

Submitter: D Torres  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3908  
Chair & Committee Members,

I Oppose HB 3908.

The Independent Party of Oregon (IPO), not to be confused with Non-Affiliated Voters (NAV's) requested a bill that would change the percentage requirement to achieve major party status in Oregon from 5% to 10%.

Why? According to the IPO's testimony in support of HB 3908, the party is on the brink of exceeding 5% of all registered voters. Raising the cap to 10% would allow them to stay a minor political party and be exempt from major party requirements "until they are ready". They have had a 20-year glide path to be ready and the cap has already been raised once for them. How much longer do they need?

The issue with HB 3908 is that under the current statute, minor parties can endorse another party's candidate instead of electing their own through a primary. In practice, this means that a small group of people decide what candidates their party will support, dodging a democratic, primary election where members of that party can choose their nominee.

The small group of IPO members are not really "in the middle" between Democrats or Republicans, they are IPO members endorsing Democrat candidates. In the 2024 election for House and Senate races, they endorsed 22 Democrats, 1 Republican and put up 1 Independent candidate. In the 2022 election for House and Senate races, they endorsed 45 Democrats, 1 Republican and had NO Independent candidates.

Cross-nomination allows a candidate to be listed on the ballot as endorsed by multiple parties. This process may appear harmless, but it blurs party lines and confuses voters. More importantly, it grants minor parties' major power without the accountability or broad support of the electorate.

When a minor party lends its name to a major party candidate, it bypasses the accountability mechanisms built into our democratic system, and allows a select few to amplify a candidate beyond the numbers in their party.

Do not pass this bill.