

The logo for Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) features a stylized 'COIN' acronym on the left, where the 'O' is a circle split vertically into red and blue halves. To the right of the acronym, the words 'CONSOLIDATED OREGON' and 'INDIVISIBLE NETWORK' are stacked in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

CONSOLIDATED OREGON INDIVISIBLE NETWORK

<https://www.coinoregon.org/>

COINLeadership@gmail.com

To: Chair Fahey and Members of the House Rules Committee

Re: In Support of HB 3593

Date: April 4, 2023

I'm writing today on behalf of Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) to express strong support for HB 3593. COIN is made up of Indivisible groups from across Oregon that collaborate to protect democracy and implement progressive values through voter outreach and education, campaigns and elections, holding our elected leaders accountable, and advocating for legislation that best reflects our values.

We support legislative reforms that strengthen citizen movements and build broad coalitions of citizens to reduce the influence of money in politics, to counter extremism, and to promote policies that serve the public interest. We believe HB 3593 Expanding Electoral Fusion Voting does all of this and deserves our support and yours.

Fusion voting was banned in Oregon and other places in the late 19th century as part of a broader movement to attack the rights of immigrants, farmers, religious groups and labor unions in Northern states, and African Americans in the South. As an organization that supports diverse representation and restorative justice, we believe policies that were intended to undermine the basic civil rights of Americans should be re-evaluated through a modern lens of equity and inclusion. Our re-evaluation calls for expansion of fusion voting as a necessary corrective action.

Since Oregon adopted its current cross nomination system, third parties have become more relevant and have helped to build support for more diverse ideas and candidates. In 2010, when the current cross nomination law was passed, there were only 3 persons of color servicing in the Oregon legislature. In 2022, fusionist parties helped elect 32 persons of color -- the most ever to serve in the Oregon legislature.

Expanding fusion voting rights to allow voters to select cross-nominated candidates by party will help facilitate coalition building, increase public representation in government, and provide a bulwark against the rising tide of extremism. Elected officials will also

benefit from having a clearer picture of their support base, thereby enabling them to more effectively represent their constituents.

In the name of restorative justice and fair elections, please support HB 3593.

Respectfully,

Cheryl T Conway

COIN Legislative Team
COIN Election Reform Group