



SEN. CHUCK RILEY

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Press Advisory

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Senator Chuck Riley Highlights Preponderance of Bipartisan Work

SALEM – As the halfway point of the legislative session approaches, Senator Chuck Riley (D-Hillsboro) is questioning Republican claims that the Democrats are steamrolling the legislative process.

While Senate Republicans have cried foul over claims of partisanship, the evidence shows that bipartisan and unanimous votes make up the overwhelming share of this session's work.

Senator Riley distributed his own pie chart during today's floor session to illustrate the large number of consensus bills in the 2015 Session: 60 percent of bills passed so far this session were done so by unanimous votes of all the state Senators who were present. Of the remaining bills that have passed this session, 35 percent had bipartisan support. Just five percent of the bills that have passed the Senate this session had no Republican support. And, only three bills – a mere 1.6 percent – split along party lines. The remaining bills had at least one Democrat joining in dissent.

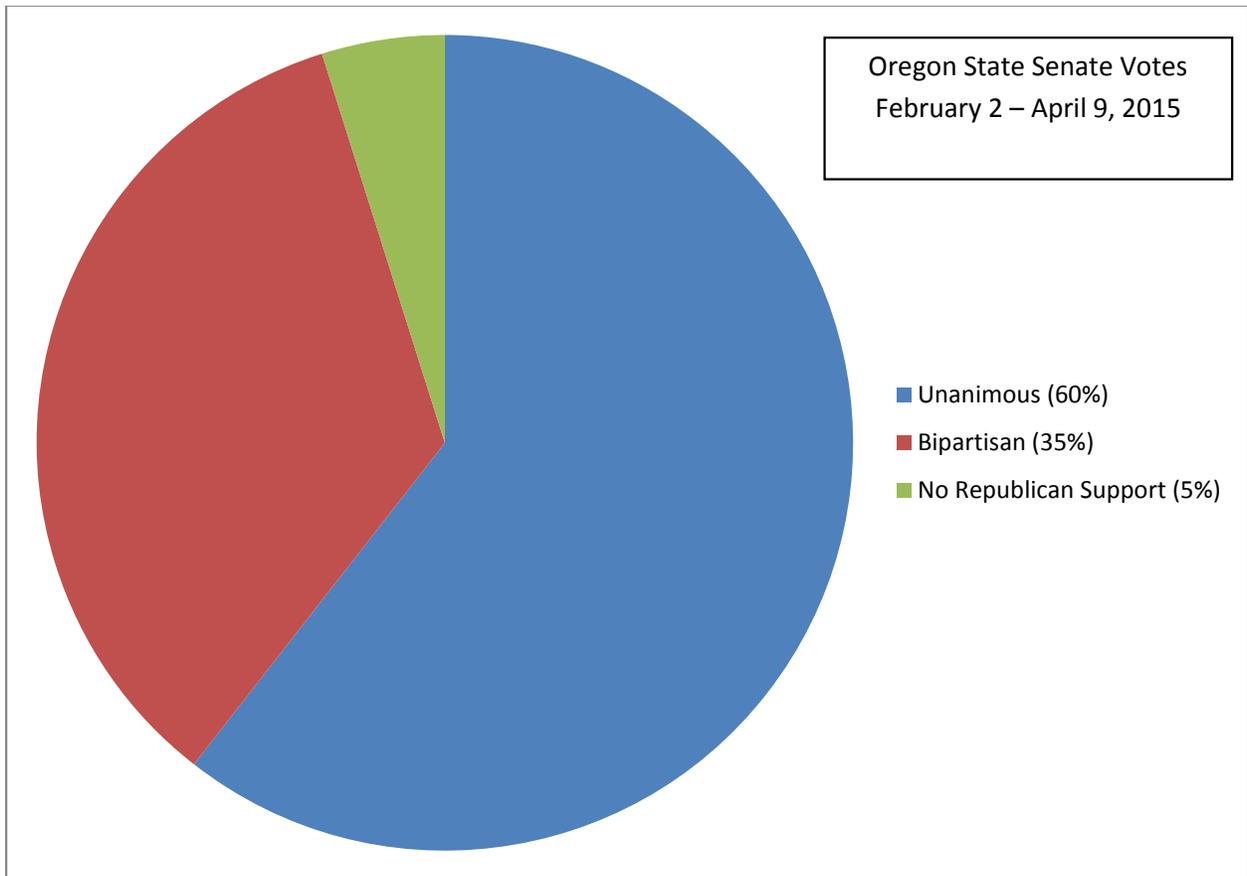
“It's easy to focus on just a few bills if you want to highlight a partisan divide, but the truth is we overwhelmingly work together to get things done for our constituents,” Senator Riley said.

“Unlike the gridlock in Washington, D.C., we truly are working together to get things done.”

“I think it misrepresents the process to claim that Republicans don't have a voice in the Senate,” continued Sen. Riley. “In fact, viewpoints from across Oregon are reflected in the vast majority of votes taken by the Senate, as shown by the fact that 95 percent of bills passed so far this session were either unanimous or passed with bipartisan support.”

Riley, who has a long history of working across the aisle on issues like e-permitting and cyber security renewed his commitment to working with Republicans on bipartisan solutions to the challenges facing everyday Oregonians.

“We have a lot of work left this session to balance our budget and take care of Oregonians who are struggling to get ahead,” said Riley. “I encourage Senate Republicans to work in partnership with their Democratic colleagues to find common sense solutions to the challenges that everyday Oregonians face in their lives.”



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