

HB 3908 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 3/31, 5/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure increases the party registration requirement to be a major political party in Oregon from five percent to 10 percent. It declares an emergency and takes effect on July 1, 2025.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The operations of and nomination process for the Independent Party of Oregon (IPO) and if it becomes a major party
- Requirements of a major party
- Cross-nomination of candidates
- Thresholds in other states for major party status
- Support from other minor parties for the increase in registration to become a major party
- Additional elections costs for county clerks
- The need to count write-in votes when there is a filed candidate

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment adds a requirement that only an affiliation of electors who meet and maintain major political party membership requirements may nominate a candidate who has been nominated by another political party. The amendment also changes the requirements for printing the political party name or names with the name of each candidate on general and special election ballots to only allow multiple parties to be listed for a candidate if the nominations come from a major political party.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

According to the Secretary of State Political Party Manual (2024), a political party is a group of people with a shared philosophy and common goals organized to influence public policy. In Oregon, political parties are formed by petition. Once formed, political parties are classified as either major or minor based on the number of voters who are registered as members of the party. Each party can nominate candidates for any federal, state, or county partisan office if the party is established within the candidate's district and has maintained ballot access.

A group of affiliated voters in Oregon becomes a major political party and must nominate its candidates at the primary election when at least five percent of the voters eligible to vote at the last general election are registered as members of the party.