

February 3, 2026

**Personal Recommendation - SUPPORT FOR OREGON “Voters Fairness Act” IP-55 ballot measure**

Oregon House Rules Committee

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

This testimony corrects my earlier testimony from today which referred to the 2025 bill instead of the 2026 Bill. The correct bill that I am supporting is HJR 201

My name is Doug Sheehan, and I am a retired Coast Guard veteran, Founder and Chairman of a corporation, and a longtime resident of Oregon. I strongly support the “Voters Fairness Act” IP-55 ballot measure (HJR201) as the most impactful way to improve voter turnout, decrease polarization and ensure a broader set of Oregonians chooses all of our state’s representatives.

My son was a former State Representative, so I had the opportunity to observe the Oregon political system firsthand. I am now 78 years old, and I have watched as political polarization has increased excessively, particularly in the last few years. We need to create a new, more open, inclusive and competitive election system where all voters, and all Oregon Veterans, can fully participate.

The number of non-affiliated voters has increased at a very substantial rate over the past few years, and our system denies them the right to vote in primaries. This is morally wrong. By allowing them to vote in primaries, I believe we will reduce the extreme positions that many candidates now support in favor of more bipartisan positions. In the Oregon House, there are only about 10 seats that are competitive today, and I believe that this bill will make more of them competitive, which will be good for voters, and citizens at large.

Please support the “Voters Fairness Act” IP-55 ballot measure (HJR201).

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