



**Testimony of Ricardo Lujan-Valerio, Policy Associate  
In Support of HB 3310 A  
Senate Committee on Rules  
June 3, 2019**

Chair Burdick and Members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon<sup>1</sup> supports HB 3310 which seeks to bring the spirit and intent of the National Voting Rights Act to Oregon.

**HB 3310 would ensure electors the equal opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice and equal opportunity to influence the outcome of an election without dilution of an elector's vote or abridgement of their rights.** HB 3310 gives a qualifying district explicit authority to reform their election methods to comply with standards similar to the National Voting Rights Act. If a district has an election method out of compliance, there are multiple options to remedy this situation: 1) The district may reform their election method without a formal complaint being submitted, 2) an elector that qualifies under section 4 of this bill may bring a complaint to the district with a proposed remedy, or 3) a court may require a district to reform their election method if they are out of compliance.

**If an election method is challenged by an elector of a district, the district will have the ability to respond to a complaint prior to any legal action being initiated.** The elector is required to provide notice to the district of their intent to challenge and the district will have the ability to act within 90 days of receiving the notice. A board may then choose to pass a resolution to reform their district. However, if the board does not choose to reform its election method, the elector may proceed with legal action in any circuit court where the district is located or in Marion County. The court will take multiple factors into consideration including those outlined in Section 4 of this bill. If the court finds the district to be out of compliance, it may direct the district to reform their election method.

**If a district needs or chooses to reform, HB 3310 promotes the best practice used in other states for this transition.** It allows for community input via public forums and

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<sup>1</sup> The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 45,000 members and supporters statewide.

requires consultation with the county clerk administering the district's election. The bill further requires transparency by allowing any map drawings to be publicly available for input. Lastly, this bill retains the autonomy of the district to adopt any method that would be in compliance with the law and that fits the community's needs.

For these reasons, the ACLU of Oregon urges you to support HB 3310 A. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.