

April 6, 2021



Oregon Progressive Party Independent Party of Oregon

Position on Bills at 2021 Session of Oregon Legislature:

Dear Committee: **HB 3291 -1: Support**

The Independent Party of Oregon and Oregon Progressive Party support the -1 Amendment to this bill, which treats as valid any mailed-in ballot that is postmarked on or before election day and received by the election officer within 7 calendar days of the election date. This would allow Oregon voters additional time to consider all available information before casting their votes.

It is not a radical idea. California counts mail-in ballots postmarked by election day, if they are received 17 days after the election date. Washington allows 20 days after the election date. Illinois allows 14 days. Alaska allows 10 days, as does D.C., Maryland and Ohio, North Carolina allows 9 days. Utah allows up to 14 days. Many states allow 7 days.

We oppose, however, the provision requiring that election officers "prioritize voter anonymity" when announcing the status of the tally of ballots received. This might be aimed to stop the practice of releasing the names of those who have voted on a daily basis, although the -1 Amendment says that it applies to "the status of the tally of the ballots received after the date of the election" and not prior to the date of the election. Releasing the names of persons who have voted can substantially reduce the cost of candidate and measure campaigns, as it allows them to target their direct mail advertising to persons who have not yet voted. Making this information secret will increase the cost of campaigns. Since every person's history of casting ballots is readily available, there would not appear to be a valid "voter anonymity" concern.

Oregon Progressive Party

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