

Submitter: Ian Watts
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: SB166

Hello,

I oppose SB166. I am a volunteer election observer in Marion County. I have observed the last five elections at the Marion County Clerk's office. I am familiar with the process of observation and have many friends who work as election workers. My wife has run for office and I am an elected Precinct Committee Person.

First, this bill is unnecessary. It seems to be addressing a problem that doesn't actually exist. In the past five elections in Marion County, I have not seen or heard of a single instance of harassment of an election worker. I would question the motives for creating this bill. It seems to capitalize on sensational media reports from other parts of the country rather than Oregon elections. Terrorism, harassment and physical threats are already illegal.

Secondly, the description of the bill is highly misleading. The claim that it "guarantees electors right to vote and right to secret ballot" is just rhetoric. Electors already have a right to vote and to a secret ballot. No new laws are needed to ensure that right. What the bill actually does is clamp down on transparency in voter rolls. It also appears to establish early voting rules and modify ballot initiative procedures, neither of which subjects are mentioned in the description.

This bill is misleading, unnecessary and only serves to further muddy the waters in our elections. We need more transparency, not less. Please vote no.

Thanks,
Ian Watts