

Comments In Support of HB 3166

3/17/2025

I served as a precinct committee chairperson over 30 years ago when Barbara Roberts was governor of Oregon. I recall meeting in Ashland with other precinct chairs when we voted to open the democratic primaries to all voters regardless of party affiliation (or none). The idea was to make the change permanent if the other major party eventually agreed to do so. Despite a noticeable drop in partisan squabbling, the other party reneged on making the change. So, here we are today dealing with extreme partisanship and an inability to get much done as people increasingly deal with homelessness and despair, etc.

It appears that HB 3166 -2 may accomplish at least some of what we did so many years ago. Essentially, there is very little common ground between the two major political parties today whereas as most voters can find plenty to agree on. Isn't it time we fulfill what was a dream during the Roberts administration without the confusing intricacies of ranked choice voting proposals?