

February 11, 2021

## Oregon Progressive Party Independent Party of Oregon



### Position on Bill at 2021 Session of Oregon Legislature:

#### HB 2687, HB 2679, HJR 11: Support

Dear Committee:

The Oregon Progressive Party (OPP) and Independent Party of Oregon (IPO) support these bills:

- [HB 2687](#) Requires ballots returned by mail to be postmarked not later than date of election.
- [HB 2679](#) Permits person who will be 17 years old on date of primary election and 18 years old on date of general election to vote at primary election for candidates of major political party with which person is affiliated if major political party has adopted rule to this effect.
- [HJR 11](#) Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution providing for same-day voter registration.

Each of these bills will improve the opportunity for Oregon residents to vote. Counting votes that are postmarked as of election day enables voters to take in all of the available information before casting their votes. This seems to work well in Washington State and elsewhere that allows it. Allowing each party to include 17-year olds (who will be 18 by the general election date) extends the primary franchise to those who are entitled to vote in the general election.

Allowing same-day voter registration will return Oregon to the pre-Rajneesh, pre-1986 system. As of last year, 21 states and D.C. allowed same-day registration, including Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, California, and Colorado. Washington and Colorado are exclusive vote-by-mail states, like Oregon, and manage to have same-day registration as well. Obviously, interest in elections grows as the election date nears. Oregon adopted the 20-day advance registration requirement in order to prevent the Rajneesh settlement from suddenly importing hundreds or thousands of new residents to Wasco County--for the sole purpose of voting in one election. Such an event could be avoided in the future by enforcing requirements that those who register to vote are bona fide "residents" of Oregon and not temporary visitors who do not intend to stay.

#### HB 2226: Prefer HB 2687

- [HB 2226](#) Requires ballots returned by mail to be postmarked not later than date of election.

That bill also prohibits anyone from depositing ballots of other voters into drop boxes, except on election day. We see no reason for that restriction, since every ballot is subject to signature verification.

### Oregon Progressive Party

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