

House Committee on Rules  
Meeting on 2022-02-08  
Public testimony of Kyle Markley  
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on House Bill 4044

The 2015 Motor Voter Law caused a large increase in the number of nonaffiliated voters. This had the unfortunate, and unintended, effect of making it more difficult for minor parties to maintain their status through their proportion of voter registration.

House Bill 4044 is a small, straightforward change to fix the unintended effect of Motor Voter.

As a long-time minor party voter, I greatly value the unconventional political perspectives that minor parties and their candidates bring to election season. I want to continue to see minor party candidates on my ballot. I want everyone to be able to read minor party perspectives in their Voters' Pamphlet. It should be easy, not difficult, for minor parties to continue in Oregon. The diversity of opinions they bring is essential to the political discourse.

My political party, the Libertarian Party of Oregon, will not be affected by this bill. (Our share of voter registration is greater than even the current threshold.) Even so, I want to preserve the smaller minor parties. Although in many cases I would not favor the policies they would advocate, I staunchly support their participation and advocacy as part of the political process. Do not squelch these voices passively through an accident of lawmaking. Please fix it.