

Submitter: Elaine Woods

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure: SB579

## **I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 579**

The Oregon Constitution clearly states in Article II Section 3 that convicted felons have forfeited their right to vote. Felonies are serious crimes. After being convicted, by proof of breaking our laws and causing harm to society, felons should not be given the privilege of voting on laws and legislators, especially while in prison. In some states felons are not given voting rights even after they are released from prison.

Prison time is for rehabilitation. After having completed serving time for breaking the law, perhaps those convicted of one felony could be considered for eligibility to vote. However, if convicted again, all voting rights should be terminated for those convicted of committing another felony. They have shown a lack of character and are a danger to society. They have shown that they lack the good judgement to vote for people and laws for the benefit of the community. Security for the people is the main priority of government, and this means protecting the people from those who would prey on and harm them.

We do not need people who ignore our laws to be able to vote, especially in a time when lawlessness is a growing problem. Clear minds and a desire to protect the citizens of this state should be a priority for both legislators and voters.

**Please vote NO on SB 579**