

Open Primary Reform

Voters Fairness Act (2026 Ballot Measure) IP-55

Co-Chief Petitioners Ted Kulongoski (D), Andrew Kaza (I), Cheri Helt (R)

Legislative Bills HJR 201 (amend IP-55) Javadi, Evans, Lively, Golden, Watanabe, Sollman, Gamba, Levy E, Pham H, Smith R+
SB 1592 (amend IP-56) Meek, Sollman, Lieber, Pham H, Watanabe



Why reform is needed

What this reform will do

Join our coalition



OPENPRIMARIES



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Why is reform needed?

Oregon's closed primary system . . .

- Disenfranchises 44% voters**

NAVs 4x rate Ds/Rs since 2016

83% of Motor Voter registrations in 2020 were NAV

NAVs are the largest voting bloc in 21 of 36 counties

& 5 of 6 U.S. House Districts

- Inhibits competition**

- Limits voter choice**

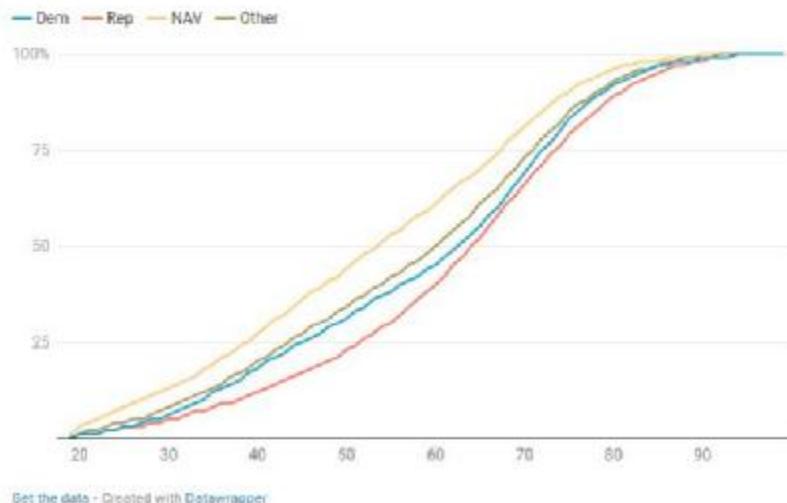
- Skews election results**



Young Voters Disenfranchised

Source: DHM Research John Horvick L2 analysis

Oregon 2022 primary: cumulative percentage of ballots cast by age



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Why Now?

The numbers: nonaffiliated voters have grown almost 2x since 2014, from 600,000 to 1.1 million *and growing*.



More than half of young Oregon voters (18-34) *and growing* are nonaffiliated
83% of Motor Voter registrations in 2020 were nonaffiliated.

Oregon360 Media (Horvick) 3/17/21 "Oregon registers, but does not empower all voters"

NAVs are the largest voting bloc in 21 of Oregon's 36 counties & 5 of 6 U.S. House Districts

Political parties & candidates have an interest in winning Oregon's largest group of voters

