

Submitter: Marty Wilde
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3166

Dear Friends and Former Colleagues -

I'm pleased to see you taking up open primaries again. For those of you I haven't met, I used to represent portions of Lane and Linn Counties from 2019-2023. I've long advocated for the "big 3" legislative reforms - redistricting, campaign finance, and open primaries. I congratulate you on getting campaign finance done and hope to see you take up redistricting again soon.

The most compelling reason to support an open primary system is the stark reality that non-affiliated voters now outnumber registrants from both major parties by a significant margin, yet they are locked out of our current primary system. A secondary reason is to avoid the unintentional spoiler effect that minor parties can have in the general election.

While I generally support most forms of ranked-choice voting, I appreciate that the voters recently (and soundly) rejected a similar proposal. As such, a top-2 format may represent a reasonable alternative, should you wish to consider amendments.

Once again, thank you for your work for the people. Let's give them all a chance to participate in our primary election system.

Sincerely,

Marty Wilde