

**HB 3908 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Pham H

**House Committee On Rules**

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**Action Date:** 05/29/25

**Action:** Do pass.

**Vote:** 4-3-0-0

**Yeas:** 4 - Bowman, Kropf, Pham H, Valderrama

**Nays:** 3 - Boshart Davis, Drazan, Elmer

**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/31, 5/29

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**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.

**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 by both major and minor parties
- 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:**

No amendment.

**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.