

# Testimony Against HB0496

Honorable Delegates

Please enter an unfavorable decision about HB0496.

I oppose

- Authorizing a voter unaffiliated with a political party to vote the ballot for unaffiliated voters or the ballot of the political party of the voter's choice in a primary election; and
- prohibiting a voter unaffiliated with a political party who votes the ballot of a political party in a primary election from automatically becoming affiliated with the political party whose ballot the voter voted.

This bill would establish a de facto open primary by allowing those not registered with a political party to vote for a candidate of a political party during a primary election.

There is plenty of time before the primary election for those who are unaffiliated with a political party but want to vote for a candidate associated with a political party to change their registration. There is even plenty of time before the general election to change back to being unaffiliated.

One of the integrity checks during a primary is that there cannot be more ballots for a party than those registered to vote for that party. This bill could result in more votes cast than those registered. Moreover, it could cause shortages for ballots because the Board could not anticipate the number of voters by party.

Also, it hurts those running for office, who are tailoring their ads to those in their own party. By allowing unaffiliated people to vote in the primary it skews their planning efforts.

Essentially, this bill would allow unaffiliated to vote for any candidate, but would still restrict the affiliated to only vote for candidates in their own party.

Please enter an unfavorable decision about HB0496.

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