

State Representative  
Matt Wingard  
House District 26



State Representative  
Kim Thatcher  
House District 25

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### ***New Voters' Pamphlet Distribution Law Proposed***

(Salem) A new law designed to ensure every registered voter in Oregon receives a voters' pamphlet was unveiled at the House Elections, Ethics and Rules Committee today in Salem. "This is a very small change in our law which will bring big returns for Oregon voters," said [State Representative Matt Wingard](#) (R-Wilsonville). He is hoping a new legislative proposal will be introduced as a Committee Bill before the 2009 Legislative Session gets underway in January.

"We talk a good game about encouraging people to vote, but there are still cracks in the system which prevent that from happening," said [State Representative Kim Thatcher](#) (R-Keizer, Newberg, St. Paul). Thatcher gave copies of a Legislative Concept to her fellow members of the Committee.

Wingard was recently notified by a constituent that the [voters' pamphlet](#) is not distributed to Postal Mail Boxes at retail outlets such as Mail Boxes Etc. or the UPS Store. State law requires the pamphlet to be delivered to "each post-office mailing address", but there is no definition for that term. Even the new voters' pamphlet just distributed over the weekend contains language which says "one copy of the voters' pamphlet is mailed to every household in the state." In talking to the State Elections Division, Wingard discovered that is simply not true.

The proposed legislation would direct the Secretary of State to mail the voters' pamphlet to each registered voter. Representative Wingard pointed out, "ballots get mailed to each registered voter, so why not the voters' pamphlet? We are disenfranchising thousands of voters by leaving them out of the process."

Representative Thatcher explained, "I find it curious that the state sends out voters' pamphlets to every household whether they have registered voters or not, but yet, people who are registered voters using a mail box service can't get a voters pamphlet mailed to them."

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