

Submitter: Aishiki Nag
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2694

When it comes to establishing eligibility on who can vote for the primaries, It is crucial that we let all those who are eligible for the general election be able to vote during the primaries. It only makes sense that those voting in the general election, have the ability to choose who their candidates are to have a more representative democracy that reflects the values of the people. Oregon's mail-in-ballot system already creates a strong and secure electoral system, so the possibilities of a double-cast ballot are near statistical impossibility. We also already have the structure to send out the ballots due to the pre-registration system, which has made the process infinitely times easier (with 190k already pre-registered). The age of the person casting the ballot, psychologically, doesn't differ too much from the age of 17 and the age of 18, because by the time a person turns 16 "cold cognition" is already developed (which allows decision-making in non-stressful situations). By the age of 17, the Oregon educational curriculum has already thought students about how American democracy functions and different fundamental skills of decision-making to synthesize information to articulate opinions. It's important to let those who are eligible vote in the primaries, to formerly be able to voice their opinion in choosing representation.