

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES

April 05, 2005  
8:30 A.M.

Location: WOODBURN HIGH SCHOOL  
Tapes 39 - 40

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sen. Kate Brown, Chair  
Sen. Ted Ferrioli, Vice-Chair  
Sen. Frank Shields

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Sen. Jason Atkinson  
Sen. Charlie Ringo

**GUEST MEMBERS:** Sen. Peter Courtney  
Sen. Ryan Deckert  
Rep. Betty Komp

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tiffany Harris, Committee Administrator  
Patricia Nielsen, Committee Assistant

**MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:**  
SJR 10 – Public Hearing  
SJR 11 – Public Hearing

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These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

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TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
<b>TAPE 39, A</b>		
005	Chair Brown	Calls the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Opens as subcommittee. Present: Brown, shields, Sen. Courtney, Rep. Betty Komp Makes opening remarks and welcomes visiting dignitaries. Opens public hearing on SJR 10 and SJR 11.
<b><u>SJR 10 and SJR 11 – PUBLIC HEARING</u></b>		
055	Tiffany Harris	Committee Administrator. Presents overview of SJR 10 and SJR 11.
060	Bill Bradbury	Secretary of State. Introduces himself and describes his statutory duties to oversee elections in the state. Testifies in support of SJR 10 and SJR 11. Suggests amendment requiring last-minute voters to register in person at an election office. Explains how the three-week deadline was created and suggests it no longer applies.
125	Chair Brown	Clarifies that the events involving Rajneesh Puram took place in the mid-1980s.
130	Bradbury	Describes Rajneesh Puram community in central Oregon and their attempt to take over a nearby town with last-minute registered voters.
140	Sen. Shields	Adds that the former ranch is now a youth camp.
145	Chair Brown	Refers to election of Jesse Ventura as Governor of Minnesota.
150	Sen. Ryan Deckert	District 14. Introduces himself. Testifies in support of SJR 10 and SJR 11. Submits written testimony ( <b>EXHIBITS A &amp; B</b> ). Mentions six states with same-day registration that have

		significantly higher voter participation in elections. Agrees with Bradbury's suggestion to require registration in person. Makes other suggestions for improving the system. Discusses Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requirements.
215	Sen. Deckert	Continues testimony.
225	Sen. Courtney	Asks about current requirements to register to vote.
230	Sen. Deckert	Responds that registration must occur 21 days before the general election. Discusses how it is affected by the vote-by-mail.
240	Sen. Courtney	Asks for other requirements for voting.
250	Bradbury	Describes other requirements.
255	Sen. Courtney	Asks if voters could come in from other states and vote on election day.
265	Chair Brown	Asks about fraudulent registration in states that allow same-day registration.
270	Bradbury	Responds there is no greater level of fraud in those states.
275	Sen. Deckert	Adds the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has studied the issue and found no evidence of fraud.
280	Sen. Shields	Asks about difficulty of traveling to a county elections office in larger counties.
300	Bradbury	Discusses the difficulties.
310	Sen. Shields	Asks about possible accommodation for citizens in rural areas.
320	Sen. Ferrioli	Discusses distance issues in eastern Oregon counties.
325	Sen. Deckert	Clarifies this simply adds the option of registering in the last three weeks but does not change other requirements.
350	Sen. Deckert	Continues and testifies in support of SJR 11. Discusses other areas where 17 year olds pre-register. Discusses importance of participation in the democratic process.
370	Annette Newingham	Chief Deputy, Lane County Clerk; Association of County Clerks. Testifies in opposition to SJR 10. Submits written testimony and article discussing Election Day Registration <b>(EXHIBITS C &amp; D)</b> . Discusses Rajneesh issue resulting in 21-day waiting period. Discusses problems with volume of last-minute registrations. Comments on requirement for length of residency.
 <b>TAPE 40, A</b>		
050	Chair Brown	Points out length of residency is a constitutional requirement.
055	Newingham	Explains that county clerks do not check for length of residency.
060	Sen. Shields	Asks about fraud among last-minute registrations.
065	Newingham	Explains process in Lane County.
090	Sen. Ferrioli	Clarifies that clerks do not check residency.
095	Newingham	Explains that the voter signs an oath.
100	Sen. Ferrioli	Suggests checking out the conflict.
105	Rep. Betty Komp	House District 22. Asks about close elections.
110	Newingham	Responds there must be adequate time after election to certify the result and same-day registration would complicate that process. Continues and expresses concerns about SJR 11. Comments on 17-year-olds registering to vote in primary. Brings up other items on primary ballot and how the ballots would be created.
135	Andi Miller	Executive Director, Common Cause Oregon. Testifies in support of SJR 10, and discusses unlikely voters. Asks for alternatives to get those 18 percent to vote. Points out this statute can supersede the constitution. Suggests adding a check box for residency requirement on current voter registration card. Testifies in support of SJR 11, and relates that her organization is still

