Unified Primary Act

2025 House Bill (HB #3166-2)

Join Our Coalition!

Co-Chief Sponsors Rep. Lively & Rep. Evans, Reg Sponsors: Rep. McLain, Rep. Gamba +++

Why reform is needed

What this reform will do

Join the movement

Oregon Election Reform Coalition www.electionreform.info

Why is reform needed?

Oregon's closed primary system . . .

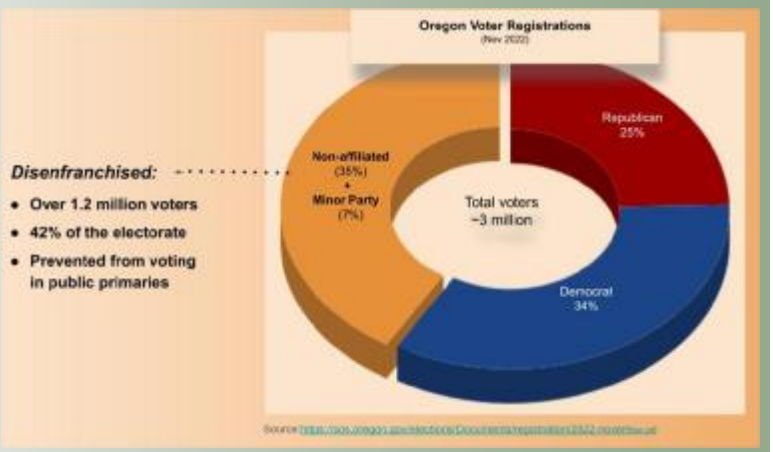
- ***Disenfranchises 43% voters***

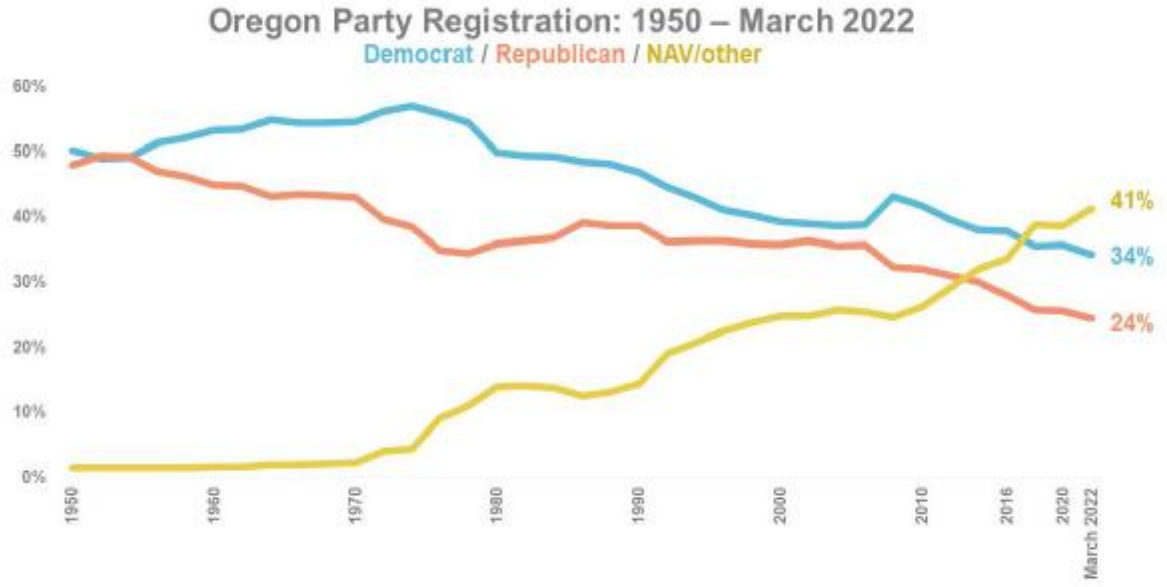
  NAVs 4x rate Ds/Rs since 2016
  diverse, younger voters

