



Colin Cole  
More Equitable Democracy Action  
Re: Support OVR+, HB 4133

February 21, 2022

Chair Wagner, Vice Girod, and members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

My name is Colin Cole and I'm with More Equitable Democracy Action. Our mission is to advance racial equity by transforming electoral systems. Electoral systems have a tremendous impact on how voters' preferences are translated into the ways communities are politically represented, and thus I'm writing today in strong support of Online Voter Registration Modernization (OVR+) in Oregon, HB 4133.

Oregon's OVR system is currently limited to people who have either an Oregon driver's license or a non-driver ID card issued by the Oregon DMV. HB 4133 will help modernize your online voter registration system (OVR+) that will allow for registrants to upload an image of their signature and register online with the last four digits of their social security number, which simply replicates the options already available on paper forms. **With an OVR+ system, more Oregonians will be able to conveniently register to vote and update their registrations, clerks will have less manual data entry and can save money by reducing both labor costs for transcription and paper voter registration forms.**

OVR+ is an important reform that needs to be made in order to improve access to Oregon's existing online voter registration system by accommodating eligible Oregonians who do not have a driver's license. A study from Harvard Law School found that the average cost of acquiring a "free" ID, for those who need one, can range from \$75-\$1753 and, in instances where legal assistance is required to procure certain documents, costs can climb into the thousands.<sup>1</sup> This is a huge barrier to accessing the right to vote, and HB 4133 helps address this problem.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://today.law.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/FullReportVoterIDJune20141.pdf>

OVR+ has already been implemented or passed in nine other states plus the District of Columbia. Maine, Colorado, Delaware, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Vermont, and Missouri have all implemented (or are in the process of doing so, in the cases of Maine and Colorado) OVR+. Oregon has always been on the cutting edge of election modernizations. If Kentucky and Missouri have figured this out, Oregon adopting OVR+ is just plain non-controversial common sense.

**Please support HB 4133 in Oregon.**

Thank you,

Colin Cole  
Policy Director  
More Equitable Democracy Action