

HB 3908 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Jama

Senate Committee On Rules

Action Date: 06/17/25

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Bonham, Golden, Jama, Manning Jr, Thatcher

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/16, 6/17

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 current status of the Independent Party of Oregon, its fluctuation between major and minor party status over time, and the impacts of that fluctuation
- Provisions and intent of the measure
- Potential costs to counties and the state if the measure is not enacted
- Potential constitutional concerns, regarding divorcing the candidate from their parties, if the measure is not enacted

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.