

Submitter: Devon Lawson-McCourt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure: HB4026

Honorable Members of the House Committee On Rules,

Today, I write to you to express my wholehearted support for HB4026, a visionary piece of legislation that has the potential to redefine our democracy and invigorate our collective pursuit of a more inclusive and equitable society. This bill is not just a directive; it is a clarion call to enhance the bedrock of our democratic process – the right and ease of voting.

HB4026 proposes a comprehensive study by the Secretary of State on improving voter access across Oregon. The significance of this cannot be overstated. In a time when barriers to voting disproportionately affect the marginalized and disenfranchised, this bill seeks to dismantle those barriers and ensure that every voice is heard, every vote counted.

The directive for the Secretary of State to submit findings to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to elections by September 15, 2025, is a testament to our commitment to a transparent, accountable, and participatory democracy. By undertaking this study, we are not merely seeking to understand the current state of voter access but are laying the groundwork for actionable change that reflects the will and needs of all Oregonians.

Imagine a state where every citizen, regardless of their socio-economic status, geographical location, or physical ability, has unimpeded access to the ballot box. Imagine the empowerment of communities historically left on the periphery of our political landscape. This is the promise of HB4026.

The pursuit of improved voter access is a pursuit of justice. It is an acknowledgment that the strength of our democracy is measured not by the ease with which the affluent and powerful participate, but by how accessible and responsive it is to the least among us. This bill is an opportunity to expand our democratic ethos, to make our state a beacon of inclusivity and fairness.

In supporting HB4026, we are affirming our belief in a participatory democracy that cherishes the input of every individual, recognizing that the collective wisdom of our people is the most formidable foundation upon which to build our future. Let us move forward with the understanding that enhancing voter access is not just a legislative priority but a moral imperative.

I urge the committee and all members of the Oregon State Legislature to support HB4026. Let us take this significant step towards ensuring that our democracy is as vibrant, robust, and inclusive as the people it serves.

Thank you for considering my testimony on this crucial matter.