



To: House Committee on Rules  
From: Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network – COIN  
Re: **SUPPORT FOR HB 3908**  
Date: March 30, 2025

*Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Drazen, and Members of the House Committee on Rules:*

**The Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network, COIN, supports HB 3908.** COIN represents more than 50 local grassroots Indivisible groups in all regions of Oregon. COIN is a non-partisan organization and many of our members belong to minor parties. We believe this bill supports a healthy democracy by protecting minor parties from the hardship of meeting major party requirements without major party membership numbers.

We are aware of the see-sawing status of the Independent Party of Oregon (IPO) that has resulted from the current 5% threshold for major party status. Due to this threshold level, many challenges arose for the IPO over the past two decades as it changed from a minor party (2008-2014) to a major party (2016-2018) to a minor party (2020-2024) and very possibly back to a major party in 2026 if it maintains or increases its membership which is currently barely above 5%.

Oregon laws pertaining to major parties may be reasonable for the two large major parties that have dominated Oregon politics for decades, but they can create serious hardships for a small party made up of less than 5% of registered voters in the state.

A simple solution is to raise the threshold for major party status to 10%. At this point a new “major party” would have a large enough membership to more ably meet the requirements of statutes pertaining to major parties in Oregon.

This bill would be very unlikely to impact any other minor parties because, except for the IPO, all the other minor parties are well below the 5% threshold level.

We urge you to pass HB 3908.

Thank you,

Deborah Ferrer  
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