

House Administration Committee
“Member Day: Committee on House Administration”
March 4, 2025
Representative Val Hoyle

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. It is critical for the House to lower the barrier to entry for Americans to participate in their democracy.

Nearly 30 years ago, Oregonians overwhelmingly voted to become the first state to conduct entirely vote by mail elections thanks to the leadership of Republican Secretary of State Norma Paulus. With vote by mail, eligible voters receive their ballot in the mail weeks before Election Day. In Oregon, they also receive a voter pamphlet that provides detailed information on every candidate and campaign. Voters can then return their ballots through the mail or a secure drop-off site, which provides a paper trail for every vote cast and safeguards election security.

Additionally, Oregon passed the country’s first Motor Voter law that automatically registers citizens to vote when they get a driver’s license at the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles. Today, twenty-five states and the District of Columbia have adopted some form of automatic voter registration.

Oregon’s combination of vote by mail and automatic voter registration has led to higher turnout rates, more accurate voting rolls and more secure elections. Oregonians of all parties have consistently supported this election model. That’s why I am working to ensure voters across the country have the same opportunity.

I am planning to introduce the Vote at Home Act, which was previously led in the House by former-Representative Blumenauer. This bill would ensure that all eligible Americans would have the option to vote by mail and be registered to vote at the local DMV, similar to Oregon’s system. I have seen first-hand the benefits of these election reforms, so I hope you will support this common-sense legislation and work with me to get it signed into law.

Voting by mail is just one way that government has evolved to better serve Americans. The Committee should look for ways to help Members better deliver for our constituents, such as increasing office capacity to respond to emerging needs. I hope to partner with you to achieve these goals.