

**April 10, 2017**



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**Oregon Progressive Party  
Position on Bill at 2017  
Session of Oregon Legislature:**

**SB 1012: Support**

Dear Committee:

The Oregon Progressive Party (OPP) supports this bill, which:

- Requires Secretary of State to ensure that there is at least one official ballot drop site at each public high school and on campus of each school of higher education.
- Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Secretary of State for purpose of hiring individuals to assist with new drop sites.

Today, voters in rural areas often do not have easy access to ballot drop sites or to the county office where election-related business can be done (changing name or address, etc.). A voter can drop off the ballot in receptacles placed by county officials, but those receptacles can be few and far between. Last year there were 6 ballot drop sites in the 10,226 square miles of Harney County, but 4 of them were in Burns and one in next door Hines. The only other one was in Crane, 26 miles from Burns--in a county that is 86 x 142 miles in size. Curry County had 3 sites, located at 25-mile intervals on the Pacific coast, and none inland. I chose these 2 counties at random.

As information flows in election campaigns have accelerated due to the internet and cable news, more Oregon voters are waiting until Election Day to cast their ballots. There is a need for more drop sites to reduce the time and expense of voting on that day, in order to digest all available information about the candidates.

**Oregon Progressive Party**

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