



Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Democratic Party of Oregon, I write in support of SB 1509-1.

The Democratic Party of Oregon takes tremendous pride in the serious responsibility entrusted to our presidential electors. Serving as an elector is not symbolic or ceremonial—it is a real civic duty grounded in trust, public accountability, and a deep respect for the will of Oregon voters. Our party has long maintained a fair, transparent, and well-structured process to ensure that electors reflect the outcome of the popular vote and uphold the commitments they make when agreeing to serve.

Electors often take on real personal risk to fulfill this role. In recent cycles, they have faced harassment, threats to their safety, and financial costs associated with travel and security in order to carry out their constitutional duties. These are not abstract concerns. They reflect the reality that election administration and democratic participation today can come with personal consequences, even for individuals acting in good faith.

We support SB 1509-1 because it reinforces the seriousness of this responsibility and provides a clear, workable mechanism for accountability if an elector refuses to carry out the duty they accepted.

The -1 amendment appropriately clarifies the process for vacating a seat when an elector declines to vote as pledged, ensuring that Oregon can promptly seat a replacement and faithfully transmit the will of the voters. This clarity strengthens public confidence in our electoral system and supports the many electors who approach this role with integrity and care.

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Importantly, this bill builds on the strength of Oregon's existing system. Our state does not have a history of faithless elector issues, and our party processes have consistently ensured that electors honor the outcome of the election. SB 1509-1 should be understood as a proactive measure that aligns our statutes with clear expectations and modern best practices, not as a response to a failure in Oregon's democratic process.

We also appreciate that the -1 amendment respects the constitutional role of political parties in selecting and seating their electors and preserves the practical flexibility needed to respond to real-world circumstances. In rare cases, emergencies arise, and the ability to act quickly to seat a full, valid slate of electors is essential to the smooth functioning of our democracy.

For these reasons, the Democratic Party of Oregon supports SB 1509-1 and thanks the Committee for its thoughtful work to strengthen clarity, accountability, and public trust in Oregon's presidential elector process.

Respectfully submitted,

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Democratic Party of Oregon