

Submitter: Heather Gray
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2107

NO on HB 2107

This bill would expand the automatic registration of the OMV system in two ways.

First, it would extend automatic voter registration to the Oregon Health Authority when signing up for the Oregon Health Plan.

That allows potentially for double registrations per individual. From what I've seen of the OCVR system, including the recent mess up announced from the Secretary of State in how the OMV system allegedly failed to register some 18 year olds to vote, I have substantial doubts about anyone's ability to implement these things correctly and to catch errors in a timely fashion before impacts carry on to elections. Elections are too crucial and high-stakes for such things.

Furthermore, we've seen loopholes in the laws that do not actually require meaningful identification methods in registering a person to vote. And we should not mix the privacy of health care with any other operation.

Second, it would establish a pilot program at a correctional facility requiring that each adult in custody be granted updated state identification card and voter registration upon release. There is no need.

Prisoners need to be taught civic responsibilities, providing incentive to seek out registration or reinstatement of their right to vote, not to have it forced onto their identity without education & consent, leaving their ballots open to misuse. This already happens with OMV - we talked to people who had no idea they were registered to vote via OMV. This leaves identities open to abuse.

Voting and what it entails - correctly identifying one person, voting in one location - is a responsibility that we must take seriously, not making myriad avenues low in transparency and oversight. We must be careful with this.

From careful election observation, I have witnessed how the entire process means a human being might never be observed by anyone in the elections division of the county, as that is not required.

Example: registration online, where someone using another's identity can register. The security for voting should be at least as high as anything financial, such as a

bank account; instead, it is lower.

Other examples: a ballot is mailed out, and we don't know where it lands. Anyone with access to the mailing address could fill out and return the ballot unseen. Electioneering violations can be rampant. Signatures are allowed to change - radically, and multiple times, so those multiple signatures being kept on file are false assurances. Without an ID, you can update someone's signature, so a totally different person can use that identity.

Ballot signature etc problems are allowed to be cured without a live person ever setting foot inside the courthouse / county clerk's office / elections office, all by mail, so who is making the corrections?

This is a sample of the problems riddling the security of elections across Oregon counties.