

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Platform Committee

1/17/2019

RESOLUTION 2019.8

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Relating to democracy bills in the 2019 session

WHEREAS, the 2018 platform and a 2017 resolution of the DPLC urges the Oregon legislature to pass the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact legislation; and

WHEREAS, Reps. Dan Rayfield, Alissa Keny-Guyer, and Diego Hernandez, joined by Reps. Julie Fahey, Paul Holvey, and Marty Wilde, introduced HB 2704 to have Oregon join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, and Rep. Brian Clem introduced HB 2578 for the same purpose; and

WHEREAS, democracy and Democrats are helped when young people vote; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Dan Rayfield and Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, joined by Rep. Julie Fahey, introduced HB 2702 to enable 17 year olds who will be eligible to vote in the upcoming general election to also vote in the primary if the party with which the person is affiliated has adopted a rule to this effect; and

WHEREAS, Oregon has no campaign finance limits because Oregon courts have interpreted our constitution as prohibiting them, even though courts in other states with the same constitutional language allow campaign finance limits, and Oregon elections tend to cost more than those in comparable states, which makes it more difficult for those of modest means to have sufficient impact on elections; and

WHEREAS, Sen. Floyd Prozanski has introduced SJR 13, a constitutional amendment which allows campaign finance limits and laws requiring disclosure, an amendment which is very similar to one introduced in 2017 by then Oregon Secretary of State

Jeanne Atkins; and

WHEREAS, the DPLC platform calls for improvement of the Oregon political contribution tax credit, especially for those of low income, and data indicate that very few with lower income make use of the credit now; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Piluso has introduced HB 2583, which directs the Department of Revenue to deliver a \$50 voucher (\$100 if filing jointly) to those who filed a tax return for the previous year, did not use the political contribution tax credit, and have federal adjusted gross income less than \$50,000 (\$100,000 if filing jointly), which the taxpayer can choose to deliver to an eligible recipient (same as those who can receive a contribution that qualifies for a tax credit) for redemption by the state; and

WHEREAS, in order to best judge potential conflicts of interest and appropriate behavior of presidential and vice presidential candidates, disclosure of federal tax returns is necessary; and

WHEREAS, Sen. Prozanski has introduced SB 594 requiring a candidate for President or Vice President of United States, in order to appear on general election ballot or in general election voters' pamphlet, to provide the Secretary of State with copy of candidate's federal income tax returns for five years preceding the year of the general election and with written consent for public disclosure of tax returns;

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County resolves:

SECTION 1: To encourage Lane County legislators to vote in support of -

- a. HB 2704 and/or HB 2578 - National Popular Vote Compact;
- b. HB 2707 - primary voting by 17 year olds eligible to vote in the next general election;
- c. SJR 13 - Oregon constitutional amendment allowing campaign finance limits;
- d. HB 2583 - Oregon political campaign tax credit vouchers;
- e. SB 594 - federal income tax returns disclosed in order to appear on the Oregon general election ballot for president or vice president.

SECTION 2: To communicate our support of these bills to the appropriate committees and to the Members of the Oregon Senate and Oregon House of Representatives..

**Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, January 17, 2019**