

Honorable Senate Rules Committee Chair House Democratic Leader Barbara Smith Warner,  
Vice-Chair House Republican Leader Christine Drazan and committee members,

We oppose HB2499

The signature is our main protection against fraud. Any artwork is considered a valid signature, including one that I saw on two different elections in Multnomah County. It read in cursive "Do not count this ballot it is fraud" When I complained to the Elections Director he said that what ever the voter wrote on the registration card as a signature was valid. I have seen many smiley faces, squiggles and beautiful signatures. Often I see an unreadable set of swirls and lines. Still it is all we have to secure our ballots. Imperfect that it may be, it is what we have.

Now, This bill states that the agencies can submit registrations without a signature on file. One of Oregon's law says that it is the minimum requirement to have a signature. ORS 247.208 4 (a) "Except as provided in ORS 247.125, if a registration card is legible, accurate and contains, at a minimum, the registrant's name, residence address, date of birth and signature, the county clerk shall register the person."

We agree with Rob Bovett from the Oregon of the Association of County Clerks, that HB2499 will cause confusion at the registration deadline, generate duplicate registrations, create another category of incomplete voter registrations. We also agree with him on part of his concluding statements that a tablet could be used to ask for "opt out" or "choose a party" selection while at the DMV. That would eliminate the problems with the follow-up questions currently bring. Our current system is negative for at least those 3 weeks because the voter is not secure in their registration status. I have talked to many who were frustrated on election day to find they were not registered as they thought.

It would also be good to give the voter a registration card so they have a record of their status as we used to have.

The voter should be in charge of the voter registration. There should be a positive event, where the voter puts forward their desire to register since this will be on the public record. They know what to expect on their voter registration record. This protects the voter and it protects our voter registration database. We should avoid confusion.

We also agree with Steve Trout, former Oregon Elections Director that we already have a very high voter registration achievement. In our effort to get the last 2% of voters we may become more inaccurate and inefficient.

We oppose HB 2499 and hope you will vote No on the bill.

Janice Dysinger  
Oregonians for Fair Elections