

02/13/2023

SB210 – Proponent

Honorable Chairman and Committee Members,

I am a proponent of SB210. When I have voted in the past, it has been very confusing on a ballot to know which candidates align with my beliefs in non partisan elections. This has led me to undervote in most local elections over the years and leaves me feeling like my right to vote has been crippled or manipulated.

- All citizens deserve to know where a candidate generally stands at a glance in front of the ballot. Not all citizens can take the time to research deeply or pay the money to reach articles about the election and candidate.
- Local elections can be VERY difficult to research as there is rarely any media coverage on local candidates. Especially those candidates with less money. This basic help in knowing what party they belong to is appreciated to at least know where to start in the research and if nothing is found, can point voters in a general direction in the ballot box.
- Grassroots candidates facing incumbents are at a disadvantage. With less money, the grassroots candidate may not be able to reach as many people as mailers are costly. If the party was stated, it would level the field a bit.
- Incumbents will also struggle as most citizens don't follow politics and have no idea which party the current incumbents belongs to either.
- Citizens want to vote for their party candidate plain and simple. I door knocked many doors in the last non partisan election and I was constantly asked how to find out the party of the candidates. I got this question from all sides and parties. Many expressed frustration they had no idea what party the candidates are in, or how to figure out what party they are in. They also asked why it's not stated or on the ballot. Most said they would sit out the election. Too hard to figure out what party the candidates belong to. They don't trust me at the door that I'm telling the truth if I know what party the candidate belongs to. I could be lying and they don't know me to trust me.

I personally want to know the party each candidate belongs to. This isn't a difficult thing to change and makes sense to do it this way.

Thank you for your time,

-Natalie Horspool

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Republican Precinct Committeewoman D129