230	Daniel Zipse	studying the issue. Valley Catholic School, Beaverton. Testifies in support of SJR 11. Explains he assumes other adult responsibilities such as holding a job and wants to be allowed to vote.
245	Kalani Efstathion	Valley Catholic School, Beaverton. Testifies in support of SJR 11. Asks to be allowed to register as a 17-year-old in order to vote in the primary election.
260	Chair Brown	Asks if either will increase participation in the process.
265	Efstathion	Believes it will.
267	Zipse	Agrees.
270	Sen. Ferrioli	Asks if students should be able to pre-register for the draft.
275	Zipse	Agrees if students have the right to vote draft age should also be 18.
295	Elizabeth Redman	Youth Caucus. Argues bright students should be engaged in the political process. Testifies in support of SJR 10 and SJR 11. Explains she lived in three states in the past year and discusses difficulty of registering to vote during a transition time. Making the process easier benefits younger people.
370	Sonrisa Cooper	Youth Caucus. Sophomore at Cleveland High School, 15 years old. Testifies in support of SJR 10 and SJR 11. Discusses constitutional right to vote. Submits written testimony <b>(EXHIBIT F)</b> .
410	Sen. Ferrioli	Asks for description of the accomplishments of the Oregon Bus Project.
415	Cooper	Discusses Oregon Bus Project and how the program helps people register to vote.
<b>TAPE 39, B</b>		
005	Redman	Discusses further Oregon Bus Project and other Oregon Youth Caucus activities.
015	Sen. Ferrioli	Asks how many were registered through the Oregon Bus Project.
020	Redman	Defers.
025	Garrett Downen	Oregon Bus Project. Testifies in support of SJR 10 and SJR 11. Submits written testimony <b>(EXHIBIT G)</b> . Discusses activities of the project and other voter registration drives.
070	Jennifer Yocom	Volunteer, Oregon Bus Project, Mobile Generation. Testifies in support of SJR 10 and SJR 11. Discusses importance of allowing 17-year-olds to vote for their candidate in the primary. Comments on SJR 10 and the mobile generation. Concedes clerks' points and difficulties, but suggests technology can solve the problems. Asserts that those with privilege and power sometimes do not want those without to participate in government.
130	Sen. Ferrioli	Comments bus project and asks who paid for the project.
135	Yocom	Responds that the project was funded by donations and fundraising.
140	Sen. Ferrioli	Inquires who was the largest donor.
142	Yocom	Replies that she would have to check records.
145	Sen. Ferrioli	Asks how many Republicans did the Bus PAC support, and inquires whether the Bus Project is truly bi-partisan.
150	Yocom	Clarifies that Bus PAC is not related to the vote registration aspect of the Bus Project. States that the Bus Project supports both party candidates, but is issue oriented.
165	Sen. Ferrioli	Asks how many new voters were registered in the last election cycle.

