

February 11th, 2021

Support for HB 2687

Chair Smith Warner, Members of the House Rules Committee

We are writing today to express support for changing State statutes to allow ballots that are postmarked on or before election day to be counted in future elections.


Multnomah County Elections conducts all local, city, county, state, and federal elections for the citizens of Multnomah County. One message we've heard loud and clear over the years from the voters in our county is that it is confusing to know when to mail in their ballot. We believe allowing ballots postmarked on election day would greatly help to ease the confusion and encourage even more people to vote

Oregon has been a leader in election reform for decades. There have been numerous changes made over the years to increase the ease of voting and to decrease the number of hurdles that make it difficult or impossible for someone to cast their ballot. Allowing ballots that are postmarked on or before election day to be counted is the next step. In Multnomah County, we are ardent supporters of a safe, reliable, and dependable election system.

In order for these changes to be successful, We ask that there be some clarity:

1. Make clear guidelines for ballots whose postmark can not be determined, paying special attention that deadlines fall on business days
2. Allow ballots to be mailed to voters earlier to account for potential delays in the postal system
3. Allow election offices to process returned ballots earlier while maintaining the security of results until Election Day
4. Make adjustments to the challenged ballot deadlines so all voters have the opportunity to cure their ballot and have their voice heard
5. Give Counties longer to certify election results

Sincerely,



Deborah Kafoury,
Multnomah County Board Chair