



A Party for the Animals



What is the Proposal?

We should facilitate the creation and maintenance of an animal-centric political party, recognized by the State of Oregon.

Why Should We Do This?

- ❖ A political party is a tool used to organize voters, spread information, spur political action, and run candidates in local, state, and federal elections. As activists for the protection of animals and their habitats, it is important to utilize all the tools and resources available to us. An animal-centric political party creates a new channel through which we can further give animals representation in our legal systems.
- ❖ Animal issues do not receive adequate attention in our legal system. An animal-centric political party would draw attention to animal related issues.

- ❖ People are generally sympathetic to the wellbeing of their pets, livestock and wildlife. Animal welfare is sure to improve when we begin to discuss animal issues separate from other, more polarizing issues. The presence of an animal-centric political party can enhance our normative political discourse to include animal issues as primary concerns.

How?

- ❖ Choose a Chief sponsor who will be responsible for filing the SEL 198 Petition to Establish a Political Party.
- ❖ After approval from the Elections Division, the Chief Sponsor and circulators can begin to gather signatures. In Oregon, the number of valid signatures required to form a statewide political party is 1.5% of the total votes cast in the jurisdiction for governor at the last election (22, 046).

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Why Now?

- ❖ Now is the perfect time to create an animal-centric political party. Ranked Choice Voting Systems(RCV) are becoming more popular in the US. Maine has implemented RCV in elections at all levels of government, and 16 states have adopted or implemented RCV at some level of government.



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- ❖ RCV allows voters to vote with their conscience and not have to worry about ‘throwing away their vote’ on a third party. This system grants third parties tremendous power.
- ❖ While it may take some time for Oregon to implement RCV in elections at all levels of government:
 - Oregon has a reputation for being one of the country’s most progressive states; and,
 - When RCV becomes available in Oregon, we can be ahead of the curve as an established party with a developed platform. This will give Oregonians a serious option to consider in future elections.

