

Separate but Equal

Partisan Elections in Oregon

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1 MAJOR PARTY CANDIDATES

In Oregon, the Democrat and Republican Primaries are held in the spring of each election year. These elections are conducted and financed entirely by the state. A major party candidate may qualify for the ballot by simply paying a small filing fee, and the winner of the primary automatically advances to the general election. The state even publishes a "Voter's Pamphlet" for major party candidates with biographical info and a statement provided by each candidate. At government expense, this publication is mailed to every voting household in the state prior to the primary.

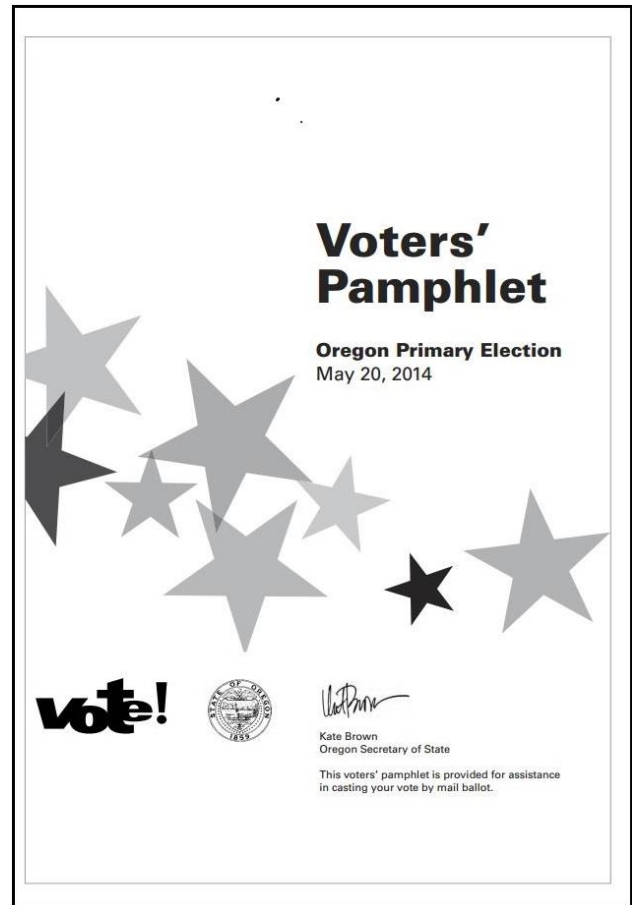
2 THIRD PARTY CANDIDATES

In Oregon, third party candidates may qualify for the general election ballot by winning the nomination of their party and paying the filing fee. The state doesn't conduct or finance any third party nomination procedures however, and third party candidates are not allowed space in the Primary Voter's Pamphlet. In addition, third party candidates are not allowed to officially qualify as a candidate until after the primary election is over.

3 INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

Independent candidates, like third party candidates, are not allowed space in the Primary Voter's Pamphlet and may not qualify as a candidate until after the primary. However, unlike any partisan candidates, Independents are required to collect a massive number of signatures to qualify as a candidate. For a statewide race in the 2014 general election two years ago, the number of required signatures was 17,893.

The largest third party in the state is the "Libertarian Party". According to official voter registration statistics, this party had just 17,436 members in Oregon as of October 2015. This is less than the number of signatures required of statewide Independent candidates in 2014.



Why are Independents so heavily restricted? Probably because Independents are almost 30% of the voters in Oregon. There are nearly as many Independents as Republicans. Each third party is only a fraction of this. Third party candidates don't pose any threat to Democrats and Republicans. Independents do....

4 OREGON VOTER REGISTRATION 10/10/2015

Democrat:	826,197
Republican:	644,745
Non-Affiliated:	530,497
<u>Independent Party:</u>	<u>110,387</u>
Total Independent:	640,884
Libertarian:	17,436
Working Families:	11,657
Pacific Green:	9,472
Constitution:	3,600
Progressive:	1,937
<u>Other:</u>	<u>20,522</u>
Total:	2,176,450