

**Kate Brown**  
Governor



**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**  
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"  
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September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Good evening Secretary Atkins,

My name is James Manning. I am a resident of Eugene, and I am here tonight as the Chair of the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs. The Commission on Black Affairs works for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal and political equality for Oregon's African American and Black populations. We were supporters of HB 2177 and I am here tonight to continue our support of New Oregon Motor Voter and the proposed Administrative Rules.

The Commission generally supports the Rules, but feels that in order to keep with the spirit of the law, and better engage typically underrepresented communities; we need to tackle the hurdle of voter education through this increased communication. The Commission is hopeful that several things in particular can be achieved through this communication:

- Establishing a communication between voter and SOS/Elections Division**  
Creating a consistent look for materials constructed by the Elections Division would increase open and response rates for all communication from the Elections Division and increase voter participation.
- Elections website and on-line resources**  
We are in the era of fast information. Driving newly registered voters to the Elections website for important elections related information is a great way to make sure voters can find ballot drop box locations or other frequently asked questions they may need to know in advance of submitting their ballot.
- Education on basic civics**  
Many disenfranchised or new voters may not be aware about the impact selecting party affiliation may have on their ability to receive a ballot in Primary elections. Providing information on this would be helpful.
- Education about confidentiality of records**  
Letting eligible registrants know about the systems availability to protect individuals who are experiencing sexual violence, stalking or other problems where shielding location information is critical. Creating systems and communication both through the Elections Division and the Department of Motor Vehicles would be critical.

Keeping in mind these suggestions as your office moves forward with implementations would help to continue the tradition of Oregon in leading the way to voter engagement and participatory democracy. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

James I Manning, Chair  
Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

**OR Commission on Black Affairs**

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