Count Everyone. Everyone Counts!

Oregon Unified Primary Act

Top-2+ Unified Primary Reform (HB 3166 -2 Amendment)

Why this Reform?

Closed partisan primaries shut out a huge share of voters, impede fair competition, erect unnecessary barriers and limit voter choice. **Over 1.3 million registered Oregon voters (43% of the electorate) are barred from voting for candidates** in the state's publicly funded primary elections. The Act **allows all registered Oregon voters to vote for fair representation**.

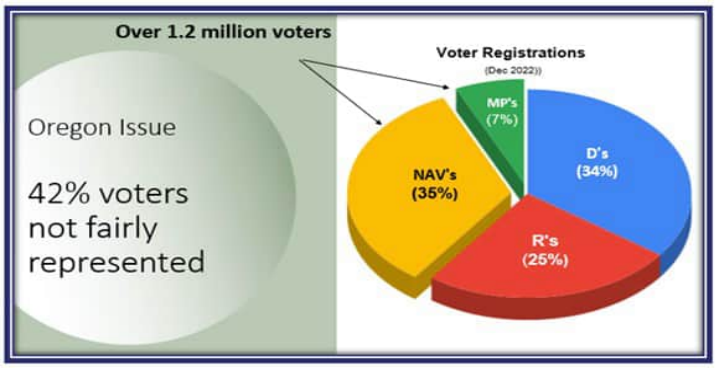
The Oregon Unified Primary Act fixes all this and more.

In Oregon, only members of the two major parties can vote and compete in state-funded primaries for the state's most powerful offices – US Senator, US Representative, Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, and Oregon Legislators. 43% of Oregon voters cannot vote for candidates in these primaries.

This reform is supported by the **Oregon Election Reform Coalition**, a cross-partisan coalition of election reformers from all parts of the state and from different democracy-focused organizations. HB 3166 is based on work by Oregon Legislative Counsel and national best practices.

What will the Oregon Unified Primary Act Do?

- *Allow all voters to vote*
- *Promote fair competition*
- *Ensure fair representation*



Key Provisions

Opens Primary Elections to All Voters

- **Allows all registered voters to vote equally in public primaries** and vote from the same ballot; not the multiple ballots of today.
- **Enfranchises 43% of voters** (non-affiliated voters (NAVs) and minor party members) currently shut out of the partisan primaries which they, as taxpayers, help fund.
- **Promotes fair competition**. Candidates compete on the same primary ballot, and voters are free to choose any candidate on their ballots. Increases **voter participation** for primaries.
- **Levels the playing field for candidates.** Equalizes filing requirements; equalizes ballot access.
- **Top 2+ vote-receiving candidates in primary advance to the general election**.

Top-2+ Candidates Advance to General Election

- **Allows top 2 candidates for office to advance from the primary to the general election.**
- **Minor parties may opt into the primary or nominate candidates separately.**
- **Candidates can qualify for the general election by gathering sufficient signatures.**

Endorsements Encourage Political Party Participation, Voter Information

- **Political parties may officially endorse candidates in the primary and general elections.**
- **Candidates can list up to 3 party endorsements next to their names on the ballot,** information many voters consider very important,
- **Elects leaders who are accountable to broader coalitions of voters.**

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