



**REP. KIM THATCHER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 25**

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Representative Thatcher Questions Automatic Voter Registration Bill

Salem, OR—Representative [Kim Thatcher](#) (R-Keizer, Newberg and St. Paul) raised questions today on the House floor regarding a bill that would automatically register Oregonians to vote. [House Bill 3521](#) directs state agencies to provide the Secretary of State's Office with information on eligible voters within their databases. The measure passed 32 to 28 and now moves to the Senate for consideration.

“Registering to vote is a right, privilege and a responsibility,” Representative Thatcher said. “It should be a choice made by individuals and not by the government on their behalf.”

Under HB 3521, an estimated 500,000 Oregonians who are currently licensed by the Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV) but not registered voters would automatically be added to the voter rolls.

“This bill raises too many unanswered questions, and I have serious reservations about some of the unintended consequences,” Thatcher noted after today's session on the House Floor. “I'm especially concerned about victims of stalkers and identity thieves who have tried hard to keep their information confidential. Now it will be part of the public record without their permission unless they send back some kind of form to elections officials in a short turnaround time.”

Representative Thatcher's concerns include whether there would be adequate verification of voter eligibility. “There are nearly 11,000 voters already on the rolls right now in Oregon who have not provided proper identification and therefore can't vote in federal elections,” she said. “They can only vote in state and local elections.”

Representative Thatcher has [legislation pending](#) in the House Rules Committee which would address the identification concerns in state law.

“As it is, registering to vote is a very simple process,” explained Thatcher. “Because of that, this bill is unnecessary, and will likely cause more problems than the sponsors claim it might solve.”