

November 17, 2025

# Safeguarding Oregon's Vote from Faithless Presidential Electors

Oregon Senate Interim Committee on Judiciary



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# What's the Problem?



As we know, political violence and threats are an increasing challenge across our country

**Threat and Harassment Incidents  
Against Local Officials by Month**



Data Source: BDI's Threats & Harassment Dataset (THD)

85%

of American adults said that politically motivated violence is increasing in the United States, in response to a September 2025 survey conducted by the Pew Research Center.



Presidential electors across the country now receive **“incessant letters, phone calls, e-mails, lawsuits, and death threats,”** according to Professor Robert Alexander of Bowling Green State University, which is why he and other experts on the role of presidential electors recommend for states to pass legislation of the sort we’re discussing today.



## The Detroit News

**“I’ve had people talk about shoving a gun in my mouth and blowing my brains out. And I’ve received dozens and dozens of those emails”**

-Michigan presidential elector, December 2016



**“One of the 12 people chosen to cast Electoral College votes for Washington in the 2020 election says he found a death threat last week on his porch.” (Jan. 2021)**



# Oregon's Approach to Presidential Electors



# Major Stages of the Electoral College

## ✓ Election Day

Tuesday in Early  
November

## ✓ Counting and Confirming the Results

November into December

## ✓ The Presidential Electors are Certified

By 2nd Wednesday in  
December at latest

## ✓ The Presidential Electors Convene

The Following Tuesday

## ✓ Congress Counts the States' Electoral Votes

January 6th

## ✓ The President is Inaugurated

January 20th



“

A candidate for elector when selected shall sign a pledge that, if elected, the candidate will vote in the electoral college for the candidates of the party for President and Vice President.”

**ORS 248.355 Selection of Presidential Electors,  
Subsection (2), 1st Sentence.**



"if I held a leadership position in a state legislature with no law or a vague law on this matter, I'd be urging my colleagues to act now or, if it's too late for this cycle, in time for the 2028 presidential election."

**William Galston of the Brookings Institution and WSJ regarding faithless elector laws, in May 2024.**





# What's the Solution?



## Oregon can join the states with robust faithless elector laws

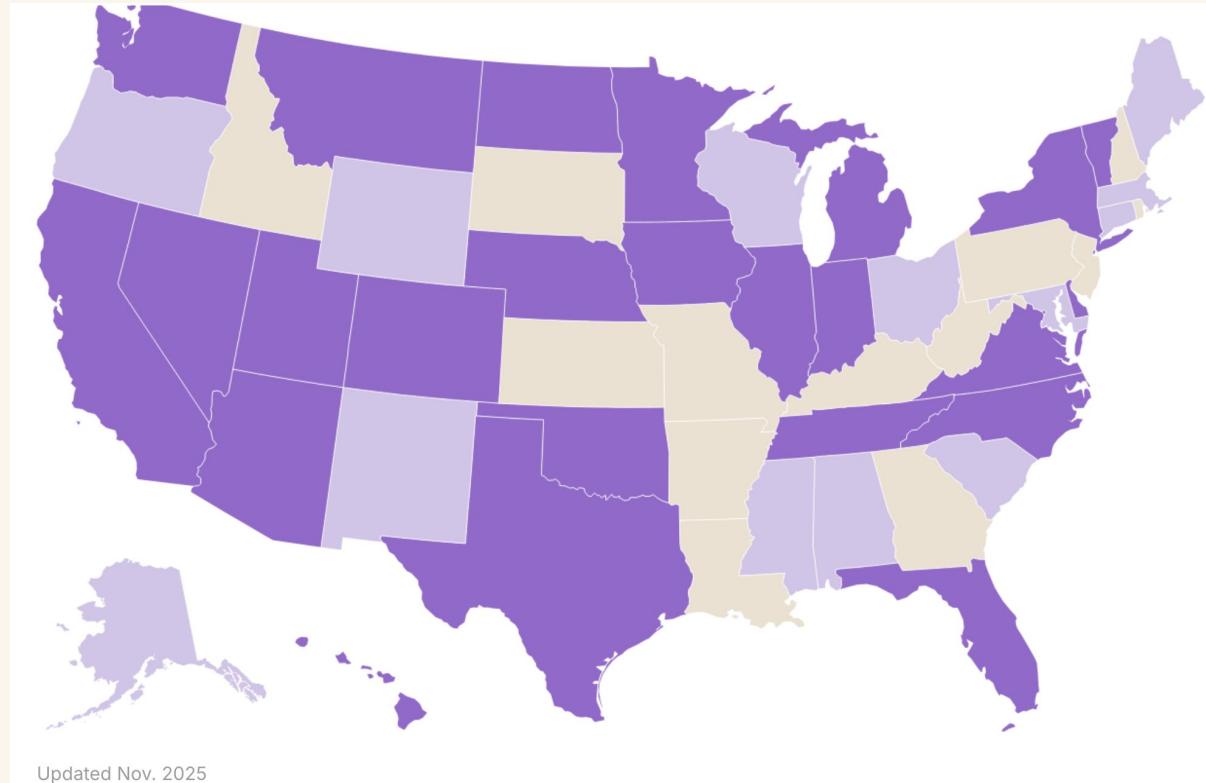
- **STRONG LAW AGAINST FAITHLESS ELECTORS**

(includes an automatic replacement provision)

- **WEAK LAW AGAINST FAITHLESS ELECTORS**

(lacks an automatic replacement provision)

- **NO LAW AT ALL AGAINST FAITHLESS ELECTORS**





# Main Parts of the Uniform Faithful Presidential Electors Act





# Main Parts of the Uniform Faithful Presidential Electors Act



- **A faithless attempted vote automatically vacates the role**
- **Secretary may not accept a faithless electoral vote ballot**
- **Established procedures for filling any vacancies**
- **Substitutes are subject to same obligation as originals**
- **Ensures that certificates conform with any substitutions**

## The Recommended Bill Draft is Versatile:

- Fits the model approved unanimously by SCOTUS in 2020 *Chiafalo* and *Baca* cases
- Carefully crafted to ensure that electors are never bound to deceased candidates
- Does not create any complications with the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact
- Has broad bipartisan and institutional support, and a decade-plus track record in the west

Photo: Credit line goes here



Image Credit: "Electoral-College\_DEC2020\_1009", at the 12/14/20 convening of WA state electors, public domain, accessed 11/14/25 from Wikimedia Commons



# Thank you.

*david.weinberg@protectdemocracy.org*