



Date: April 13, 2021

To: House committee on Rules

Re: Support for HBs 3021 and 2745

The Oregon Education Association represents 41,000 education professionals across the state of Oregon. From early learning to community college, from teachers and instructors to education service professionals, OEA's members span the entire spectrum of education.

We believe that civic participation is critical to a functioning and flourishing democracy. And that participation should be simple, encouraged, and as accessible as possible. HBs 3021 and 2745 help improve our current system by improving voting ease for voters whose primary language is not English.

Oregon has a rich history of improving access to the ballot for folks from all walks of life. Pioneering mail-in ballots ensured people could vote on their own time, in their own space, and boosted participation by making voting simpler and accessible. Automatic voter registration further simplified the process by registering hundreds of thousands more Oregonians, encouraging even more people to participate. But no system is perfect, and Oregon can still do a lot to improve participation in its elections.

HBs 3021 and 2745 are a long needed next step.

Voting is not intuitive. Details, from using the right color pen to signing the back of the envelope, can easily be overlooked if you cannot read the directions. Who is running for which position, and what they represent is meaningless, if you cannot read their statements. HB 3021 is crucial to supporting voters through a complex process.

At the same time, we need to improve our system long term, by gathering data and meeting voters where they are at. Allowing folks to provide their preferred language, race and ethnicity will make our elections system more responsive and nimbler for folks who need support in the future.

Please support both HB 3021 and 2745 to improve access to our elections for all Oregonians.