

Submitter: Larry Lancaster  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB3593

I am a native Oregonian and have been an independent voter for a very long time. I support good ideas and people regardless of who presents them.

I am in full support of the expansion of fusion voting rights in Oregon. This will clearly encourage collaboration and make our ballot better reflect voter choices.

Practically speaking, Fusion voting gives voters the ability to vote for a major party candidate on a party line that best matches their values. The voter neither “wastes” their vote on a new party candidate who has no chance of winning, nor “spoils” the election by unintentionally helping their less preferred major party candidate.

The two major parties are trapped in an ever-escalating hyper-partisan cycle that rewards polarization and punishes compromise. Primaries, gerrymandering, geographic self-sorting, and news and social media bubbles keep us locked in partisan warfare. The system won’t self-correct by exhorting politicians to be more reasonable or to listen to the other side. Change will only come if the rules are structurally altered to incentivize cooperation and compromise.

Fusion voting would help change those rules and incentives. In this era of political extremes, fusion would serve as a moderating force; as this reform enables new parties to play a constructive role in our politics, more parties are incentivized to emerge, including those that represent the political center.

Fusion voting also allows voters to vote for a major party candidate they like, without having to signal support for a major party they don’t support.

Reinstating fusion voting is a common sense solution to counter the extremism and polarization ingrained in our political system.