

June 17, 2019

House Rules Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
Re: Testimony in support of Amendment 7 to SB 224

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the House Rules Committee:

On behalf of Main Street Alliance of Oregon, a network of 4,000 small business owners across Oregon, I would like to share our support for SB 224-7. Main Street Alliance of Oregon is a state affiliate of Oregon Working Families Party because we believe in a democracy that is inclusive of working families.

Amendment 7 is necessary to correct a permanent, unintended consequence of Oregon's New Motor Voter system. Currently, the qualification standards for major and minor political parties in Oregon are tied to the percentage of registered voters who are registered with the relevant party. In Oregon, Motor Voter registrants are registered as non-affiliated by default, and the overwhelming majority of them remain unaffiliated. Therefore, Motor Voter dilutes the apparent strength of all political parties, even though it didn't dilute their actual support among voters.

The increase in unaffiliated voters created by Motor Voter is permanent, so a permanent solution to this problem is needed. Some prior versions of SB 224 created only temporary solutions.

Amendment 7 to SB 224 creates that permanent solution. With a 1/3 of 1% determination, for minor parties, we can make sure that every voter feels they have a party that represents their values.

I respectfully urge you to support the -7 amendments.

Sincerely,

Iris Hodge

State Lead
Main Street Alliance of Oregon