



**Testimony of
Free Speech For People
And
Public Citizen
before the
Senate Committee on Rules
Oregon State Senate
Contact: susan@freespeechforpeople.org**

Re: SB 166 -Strong Support

March 14, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of SB 166.

Free Speech For People is a national, non-profit, non-partisan public interest legal organization that works to renew our democracy and our United States Constitution for the people. As part of our mission, we are committed to promoting, through legal actions and advocacy, secure, transparent, trustworthy, and accessible voting policies for all voters. SB 166 would build on and strengthen Oregon's election policies by guaranteeing the right to vote, and to vote a secret ballot; protect election workers; strengthen election security practices; and limit the exposure of voters' precinct data. We urge the Committee to vote YES on SB 166 and report it favorably out of Committee.

The explicit right to vote, and to vote via a secret ballot, is crucial to conducting free and fair elections. By safeguarding the right to a secret ballot, SB 166 guarantees that all Oregon voters may cast their ballots free of coercion, threats, or vote buying and selling.

Since the 2020 election, and the corrosive proliferation of the Big Lie has manifested in threats of violence to election workers, far more frequent than anyone

could envision just a few years ago. The shameful and dangerous threats made to election workers necessitate reforms to protect these workers, and deter potential harassment. SB 166 would codify strict penalties for those that would threaten and harass these workers, and would help safeguard the people who work to help carry out our democratic processes.

The Big Lie has also included outrageous, unfounded, and false claims of election system hacking and fraud in the 2020 election. These lies must be refuted in the strongest terms. However, this should not cloud the fact that computerized election systems are not well-enough secured, that adversaries have targeted our election systems, and that the cyber security of voting systems can be and should be strengthened. SB 166 takes a measured and commonsense approach by directing Oregon's counties to develop plans to ensure the integrity of printed paper ballots, and to adopt cyber security protocols consistent with best practices and recommendations from the Department of Homeland Security's Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. This will ensure Oregon's elections are uniformly applying crucial cyber security safeguards to its election systems.

We urge you to vote YES on SB 166 and pass it favorably out of Committee. Thank you for your consideration.