

18 March 2002

Oregon Progress Board
775 Summer Street, N.E., Suite 330
Salem, Oregon 97301-1283

Re: Benchmark #34

Dear Board Members:

Benchmark 34 for 2001 monitors "Oregon's national rank in voter turnout for presidential elections." This is a valuable benchmark, but I urge you to consider as an additional (or alternative) benchmark on voter turnout, the absolute percentage of registered voters who vote in presidential elections.

While it is salutary for Oregon to be doing as well as or better than other states, it is even more important in my opinion for us to be striving to increase the low rates of voting in recent years. I think we should set a goal of, first, stopping the continued decline in turnout, and then seek to gradually increase it in subsequent years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Denis White
3775 NW Wisteria Way
Corvallis, Oregon 97330

(transmitted by email)