



OREGON ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY CLERKS

oacclerks.org

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March 28, 2025

Testimony on House Rules on HB 3908

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham, and Representatives Boshart Davis, Elmer, Kropf and Valderama:

The Oregon Association of County Clerks (OACC) represents election officials in 36 counties across the state.

OACC is neutral on HB 3908, which increases the party registration from a minor party to become a major party from 5% to 10%.

The Independent Party reached major party status before in 2018. They ended up reaching 5% of the registered voters the 275th day before the primary. No other party has reached this threshold and the Independent Party has not been at 5% or over since.

In 2018 there were 3 major parties: Republican, Democratic and Independent. Here is what we found with having a minor party become a major party:

- The additional party meant automatically adding another set of ballot styles for each precinct across the state.
 - For example, if a county has 40 precincts, there will automatically be 40 ballot styles for each party and non-affiliated, so at a minimum 160 ballot styles. In addition to those ballot styles, more may be needed to account for split counties with multiple Senate and House districts, and if a district puts on a measure and more.
- We saw that there was confusion to voters, when they expected to see ALL major party candidates.
- Major parties can choose to have counties hold precinct committee person (PCP) elections for them at the county's expense. The Independent Party choose not to hold PCP elections on the ballot in 2018, but could in the future, adding more complexity and costs to the county-run elections.
- In 2018 and we expect in future elections, there would not enough candidates filing to run in the Independent Party. Races with no candidates listed, led to requiring counting write-ins in multiple positions.

- In some of the positions where candidates filed for the Independent Party, write-ins received more votes than the filed candidates, thus requiring elections officials to still have to count write-ins. Please see the addendum below as an example from the Governor's race in 2018.

Overall, from our experience, to have an additional major party on the ballot adds complexity, time and costs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

OACC Elections Legislative Committee