

Submitter: Chad Kernutt  
On Behalf Of: Law Abiding Oregonians  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB579

Dear legislators,

I urge you to vote NO on SB-579. I speak on behalf of law abiding Oregonians who do not believe in rewarding criminals and giving them more rights and luxuries when they have not yet served, paid, and fulfilled their debt to society and victims. People are in prison for violating other people's rights and to protect society from harm they may perpetrate. It is the consequences they face. There has to be some justice for crime if we are to live in a just and peaceful society. Does the judicial system even work and is it even necessary if convicted criminals face little consequences. Might as well let victims seek their own justice and go eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth then.

A person who has been lawfully convicted of a felony has forfeited their right to vote according to the Oregon Constitution, Article II Section 3, passed in 1944. Voters approved the phrase "unless otherwise provided by law."

The majority of felons are in prison due to a lack of competency and no civil responsibility or respect. If Section 3 is meant to apply "unless otherwise provided by law" to incompetent persons as voters were told, then shouldn't it apply both ways and require convicted persons also be required to pass a competency test?

Prison is a time of rehabilitation, to gain and learn what civil responsibility means. The bill also allows registration at the last address lived at, which can cause multiple unrelated people registered at one address that don't all live there, and interfere with voter roll cleanup efforts.

In many states felons are not able to vote even after being released from prison. Oregon restores voting privileges once they have paid their debt to society. This is an issue for voters, not for a committee that is biased because they sponsored the bill. Please I urge you to represent law abiding Oregonians and our interests and the interests of victims of crime and to not appease the perpetrators and criminals and act like they are somehow starved of rights that they deserve and are entitled to when they are not. If you want to play hug a thug then go into another line of work. Please vote NO on SB-579.