

Brian Jensvold
Multnomah Democrats PCP
Asst. District Leader, HD 46

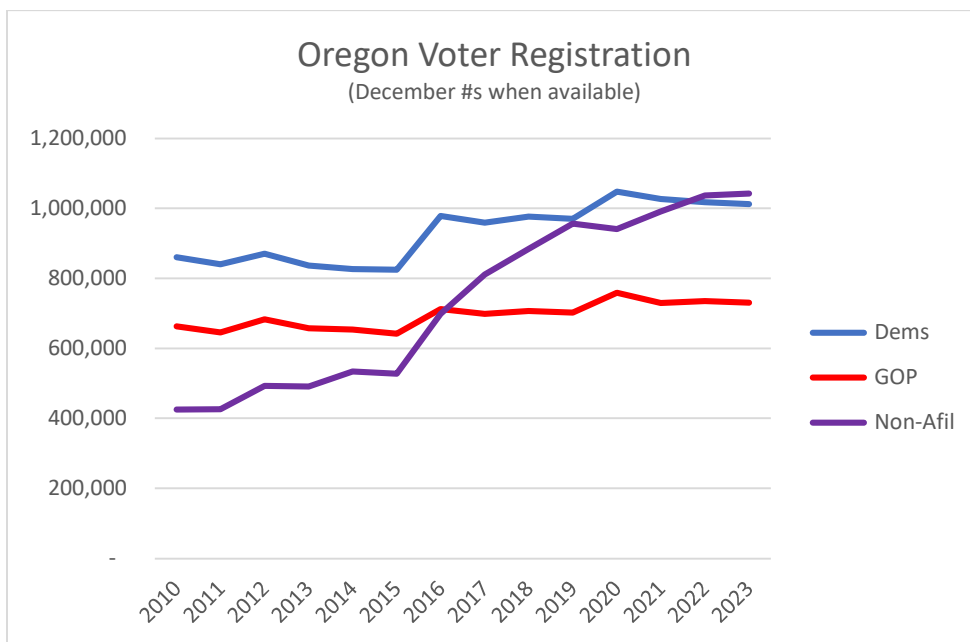
February 13, 2023

Chair Fahey, Chair Breese Iverson, and Members of the Committee:

I'm honored to serve as a PCP for the Multnomah County Democrats, with whom I serve as the leader of the Elections Integrity & Governance study group which closely follows bills like HB 2585. According to the MultDems Planks 7 & 8 of Article VIII:

- 'We support government policies and practices that motivate voter participation and education...'
- 'We support voting methods and oversight that ensure equitable, fair, and honest—ballot counting, redistricting decisions, updating of voter rolls, in-person voting, and paper ballots'

It is because of these two planks that I support HB 2585. I believe the best, most equitable outcomes comes from the participation of more individuals vs less and Oregon's automatic voter registration law (HB2177) has been a great success at doing exactly that! I was shocked by the number of people opting to support such a successful program... until I looked at the numbers...



Shortly after it's 2016 adoption the number of Non-Affiliated Voters quickly surpassed the number of registered Republicans in the state and have even recently overtaken the Democrats as the #1 largest "party" (when people register via DMV, they aren't enabled to select a party). This (near doubling) over half-a-million increase in Non-Affiliated voters since the end of 2015 can almost be entirely attributed thanks to Oregon's automatic voter registration law. And after 2020 when Non-Affiliated voters not only outnumbered Republicans in number eligible voters but also came within 75,000 actually returned ballots, this must have set off alarms for the party that prefers narrowing the voter pool over offering the populous the most-convincing arguments/solutions.

Since the implementation of Oregon's automatic voter registration law, we the MultDems have made a concerted effort to reach-out to those new Non-Affiliated voters in order give people the opportunity adopt a political party affiliation (ideally Democrat). The only change I would make/suggest for this program would be to enable registrants to this from the beginning.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage your oppose the termination of this effective and successful program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Jenvold".

Brian Jenvold,
Multnomah Democrats Asst. District Leader, HD 46