Count Everyone. Everyone Counts!

Oregon Unified Primary Act

Top-2+ Unified Primary Reform (HB 3166- 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** in the state's publicly funded primary elections.

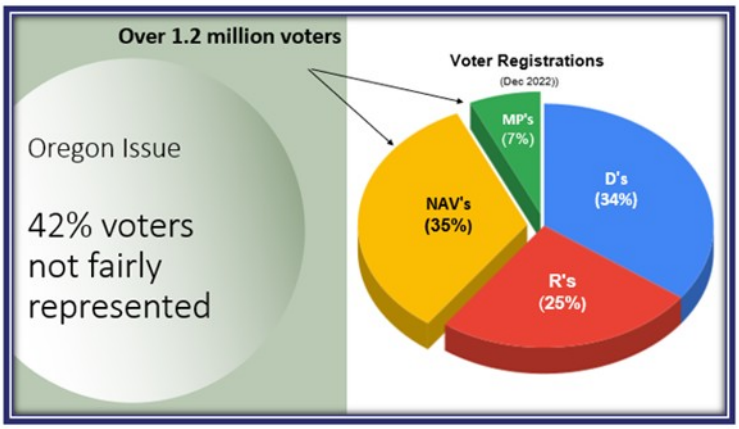
The Oregon Unified Primary Act fixes all this and more.

Background. 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, Representative in Congress, Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, 90 Legislators, +++. **43% Oregon Voters are not fairly represented.**

Who we are. This democracy reform is supported by bipartisan Legislative Sponsors and the **Oregon Election Reform Coalition**, a cross-partisan coalition of good government groups. 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 the top 2+ candidates for office to advance from the primary to general election**.
- Minor parties may opt-in to nominate candidates.
- Candidates can also get on the general ballot via 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,** providing information that many voters consider very important (i.e. D/I/Working Families Party, R/I/Libertarian).
- **Elects leaders who are accountable to broader coalitions of voters.**

OREGON ELECTION REFORM COALITION

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