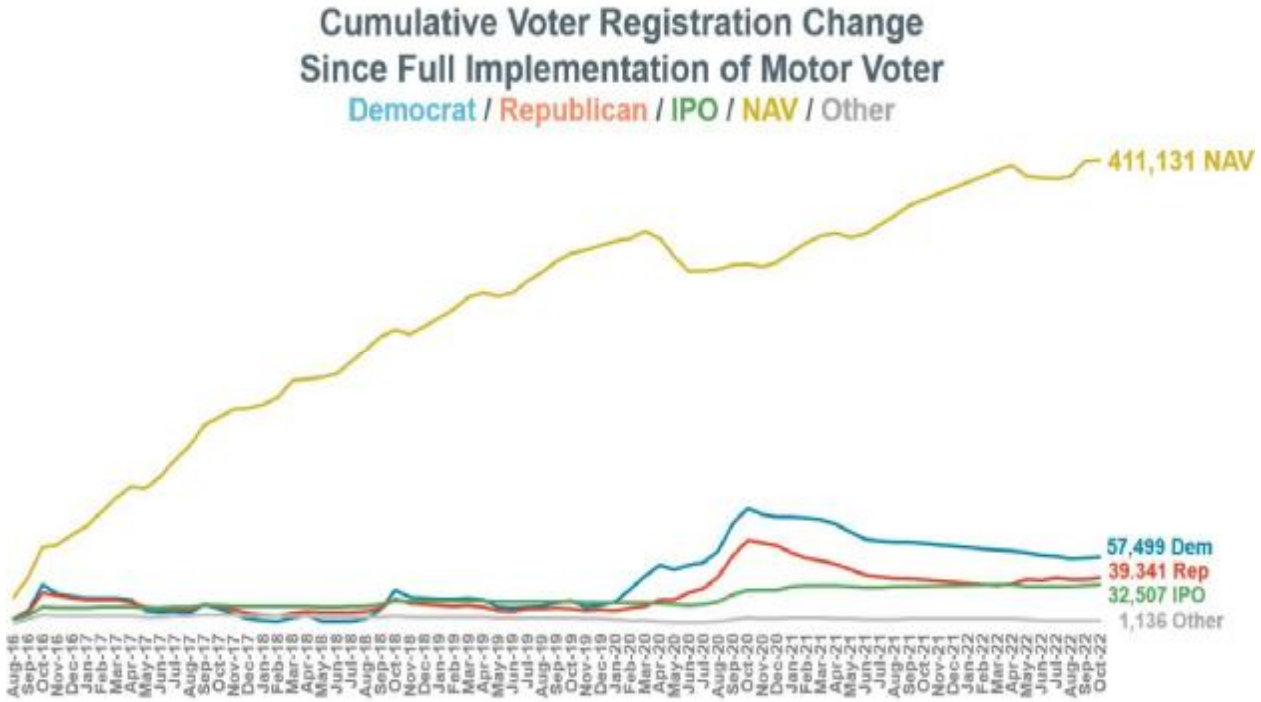
- ***Inhibits competition***

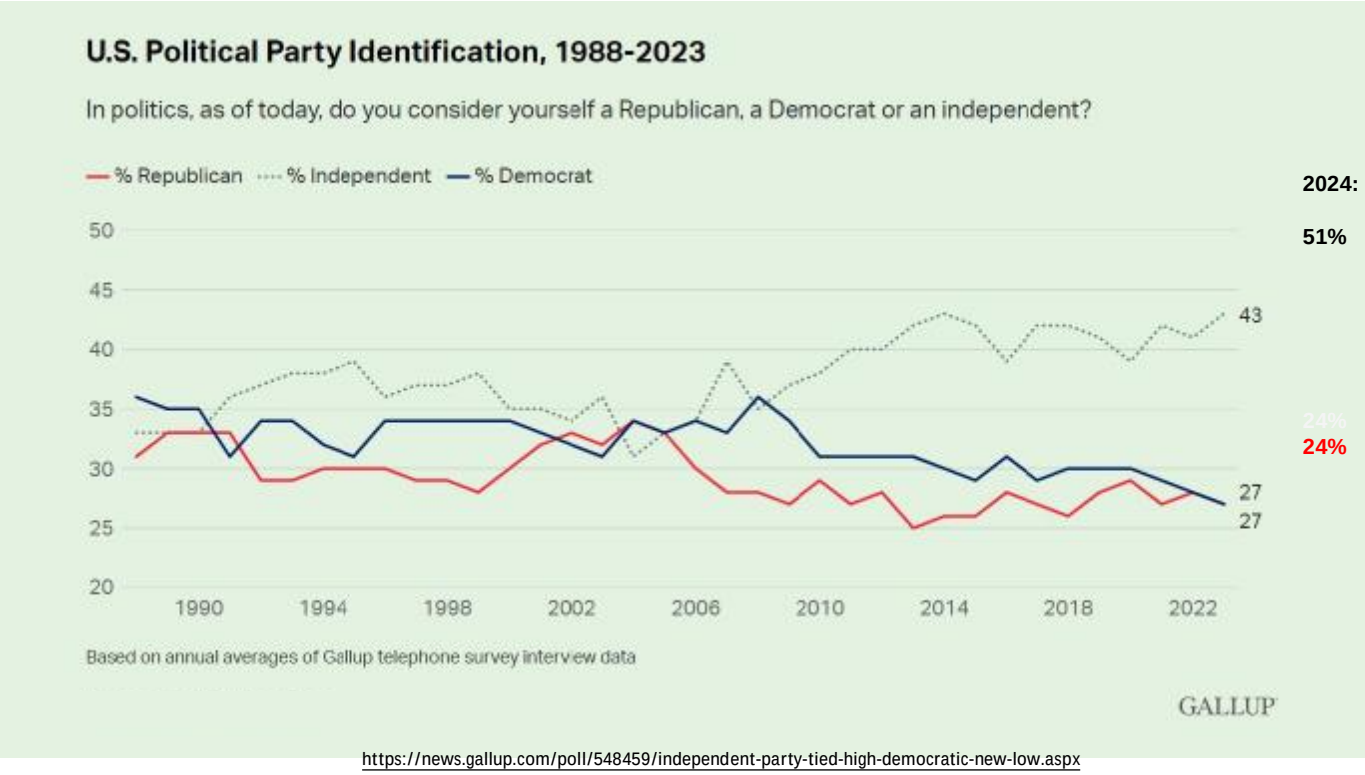
- ***Limits voter choice***

- ***Skews election results***




Oregon Party Registration: 1950 – March 2022
Democrat / Republican / NAV/other
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
41%
34%
24%
1950
1960
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010
2016
2020
March 2022


Cumulative Voter Registration Change