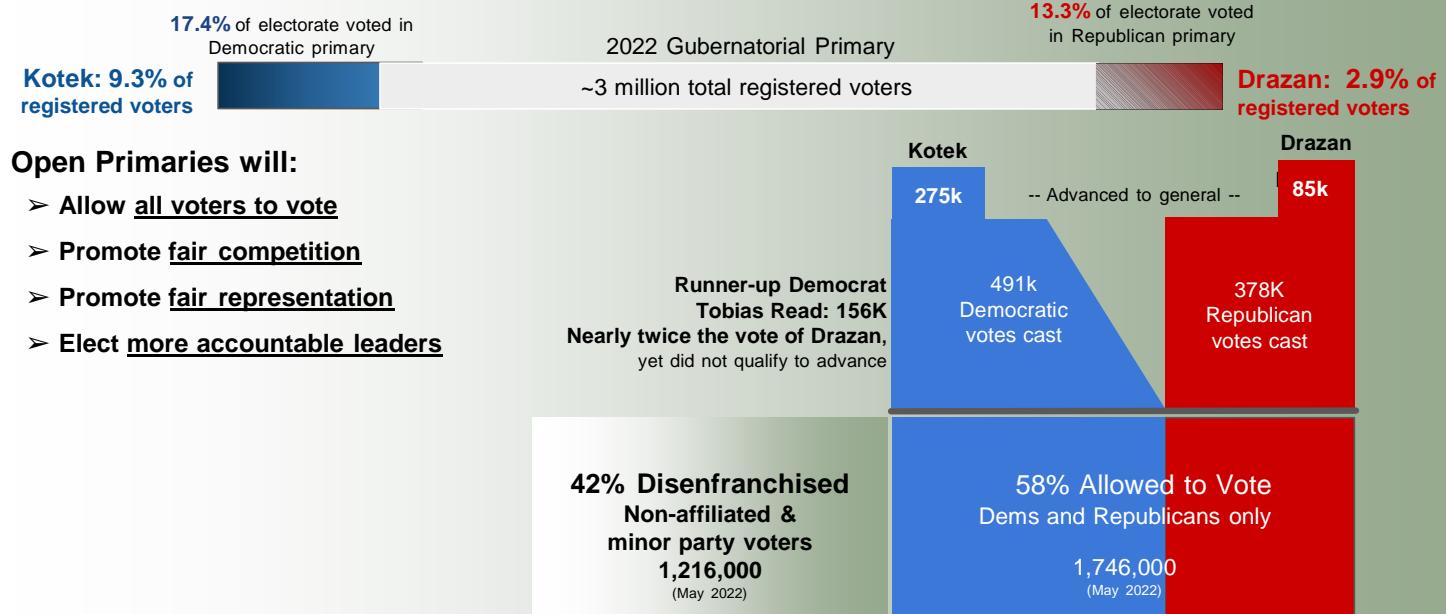
Oregon Capital Insider 10/30/25 "Stapilus: Oregon open primary initiative would let all participate"

Counties: Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Deschutes, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, Polk, Tillamook, Umatilla, Wasco, Washington and Yamhill. 5 of 6 U.S. House (exception PDX-based 3rd District)

Public support: 74%+ Oregonians believe all voters should be allowed to vote in taxpayer-funded elections. DHM Research Sept 2025 survey

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Closed Partisan Primaries = small % of voters decide election



"[J]ust 8% of the U.S. voting age population effectively elected 83% of the U.S. House in partisan primaries. The result is that elected officials are not accountable to the vast majority of voters, which rewards extremism, fuels division, and distorts representation. [Unite America 2/2025](#)

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Boost Voter Turnout, Build Moderation, Reduce Polarization

Letting NAVs vote in open primary is the most impactful reform to improve voter turnout and decrease polarization. [Princeton Electoral Innovation Lab presentation](#) to National Assn. of Nonpartisan Reformers (2/5/25)

A small percentage of voters are deciding Oregonians' choices in the general election. Open primaries boost participation in lower-turnout primaries and help ensure a broader set of Oregonians are shaping the November ballot. [The Oregonian](#) 4/10/24

"When states allow unaffiliated voters to participate in primaries for the first time, voter turnout increases, and the electorate grows more demographically and politically representative." [The Effect of Open Primaries on Turnout and Representation | Bipartisan Policy Center](#) (opening primaries to NAVs increases NAV share of the electorate by 12%)

"Closed party primaries are force multipliers for the polarization that afflicts the United States . . . Fear among moderate, measured or mainstream candidates of being "primaried" moved them away from bipartisan cooperation and edged their politics further to the extremes." [Compare Cheney and Murkowski's Political Fates—It's All About the Primary - Sightline Institute](#) 8/19/22

Reducing Legislative Polarization: Open Primaries are Associated with More Moderate Legislators. [Christian Grose, USC Schwarzenegger Institute](#) (2020)

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Voters Fairness Act (IP-55)

- Allow all registered voters to vote equally in taxpayer-funded elections.
- Promote fair competition. Candidates compete on the same primary ballot & voters are free to choose any candidate for U.S. Congress, Governor, Sec. of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, 90 Legislators.
- Top 2+ candidates receiving the most votes in the primary advance to the general election
 - Any political party may opt-out of primary & nominate to general election *at their own expense*.
 - Nonaffiliated candidates can qualify for the general election by collecting signatures.
- Elects leaders who are accountable to broader coalitions of voters.

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How You Can Help



✓ Join our campaign

- [Online](#) or mail Oregon Election Reform Coalition PO Box 42307, PDX, 97232
- Committee ID# 22680

✓ Endorse the effort, join our growing coalition

[Join Us - Voter Fairness](#)



✓ Volunteer

- Help with community outreach & organizing
- info@voterfairness.com

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