



March 19th, 2025

TO: House Committee on Rules
FROM: Oregon League of Conservation Voters
SUBJECT: Support HB 2250

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Pham and Drazan, and members of the committee,

My name is Britney VanCitters and I'm the Political & Organizing Director at the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV). OLCV is writing in strong support of HB 2250 to end prison gerrymandering in Oregon.

Every decade following the US Census, district lines for state legislative, congressional, and other jurisdictions are redrawn to reflect changes in population and ensure equal representation. [The Census Bureau has its own set of policies](#) for counting people, including those who are incarcerated. The Census Bureau policy is to count prisoners "at the facility," meaning their effective address is that of the prison. This policy is in conflict with Oregon's Constitution, which states voters are meant to retain their place of residence even while incarcerated ([Article II, section 4](#)). HB 2250 would ensure that the US Census complies with the Oregon Constitution when counting incarcerated individuals, leading to more fair representation through the redistricting process.

If HB 2250 were to pass, it would also be a part of a broader solution for formerly incarcerated folks' successful reentry into community. Ninety-five percent of people in prison return to their communities and while reentry can be a difficult process, having strong ties to the community increases the chances of success. Civic engagement, specifically voting, increases the ability for reintegration, reducing recidivism, and making communities safer. Allowing incarcerated folks to maintain their most recent residence streamlines the process of reactivating them in our democracy upon release, leading to safer communities for all Oregonians.

OLCV urges the Committee to vote YES on HB 2250.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. VanCitters".

Britney VanCitters
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