Since Full Implementation of Motor Voter
Democrat / Republican / IPO / NAV / Other
411,131 NAV
57,499 Dem
39,341 Rep
32,507 IPO
1,136 Other



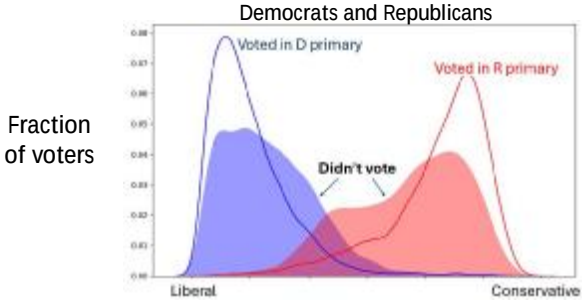
https://news.gallup.com/poll/548459/independent-party-tied-high-democratic-new-low.aspx

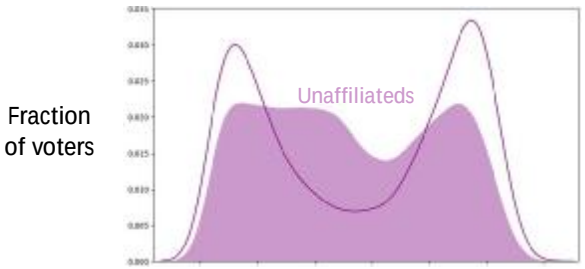
Boosting primary turnout can build moderation

Source: Princeton Electoral Innovation Lab, "Primary Reform and Pivotal Voters" Sam Wang 2/5/25 electoral-lab.org