170	Yocom	Defers to Secretary of State.
172	Sen. Ferrioli	Explains his district demographic as older, and more conservative. Suggests that a program focusing on young people might disenfranchise older voters.
185	Yocom	Discusses urban-rural divide and desire to bridge that. Explains that SB 910 is not about disenfranchising anyone, but increasing voter participation.
200	Sen. Courtney	Refers to Northbend and decreasing enrollment in rural high schools, as well as the increasing age of residents. Asks about the mobile generation. Describes how many issues are on the ballots and inquires how new residents know about the issues on the ballot.
240	Yocom	Acknowledges voting is a privilege which carries great responsibility. States that the project will make sure young voters are well informed.
270	Chair Brown	Conducts question and answer period taking audience questions. asks about whether this resulted in how close the last election was
275	Rachel Westrick	Inquires if the introduction of SJRs 910 and 911 was in response to the close presidential election, and the chance that young voters might have overturned the election.
280	Sen. Deckert	Recalls Mark O. Hatfield's Motor Voter Act.
280	Sen. Ferrioli	Comments on voter registration drives in the last election cycle.
340	Ali Grassgreen	Junior , McMinnville High School. Asks whether some senators want to prevent young people from voting democrat. Suggests young Republicans could also vote.
380	Sen. Ferrioli	States that opportunity to register must be spread as wide as possible. Expresses concerns about level of maturity of voters.
<b>TAPE 40, B</b>		
005	Chair Brown	Stresses how important it is for young people to become involved in the process and cast their votes.
011	Grassgreen	Expresses that SJRs 910 and 911 afford great opportunities for youth.
015	Chris Hendricks	Woodburn High School. Asks what the bills do for a town like Woodburn.
020	Chair Brown	Explains it will do nothing unless people vote.
030	Rep. Komp	Responds that she hopes the bills will increase voter participation among young people.
040	Chair Brown	Suggests legislative conversations would be different if legislators were younger.
045	Andrew Hall	Volunteer for voter registration. Testifies in support of SJR 10 and SJR 11. Submits written testimony <b>(EXHIBIT H)</b> . Supports giving voting rights to Oregonians who missed the registration deadline in the flurry of moving here. States that young voters should have a chance to elect candidates in primaries if they can vote in the general election.
070	Marge Easley	League of Women voters of Oregon. Testifies in opposition to SJR 10. Submits written testimony <b>(EXHIBIT I)</b> . Expresses concerns about burdens placed on county elections workers. Suggests compromises. Offers to register voters today.
090	Chair Brown	Assigns Sen. Deckert to do a workgroup on SJR 10 and SJR 11.
110	Meaghan Mayeda	Co-Communications Director, Portland State College Democrats. Organizer for Presidential election. Volunteer for

140	Kento Azegami	voter registration. Comments on being a young woman of color with low income. Testifies in support of SJR 10 and SJR 11. Portland State College Democrats. Campus Organizer, for Young Voter Project. Argues that people do not vote because they are not asked to. College students have particular challenges because of the mobility of their demographic. Expresses support SJR 10.
190	Morgan Cowling	Oregon Student Association. Testifies in support of SJR 10 and SJR 11. Submits written testimony ( <b>EXHIBIT J</b> ). Explains how little time there is between beginning of school in the Oregon University System and the registration deadline. Discusses statistics of voter registration and participation.
240	Sen. Ferrioli	Asks Portland State Democrats whether it would have been beneficial to invite young republicans to come to the hearing today.
245	Mayeda	Responds that she did not work with them, and the young republicans did not contact them about the hearing.
247	Azegami	States that news of the hearing came with short notice. Comments that voter registration is not a partisan issue.
250	Chair Brown	Advises the committee staff did invite all the student organizations.
255	Mayeda	Explains that the PSU College Democrats voter registration drive was non-partisan.
260	Sen. Ferrioli	Asks about registering absentee voters in their home states.
265	Cowling	Explains they encourage students when they arrive to register at their university address as they are part of that community for two to four years. States that they encourage students to get invested.
270	Sen. Ferrioli	Inquires whether they advise students about one registration only, and possible violations of state and federal law for duplicate registrations.
275	Cowling	Responds they are careful about re-registering voters.
325	Azegami	Assures they did explain to everyone about other registrations. Agrees on need to avoid voter fraud.
350	Chair Brown	Makes concluding remarks. Closes public hearing on SJR 10 and SJR 11. Adjourns the committee at 10:27 a.m.

## **EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

- A. SJR 10, written testimony, Sen. Ryan Deckert, 2 pp**
- B. SJR 11, written testimony, Sen. Ryan Deckert, 2 pp**
- C. SJR 10, written testimony, Annette Newingham, 2 pp**
- D. SJR 10, article “Election Day Registration,” Annette Newingham, 2 pp**
- E. SJR 11, written testimony, Annette Newingham, 2 pp**
- F. SJR 11, written testimony, Sonrisa Cooper, 1 p**
- G. SJR 10, written testimony, Garrett Downen, 1 p**
- H. SJR 10, written testimony, Andrew Hall, 1 p**
- I. SJR 10, written testimony, Marge Easley, 1 p**
- J. SJR 10, written testimony, Morgan Cowling, 7 pp**
- K. SJR 11, written testimony, Garrett Downen, 1 p**
- L. SJR 11, written testimony, Andrew Hall, 1 p**

**M. SJR 11, written testimony, Morgan Cowling, 7 pp**