



Sen. Diane Rosenbaum

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NEWS RELEASE

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Sen. Rosenbaum proud of efforts to put ballots in hands of all eligible voters
Oregon Motor Voter ensures access to democratic process

SALEM – The Oregon Motor Voter Law – a first of its kind law passed as House Bill 2177 in the 2015 Legislative Session – has been a landmark achievement for expanding access to democracy for Oregonians.

Sen. Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland) – who carried the Motor Voter bill on the Senate floor – attended a media event today hosted by Gov. Kate Brown and Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins to report on the first-of-its-kind legislation passed in any state. As the Chair of the Senate Committee on Rules, Rosenbaum presided over the meeting this afternoon where Atkins reported on Motor Voter progress.

Oregon Motor Voter makes voter registration automatic for eligible Oregonians when they do business with the Department of Motor Vehicles for obtaining and renewing driver's licenses, permits and identification. The person then receives a postcard in the mail informing them of their registration and that they can opt out within 21 days if they wish not to be registered. They also can choose to register in a political party. Those who don't select a party are registered as non-affiliated voters.

"The right to vote – and, yes, voting is a right and not a privilege – is fundamental to our democracy, and we need to make sure we are putting ballots in the hands of every eligible voter. It's that simple," Rosenbaum said. "We updated a cumbersome paper process and modernized it to make it more efficient. It makes voter registration far more convenient and more secure. While other states have taken steps to block access to voting and to increase disenfranchisement, Oregon is bucking that trend."

Since Motor Voter has taken effect, Oregon's voter rolls have reached historic highs of more than 2 million voters. In about one year, more than 270,000 new voters have been registered in Oregon. Of those registered voters, more than 40 percent cast ballots in the November General Election, surpassing many predictions. The law has been garnering nationwide attention, with the New York Times declaring automatic voter registration a success in Oregon.

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