Voters

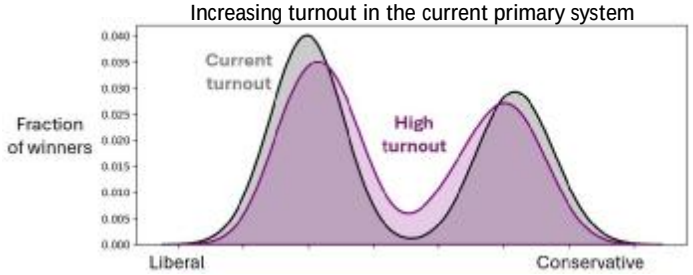
Democrats and Republicans



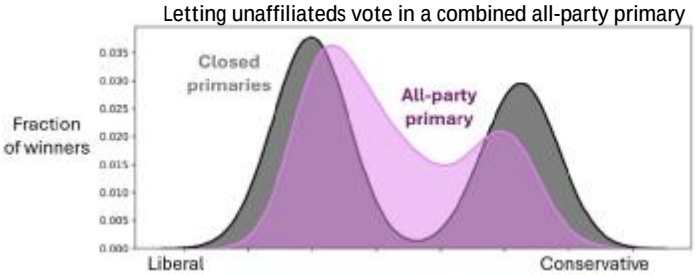


Election winners

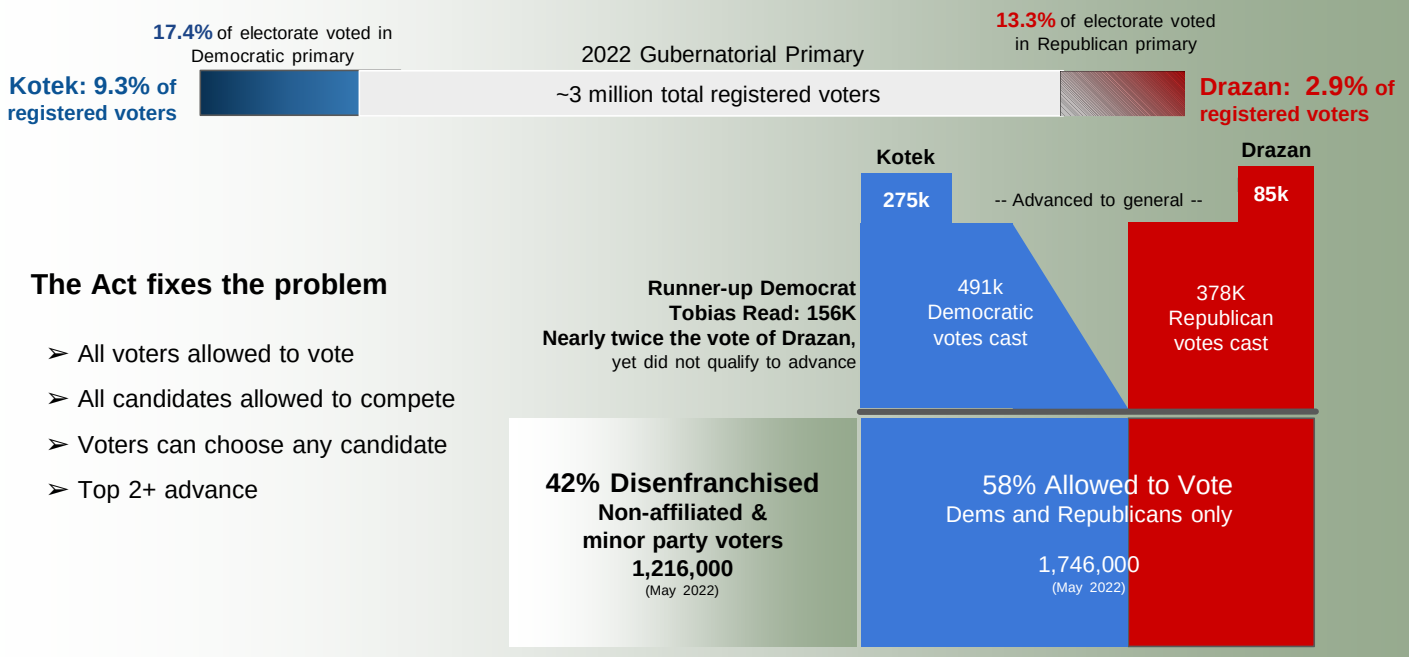
Increasing turnout in the current primary system



Letting unaffiliateds vote in a combined all-party primary



Closed Partisan Primaries = small % of voters decide election



The Act fixes the problem

- All voters allowed to vote
- All candidates allowed to compete
- Voters can choose any candidate
- Top 2+ advance

Open Primaries Benefit Diverse Voters

69% of young voters feel unrepresented by D or R Parties.
69% of Hispanic Voters under 40 in Oregon are independent.
Unite America Institute, "Not Invited to the Party Primary" February 2024

"Closed primaries have large demobilizing impacts on Asian American and Latinx voters, as these voters are registered as independents at higher rates than whites."
University of Southern California 2021 study "The Demobilizing Effect of Primary Electoral Institutions"

"Compared with the general electorate, **Asian American voters are twice as likely to identify as purely independent**."
AAPI Data, NYT 8/13/24 "Asian American Voters Could be Key Swing Voters of 2024"

"When California adopted nonpartisan open primaries, **Latino candidates increased by 50% and the California Legislative Black Caucus grew by 50%** Open Primaries & Communities of Color Fact Sheet

"**Closed primaries disempower voters of color"**
The Fulcrum 12/28/22 "It's time for the civil rights community to embrace independent voters"

49% of Veterans identify as independent or unaffiliated.
Veterans for All Voters

Unified Primary Act key provisions:

Opens closed partisan primaries - enfranchises 43% non-affiliated voters

- **All voters participate fully and equally** in the primary election. Increases voter participation.

Promotes fair competition

- Requires candidates to **fairly compete head-to-head** on the same primary ballot
- **Equalizes filing requirements**; allows diverse candidates & minor parties to advance

Broadens voter choice

- **Top-2+** advance from primary to general election
  - + minor party nominations, candidates who gather signatures to qualify for general ballot
- Enables **fusion candidates** & minor parties to fairly compete; **allows up to 3 endorsements**
- Elects leaders who are **accountable to broader coalitions of voters**

How You Can Help

✓ **Endorse the effort, join our growing coalition**

- Sign up, stay informed

✓ **Volunteer**

- Help with community outreach, share feedback to shape stronger policy
- contact@electionreform.info

✓ **Donate to the campaign**

- Online or mail Oregon Election Reform Coalition PO Box 42307, Portland, OR 97242