nobody capable of anything anymore? Will the state eventually do everything for us? I am beginning to believe that is the goal of some legislators and their constituents.

I suppose the belief behind same day registration is that it will what? Just what significant change is this going to make in Oregon's voter turnout? The correct answer is no one knows. It's just an aspiration of those promoting this bill.

I think this bill is a waste of the committee's time and energy and I urge you to table it and work on something more important. No matter how dramatic the pleas, people will not be forced to vote if they don't want to.

Sincerely,



Richard Wisner