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***

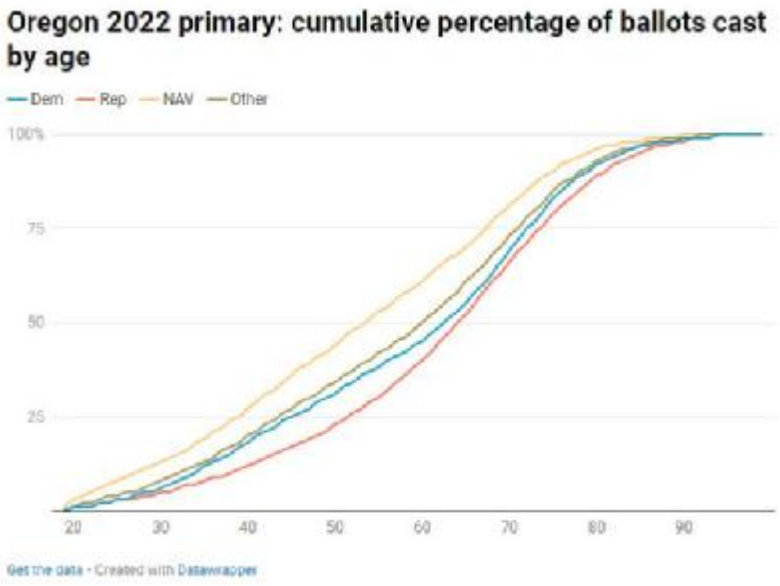
- ***Limits voter choice***

- ***Skews election results***

Nonaffiliated Voters Shut Out of Closed Primaries

Source: DHM Research John Horvick L2 analysis

Young Voters Disenfranchised



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

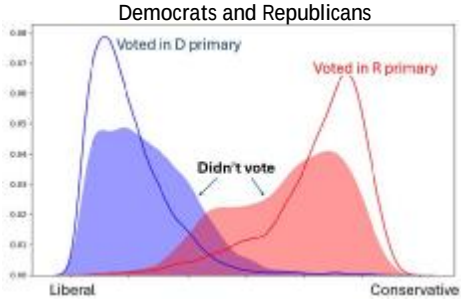
Boosting primary turnout can build moderation

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

Voters

Democrats and Republicans

Fraction of voters

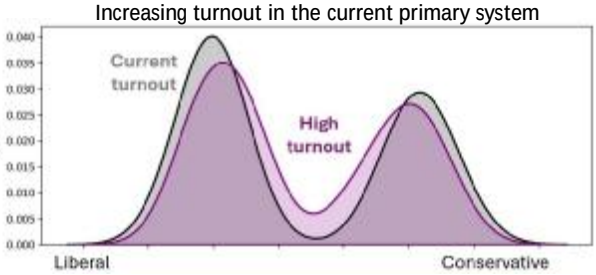


Fraction of voters

Election winners

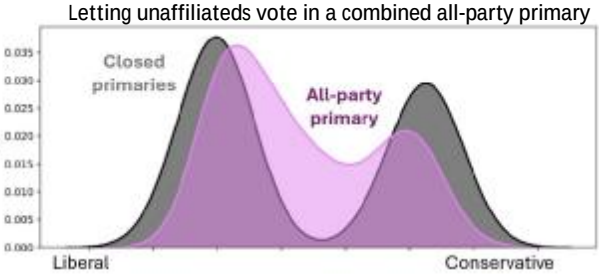
Increasing turnout in the current primary system

Fraction of winners



Letting unaffiliateds vote in a combined all-party primary

Fraction of winners



Closed Partisan Primaries = small % of voters decide election

17.4% of electorate voted in Democratic primary

2022 Gubernatorial Primary

13.3% of electorate voted in Republican primary

Kotek: 9.3% of registered voters

~3 million total registered voters

Drazan: 2.9% of registered voters

Kotek **Drazan**

275k -- Advanced to general -- **85k**

Runner-up Democrat Tobias Read: 156K Nearly twice the vote of Drazan, yet did not qualify to advance

