

In Support of HJR 201 - Open Primaries

To the House Rules Committee

5 February, 2026

My name is Jack Morgan, a student at Willamette University studying Politics, Policy Law and Ethics, and I write in support of HJR 201, as sponsored by Representatives Javadi, Evans, and Watanabe, and Senators Golden and Sollman. I am writing this testimony to support the opening of Oregon's primary elections, as I feel strongly that democracy only truly works when all voices are given a chance to speak, and currently, many voices in Oregon aren't being given the chance to participate in such a crucial aspect of democracy.

Though I am a registered Democrat, I have many friends who are registered as unaffiliated voters due to indecision at the DMV when getting their licenses, general hesitation to align themselves with a party, or reluctance to choose as a whole: regardless of why, these friends I hold dear aren't able to vote in Oregon's primaries as the system stands now, and the voices of people I hold dear aren't being heard.

As a student studying Politics, especially one just across the street from the capitol building, as well as a citizen of Oregon that is generally following legal matters, I felt personally inclined to testify here, as voting equality is something that matters a great deal to me, especially in times such as these that we find ourselves in- if we do not treat each vote the same, democracy starts to wither, which I don't wish to befall us in Oregon. Thus, I write in favor of HJR 201 and the opening of Oregon's primaries to all registered voters, such that each voice can be valued equally again.

It sits against my conscience that 1.1 million voters in our state are deprived of being able to exercise their right in elections that concern their livelihoods, especially given Non-Affiliated voters outnumber the major political parties while not being given a seat at the metaphorical primary table. As the number of nonaffiliated voters continues to grow, this matter becomes more and more pressing to adequately represent the actual Oregon populace, and to not silence our peers that want to participate in democracy without aligning themselves with a political party.

Thank you for your time, and for reading my testimony- I hope that with this resolution that Oregon's elections can more fairly address the wants of the people that have been disenfranchised for so long.