

Top 2 Supporters say:

1. will treat voters equally. Almost ½ million Independent voters in OR; their non-affiliation w/ a party should not affect their rights as a citizen.
2. allows all voters to partake in same primary - may broaden views & reduce extreme partisanship. Could result in less gridlock and more moderates.
3. Oregon's version permits party endorsements on ballot – even multiple parties through fusion voting, thus maintaining role for political parties and informing voters.
4. there are Oregon districts that are either vastly 1-party OR where one party doesn't field a candidate, so reality is that general election can end up being a rubber stamp. Top 2 may offer real competition then because there could be two candidates from same party and in-depth discussion of issues.
5. as there are only 2 candidates, in general election, winner will receive 50% + reduces risk of spoilers (that would happen only in primary). Voters will feel like between 2, right person won.
6. hope is that turnout for primary elections could increase - especially when voters learn that primary is a vital election, perhaps **more** vital election.
7. more candidates to choose from during primary.
8. easier to understand than other reform options.

Top 2 Opponents say:

1. reduces choice in general November election. Both candidates could be from same major party, forcing voters to choose between candidates who don't share their values **or not voting at all.**
2. some Independents see it as advantage, others don't, since **neither** candidate in Nov. would likely be an Indy or minor party. Lose not only a place on Nov. ballot **but they lose their VOICE** during main campaign season when most people are finally paying attention.
3. turnout has not increased in states w/ Top 2 (even in primaries). Turnout could be hurt in general - less choice & less chance for minor parties or indys to win any presence on that ballot -- thus lowering overall voter participation. In districts where ONLY ONE party is represented in general, even D(s) or R(s) could stay home. ***2014 – California worst voter turnout.**
4. because primary will be more like a general, there will be **increased campaign spending for ALL** candidates (minor & major), but the Big money will over-shadow others.
5. other reforms such as campaign finance & alternative voting systems are better options to address partisanship, gerrymandering, and problems supposedly "solved" by Top 2.
6. due to vote splitting, extreme right or left candidates can advance to general with relatively few votes. While minor parties may be used to it, D(s) & R(s) will be shocked to find they may have no candidate in November.
7. Top 2 will not eliminate or alleviate game playing within parties. Strategic endorsements may decrease transparency. Parties may engage in stronger negative attacks in the primary, discourages candidates to run and 'spoiler' charges will be used against minor parties and independents – further diminishing their chances.