

From the desk

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## **Vote YES for Voter Registration HB 3408**

Voting is a cornerstone of American democracy and one of the most basic rights in a democratic society. There are many organizations in the state who actively work to register Oregonians to vote. Third party, non-partisan voter registration is an essential part of civic engagement and an action of community service that many non-profits, political parties, and organizations participate in.

The Oregon Student Association (OSA) works to engage college populations through their Vote OR Vote program to register students to vote, provides non-partisan voter education, and encourages and reminds voters to turn in their ballots. Tabitha Pitzer, a student at Oregon State University, has participated in the Vote OR Vote program for the past three years and shared her story in support of HB 3408:

"We registered over 4,000 Beavers to vote last November! Students seek to make it as easy as possible for community members to engage in the political process. Our voter registration process is simple: we provide students voter registration cards and then turn in the cards to our local elections office, eliminating the need for students to take time out of their busy schedules to go submit their registration card. HB 3408 confirms in statute that third party entities can do the voter registration efforts that we do and ensures that we will continue to have the ability to turn in voter registration cards on behalf of registrants."

Voting is one of the most essential parts of our democracy. Just as accessible voting is of key importance to a functioning and thriving democracy, so is accessible voter registration. Please support HB 3408 to make Oregon statute clear that third party individuals and organizations can continue to engage their communities through one of our fundamental rights as citizens.











