

Submitter: Denice Searcy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB952
NO on SB 952 A

The Act requires the Governor to appoint a U.S. Senator when a vacancy happens in the office. The Act states when the appointment ends and when a special election must occur. The bill changes the special election from as soon as possible, to not less than 80 days or more than 150 days. There is no justification to wait 80 days unless it's to give the appointed person an advantage in a special election. The Governor has 30 days to make the appointment, and law calls for an election after 79 days, which only leaves 50 days for the replacement to serve.

Senators Merkey and Wyden claims it puts Oregon at a disadvantage because of timing on work in progress. How much good is a new person in 50 days? Prolonging the election, the training of a new person is prolong and perhaps doubled in time if a different person is elected. I am not in favor of the Governor appointing a person to fill a vacancy. Just hold the election and let voters decide. It is a bad practice to allow the Governor to give an incumbent advantage to a temporary appointee. That person then gets the advantage of running as an incumbent in the next election. This process easily allows the Governor to seat their cronies as the new Senator rather than sending the choice to a vote of the people. . One person should never wield the power to overrule the rights and will of the people. No one but the people should have the choice of a vacancy in Senate. We need to remember we are a country that allows the people to vote. We must allow the people to continue to vote for vacancies. Our elections are already unfair and corrupt, why should the governor appoint without the supposed will of the people.

SB 952 A requires that the appointed Senator be of the same political party as the elected Senator who vacated the office. Prohibits the Governor from appointing the Governor to fill the vacancy; thank God for this part. Requires the Governor to call a special election within a specified period after the vacancy occurs. Requires the appointment to end when a replacement is elected.

The U.S. Constitution provides for the direct election of Senators by the people, a principle enshrined by the 17th Amendment. By allowing the governor to appoint a Senator, we risk undermining this constitutional safeguard and returning to a system that circumvents the will of the voters. The people should retain the power to choose their representatives, not have that power taken away by an unelected official.

This is yet another tool for Oregon politicians to bypass the democratic process and

suppress voting rights.

Please vote NO on SB 952 A.

Thank you,
Denice Searcy