

Submitter:

Brian Jensvold

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3908

I am writing to strongly oppose House Bill 3908, which proposes increasing the percentage of voters required for a political party to achieve major party status in Oregon from 5% to 10%. This bill represents a solution in search of a problem and threatens to further entrench the wildly unpopular and painfully polarized two-party system that currently dominates our politics. For far too long the public has been forced to pick between goose-stepping in line behind the incoherent racist ramblings of a neo-fascist felon or the "vote-blue-no-matter-who" party that merely promises to be slightly less awful than the other guy. These two parties have become overly complacent with the status quo and empowering 3rd parties to receive the recognition they deserve is a small step in the right direction.

It is very interesting to me that this bill was brought forward at the request of Independent Party of Oregon, which based on current voter registration is the only political party that would be impacted by this change (according to Oregon's March voter registration data, IPO represents 5.04% of Oregon voters). I don't know what any of the implications are concerning a Party's reclassification to a "Major" Political Party, if there are heightened regulatory requirements, I would hope the state would allocate reasonable accommodations and support to the fledgling/transitioning party.