

DPO Policy on Voter File and VoteBuilder Access

Adopted by DPO Administration Committee, February 9, 2019. Amended November 7, 2019.

The Democratic Party of Oregon (DPO) maintains a voter file and voter data management system which allows candidates and campaigns to access voter data acquired from the Secretary of State's office by the DPO and supplemented through national party committees; as well as allowing candidates to add information to the system in a manner that builds its effectiveness as a tool for successful campaigns. The DPO operational budget provides primary support to assure staffing necessary to maintain the database.

As an asset of the DPO, the Administration Committee supervises its administration and has ultimate authority in determining voter file and VoteBuilder access and user fees to be applied. Agreements with campaigns outline appropriate uses of the data and requirements of confidentiality to be maintained.

Policies adopted by the Administration Committee regarding voter file and VoteBuilder access are to be made available upon request by State Central Committee members, County Chairs, and Democrats who have filed for office.

The following parameters have been adopted to guide decision-making by the Committee.

The DPO works alongside campaign operations of county parties and legislative caucus campaigns and grants access directly and authorizes partners to grant access to individual candidates in the following ways:

1. The DPO authorizes access directly in federal, statewide, and Metro regional elections.
2. The DPO authorizes access directly in the Portland mayor's race and local multi-county elections where no single county has 75% or more of the registered voters in a particular district.
3. The DPO authorizes the State House Democratic Campaign (FuturePAC) and the Senate Democrat Leadership Fund (SDLF) to grant access in legislative elections, with the requirement that access is consistent with DPO policies.
4. The DPO authorizes County parties to grant access in all county and municipal elections where at least 75% of the voters in any particular district live within the county granting access. The county party must also have a voter file policy consistent with and approved by, the DPO and may deny access if a candidate is not believed to be a Democrat in good standing.

Both the DPO and County parties may grant access to challengers to incumbents, so as long as the challengers are Democrats in good standing. However, while the DPO and counties may grant access to all voter data, including past ID's and voter behavior scoring to incumbents, they may only grant access to the "base" voter data (publicly available information) and nationally-acquired updates to phone numbers and addresses to challengers.

The DPO and the delegated organizations of FuturePAC, SDLF and county parties all grant pre-primary access to incumbents, candidates for open seats and challengers to Republican incumbents as long as the candidates are Democrats in good standing. The DPO Administration Committee will consider appeals to denials and are the final authority for granting access.

The DPO recognizes that county parties may transfer data collected through their unique county-based efforts and stored in the county campaign committee's "My Voters" database in VAN to other candidates and entities in compliance with state and federal law. This data, collected by the county party, will be transferred with the unique voter ID number and voter's name connected to the data. The DPO will provide technical support to county parties wishing to make this type of data transfer and notify the DPO when this type of transfer is made.

A request to the DPO Administration Committee from a county party to grant voter file and VoteBuilder access to a third-party or no-party candidate will only be considered if there is no Democratic candidate in the race, and only if the county party makes an endorsement of the third-party or NAV candidate. This applies to partisan and non-partisan contests.

Future PAC and SDLF may both request that the Admin Committee authorize them to approve access to a third-party or no-party candidate if there is no Democratic candidate in the race.

When the DPO grants access to the voter file and VoteBuilder, we direct staff to offer basic training on how to use it, and monitor the use to make sure candidates are not using the voter file and VoteBuilder in inappropriate ways.

The DPO Executive Director can revoke voter file and VoteBuilder access privileges if there are concerns that a candidate, county party or authorized user is failing to abide by DPO policies. The DPO Admin Committee can review and reverse that decision if appropriate.