



PCUN, COSA, OEA, ACLU and OSBA urge a YES vote on HB 3310: The Oregon Voting Rights Act

HB 3310 provides school districts, education service districts (ESD), and community colleges a community-driven process to address election structures that violate the National Voting Rights Act.

The bill mirrors, in state statute, the federal prohibition of school districts, education service districts and community college districts from conducting their elections in a manner that impairs the ability of members of a protected class, including racial or language minority groups, in the district from having an equal opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.

HB 3310 helps both voters and local governments by creating a clear and collaborative process for addressing the problem of polarized voting without costly federal litigation. Here is how the process works. A member of the protected class may notify a district that they intend to file a claim against the district showing that a polarized voting pattern exists. The district will have an opportunity to voluntarily remedy the system with a public hearing process.

If the district does not respond to the initial notice, then the member may proceed through the state court system. A state process significantly reduces the costs for both parties and normally moves faster than a federal lawsuit.

The Oregon Voting Rights Act establishes a process that ensures communities of color and other underrepresented communities are heard, and represented in government. Our democracy is at its best when every eligible Oregonian is excited to participate in our elections and vote for candidates who share their values and priorities. Enacting the Oregon Voting Rights Act will ensure that voters rights are protected and that every Oregonian has the opportunity to have their voice heard in our elections.

PCUN, COSA, OEA, ACLU and OSBA Urge you to Vote Yes on HB 3310.

MAY 21 2019

