

Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) Portland Lodge testimony in support of Unified Primary Act (HB 3166-2).

Dear Members of the House Rules Committee

My name is Winnie Ng, and I serve as a Board Member for the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.), Portland Lodge. I am writing to express our support for HB 3166-2, which seeks to allow all Oregon voters to participate in an open primary.

C.A.C.A is a 100-year+ old organization with a mission to serve the community and promote civil rights, including protecting voting rights. Our Board supports HB 3166-2 because a significant majority of Asian American voters are nonaffiliated and we want to provide a more equitable and inclusive voter experience by enabling these voters to participate in primaries.

Under Oregon's current closed primary system, only party-affiliated voters determine the candidates for the general election. This structure leaves many voters, including nonaffiliated Asian Americans, without a voice. National data shows that Asian Americans have the highest immigration rates and are twice as likely to identify as independent or unaffiliated voters. Many in our community, having emigrated from autocratic regimes, are understandably skeptical of the two-party system. As a result, they often choose not to register with a party, effectively excluding themselves from meaningful representation in primary elections.

C.A.C.A. supports the Top-2+ Open Primary system without Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). The 2024 Portland election demonstrated that RCV posed significant translation challenges for our civic engagement team. Our priority is to ensure that all nonaffiliated voters can participate fully, thereby improving voter turnout and fostering a more representative democracy.

We encourage you to support HB 3166-2 to ensure fair representation for all registered voters in Oregon.

Chinese American Citizens Alliance

Portland Lodge