



**February 6, 2018**

## **Oregon Progressive Party Position on Bill at 2018 Session of Oregon Legislature:**

### **SB 1510: Support**

Dear Committee:

The Oregon Progressive Party supports this bill, which:

- Clarifies timing for filing statement of contribution or expenditure.
- Permits nonaffiliated elector to make request for major party primary ballot electronically, in person or by mail.
- Permits candidate who acts as own treasurer, or treasurer of principal campaign committee, to provide initial information regarding bank account up to one business day after filing statement of organization.
- Prohibits candidate who cannot take office from appearing on ballot in district elections.
- Extends time frames for filing officer duties regarding write-in candidates.
- Ends requirement that Secretary of State conduct random ordering of letters of alphabet for ballots with only one candidate.
- Resolves conflict in definition of "independent expenditure."

While these changes appear reasonable, they only scratch the surface of needed changes to election procedures.

The most beneficial of these changes appears to be allowing the Secretary of State, by rule, to enable nonaffiliated voters (NAV) to request electronically the primary ballot of any major party that allows them to vote in its primary election (an "open" major party). The current process is hugely inefficient and expensive: The Secretary Of State mails a letter to all NAV voters, informing them of their opportunity to request the ballot of any "open" major party. Then

the voter must, by mail, request the major party ballot. This takes place several weeks before the primary election and is unlikely to catch the attention of very many NAVs. SB 1510 would allow the Secretary of State to adopt a rule that would allow any NAV to electronically submit an "application" to receive the ballot of any "open" major party, either one time or on an ongoing basis (if the major party continues to open its primary in future elections).

A better and cheaper approach would be to simply send the major party's ballot to all NAVs, without the need for any prior notification or response. We recommend that this bill be so amended.

Further, major parties should be able to open their primary elections to members of minor parties. Minor party membership in Oregon stands at 45,000 voters. Major parties should also be able to open their primary elections to voters now placed in the "Other" category--not members of any state-recognized party but also not NAVs. They currently number over 19,000 voters who have, at some time in the past, indicated their belief that they were members in parties that no longer exist in Oregon or which never existed in Oregon. They should not be disenfranchised due to this error.

## **Oregon Progressive Party**

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