491k Democratic votes cast

378K Republican votes cast

The Act fixes the problem

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

42% Disenfranchised
Non-affiliated & minor party voters
1,216,000
(May 2022)

58% Allowed to Vote
Dems and Republicans only
1,746,000
(May 2022)

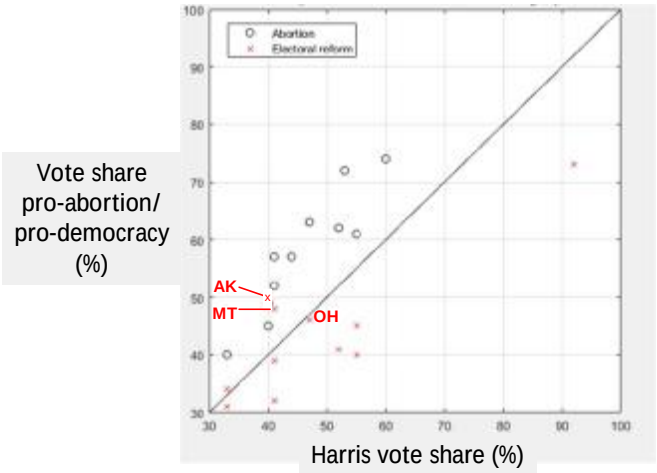
Ranked-choice voting became partisan in 2024 – and failed

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

Pro-abortion vote ran 11 points ahead of Democratic vote share

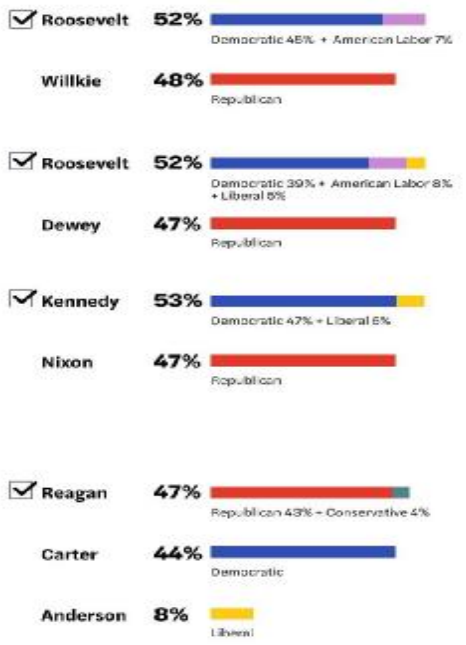
Pro-democracy-reform vote ran 5 points behind Democratic vote share

Most proposals included ranked-choice voting
Exceptions: repeal (Alaska),
all-party primaries (Montana),
redistricting reform (Ohio)



Sample 2022 Governor's Election

Primary Election Governor	
Top-2+ Advance to General up to 3 endorsements	
Christine Drazan Republican, Libertarian	○
Betsy Johnson Non-affiliated, Forward Party, No Labels	○
Tina Kotek Democrat, Working Families	○
Tobias Read Democrat, Independent	○
Nathalie Paravicini Pacific Green, Progressive	○



[Why the Working Families Party is supporting the Oregon Open Primary ballot measure]

By Steve Hughes. *Steve is the State Director of* ***Oregon's Working Family Party.***

The Oregon Working Families Party supports the Oregon Open Primary ballot measure. We believe that for too long the political system has been rigged against working people, and we see the adoption of this measure as a step toward empowering more voters and enabling a diverse set of voices to set the governance agenda of the state.

BlueOregon 7/30/2014

Fusion Voting – Minor Parties influence elections, policy
Protect Democracy "Fusion Voting and a Revitalized Role for Minor Parties in Presidential Elections" 12/14/23

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 <u>same</u> 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