

March 14, 2023

To: Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

Re: **SB 169** – Requires Secretary of State to study how to improve efficacy of voters' pamphlet. –
Support

I would like to voice my support for this bill so long as “studying how to improve” actually quickly translates to actually making improvements. The voters’ pamphlet is a critically important part of our elections process. As much as we would like for our electorate to be as active and self-informed on the issues and in politics as the people submitting testimony today... the truth is for many people the voters’ pamphlet very well might be the only resource they turn to at the last minute while they are filling out their ballots.

I am a PCP for the Multnomah County Democrats, and one of the cornerstone services we provide our community takes the form of distributing “slate-cards” advocating candidates and advising voters on measures. Obviously our advice has a partisan lean to it, and our reach is limited to at best our county but also our limited funds and manpower (however despite these limitations, we have witnessed a striking impact on voter turnout and desired outcomes as a result of the distribution of these info resources). The voters pamphlet without a doubt is even more impactful towards ensuring we have an informed electorate, and I would hope that any and all avenues towards increasing it’s efficacy be considered and readily activated.

One such potential area for improvement concerns the candidate’s portrait. I am including an example from the 2020 primary election in which our pamphlet somehow managed to omit the portrait of the 3rd most popular democratic candidate and US Senator Elizabeth Warren. Although blame can probably be shared with the Warren campaign staff, I find it hard to believe more couldn’t have been done. **HB 2896**¹ may be one possible solution to addressing whatever caused this omission. Alternatively I would be interested in whether the inclusion of candidate portraits creates undue (financial) burden on prospect candidates or whether it promotes unconscious racial/gender/age... bias in the minds of the electors. In any case should this bill pass, I would ask the Secretary of State to please look into these concerns. (and also please support HB 2896)

Thank you

Brian Jensvold
Multnomah Democrats PCP
and HD 46 ADL

¹ Requires Secretary of State to establish electronic filing system to allow candidate for nomination or election to county or city office held at primary or general election to file portrait and statement electronically with secretary if candidate cannot have portrait and statement printed in county voters' pamphlet.

President

Elizabeth Warren

Democrat

No Photo Submitted

Occupation: U.S. Senator

Occupational Background: Law Professor - Harvard Law School, University of Pennsylvania, University of Texas at Austin, University of Houston et al.

Educational Background: Rutgers University School of Law (JD), University of Houston (BS, Speech Pathology and Audiology)

Prior Governmental Experience: Special Advisor to President Barack Obama - Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; Chair-Congressional Oversight Panel, TARP.

Elizabeth Warren grew up in Oklahoma on the ragged edge of the middle class. Her dad sold fencing and carpeting at Montgomery Ward, and ended up as a janitor. She has three older brothers who served in the military. When Elizabeth was twelve, her dad suffered a heart attack, putting him out of work. The medical bills piled up and they had lost the family station wagon, when her mom got a minimum wage job answering the phones at Sears. That job saved their home, and it saved their family, but now the minimum wage can't support a mama and a baby.

Elizabeth has spent her career studying why America's middle class has been hollowed out. She fearlessly takes on giant corporate special interests like big banks and credit card companies that cheat consumers and undermine small businesses. She goes after shady for-profit schools that rip off students, veterans, and taxpayers. She relentlessly fights to end the influence of big money in politics. And her plans target California's biggest issues, like investing in affordable housing, fighting climate change, cancelling student loan debt for millions, and creating a pathway to citizenship for families.

Elizabeth got to become a teacher, a law professor, and the senior senator from Massachusetts because America invested in kids like her. She is in this fight to build an America that works for everyone.

Elizabeth and her husband Bruce have been married for 38 years and have three grandchildren and a golden retriever named Bailey.

(This information furnished by Warren for President.)

US Senator

Jeff Merkley

Democrat



Occupation: U.S. Senator

Occupational Background: Portland Habitat for Humanity; Pentagon and Congressional Budget Offices; World Affairs Council of Oregon

Educational Background: David Douglas High School; Stanford; Princeton

Prior Governmental Experience: State Representative; Oregon House Speaker

The son of a union mechanic, Jeff attended public schools, was the first in his family to go to college and still lives in the same blue collar neighborhood he grew up in. He never needs to be reminded who he's fighting for.

But the fights keep getting harder, because the privileged and powerful have rigged our economy and democracy to enrich themselves. Here's how we fix it:

Take on political corruption so the people are in charge - Put an end to dark money, partisan gerrymandering, and voter suppression.

Create good-paying jobs - Build modern infrastructure and rural broadband, nurture manufacturing, end tax breaks for corporations that ship jobs overseas.

Invest in thriving families - End the outrageous gouging on drug prices, tackle the mental health crisis, and provide seamless coverage for everyone. Massively increase affordable housing. Lower class sizes and make college debt-free.

Meet the climate chaos challenge - Rapidly build a renewable energy economy with union labor to quickly stop carbon pollution. Re-assert US leadership to make sure other countries step up to meet this global emergency.

Create opportunity in all of Oregon - Jeff fights for all of Oregon, delivering dredging for coastal ports, disaster assistance for farmers and ranchers, and investments in rural broadband; saving rural post offices; and catalyzing collaborative solutions to timber and water challenges to create jobs and improve ecosystems.

From exposing Trump's evil policy of locking kids in cages, ending Wall Street's worst predatory mortgages, introducing the Equality Act to outlaw LGBTQ discrimination, Jeff never shies away from taking on the powerful to deliver opportunity, justice, and a brighter future for all.

Endorsed by Planned Parenthood Action Fund, Oregon AFL-CIO, the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, and others.

Learn more: www.jeffmerkley.com.

(This information furnished by Jeff Merkley for Oregon.)