



**REPRESENTATIVE JULIE PARRISH
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE DISTRICT 37**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Julie Parrish Files Priority Bill To Immediately Restore Voter Status Of 441,812 Oregonians On “Inactive Voter Status”

Reversal of Inactive Voter Status Would Provide Real Solution To Engaging Voters And Civic Participation

Salem, OR – In response to today’s passage of House Bill 2177, “Motor Voter” legislation which passed along party lines by House Democrats, Representative Julie Parrish (R-Tualatin/West Linn) filed an additional proposal to engage voters and increase civic participation in Oregon by reversing the “inactive voter” status for the nearly half-million Oregonians that are not currently receiving ballots. As of this morning, there are 441,812 Oregonians who chose to register to vote but have been removed from the voting process and will not receive ballots due to their status as an “inactive voter.”

“As we debated HB 2177 today, it was clear that using DMV status to register Oregonians to vote was not the correct solution to reducing barriers to receive ballots. In a matter of a few elections, all of the people who are registered via the mechanism created by HB 2177 will become inactivated if they don’t return a ballot,” stated Rep. Parrish. Currently, there are several ways a voter can become inactivated, including failure to vote, or failure to respond in a timely manner to a county clerk’s request for information including correcting ballot signature verification issues. “If we’re going to tackle the issue of getting a ballot into the hand of every voter in Oregon, and we’re going to be intellectually honest about the flaws in the vote by mail system that have created the active/inactive statuses in the voter file, then we’d simply never move voters into an inactive status.”

Following the floor vote today, and after receiving the most current data this morning from the Secretary of State’s Office, Rep. Parrish submitted a legislative measure request to use a priority bill to rectify the discrepancy between HB 2177 and the current practice of rendering voters as inactive. The bill would also create a mechanism for allowing the Secretary of State to use other state databases to keep the voter file current, or properly remove voters from the list who are no longer Oregon residents.

“The draft request I submitted will remove from statute and administrative rule any policy that renders a voter inactive. The difference between my concept and the bill we debated today is the nearly half-million Oregonians who have been removed from the voter rolls actually *wanted* to be registered, and were inactivated from the voter rolls. If legislative Democrats are serious about increasing voter participation, then this bill should pass swiftly through both the House and Senate and be signed into law,” said Rep. Parrish.

House Bill 2177 grants the Secretary of State the authority to automatically register voters using data collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles. House Republicans voted unanimously against the bill, citing individual privacy and freedom concerns, costs to county clerk and municipalities, and various IT project failures and security breaches. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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