



Legislative Team
Kathy Wai & Coline Benson

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The 2024 short Legislative Session was successful for the Secretary of State's Office. We worked diligently to rebuild trust and pass policies that would make a positive difference in peoples' lives. The session marked a new chapter for our agency, with Secretary LaVonne Griffin-Valade assuming the leadership role last June, a reconfigured senior leadership team (Deputy Cheryl Myers, Chief of Staff Ben Morris, and Chief of Legislative & Policy Affairs Jessica Ventura), and a new legislative team (Kathy Wai, Legislative Director and Coline Benson, Legislative Coordinator). We are grateful for the leadership contributions of many, including all the division directors, in helping to stabilize the agency in this transition year, while also supporting the passage of our priority bills. Our legislative agenda focused on the needs of our divisions to enhance the important services they provide to Oregonians.

Session began on February 5th and Sine Die (ended) on March 7th. Secretary of State priority bills were passed and nearly all budget items. Overall, there were 291 bills that were introduced — includes House and Senate bills, and resolutions and memorials. 115 bills passed during the month-long session, and they now head to the Governor to be officially signed into law. This includes our own bills and others we supported. We could not pass this agenda without the dedication, knowledge, and expertise of many individuals with whom we worked.

SECRETARY OF STATE PRIORITY BILLS

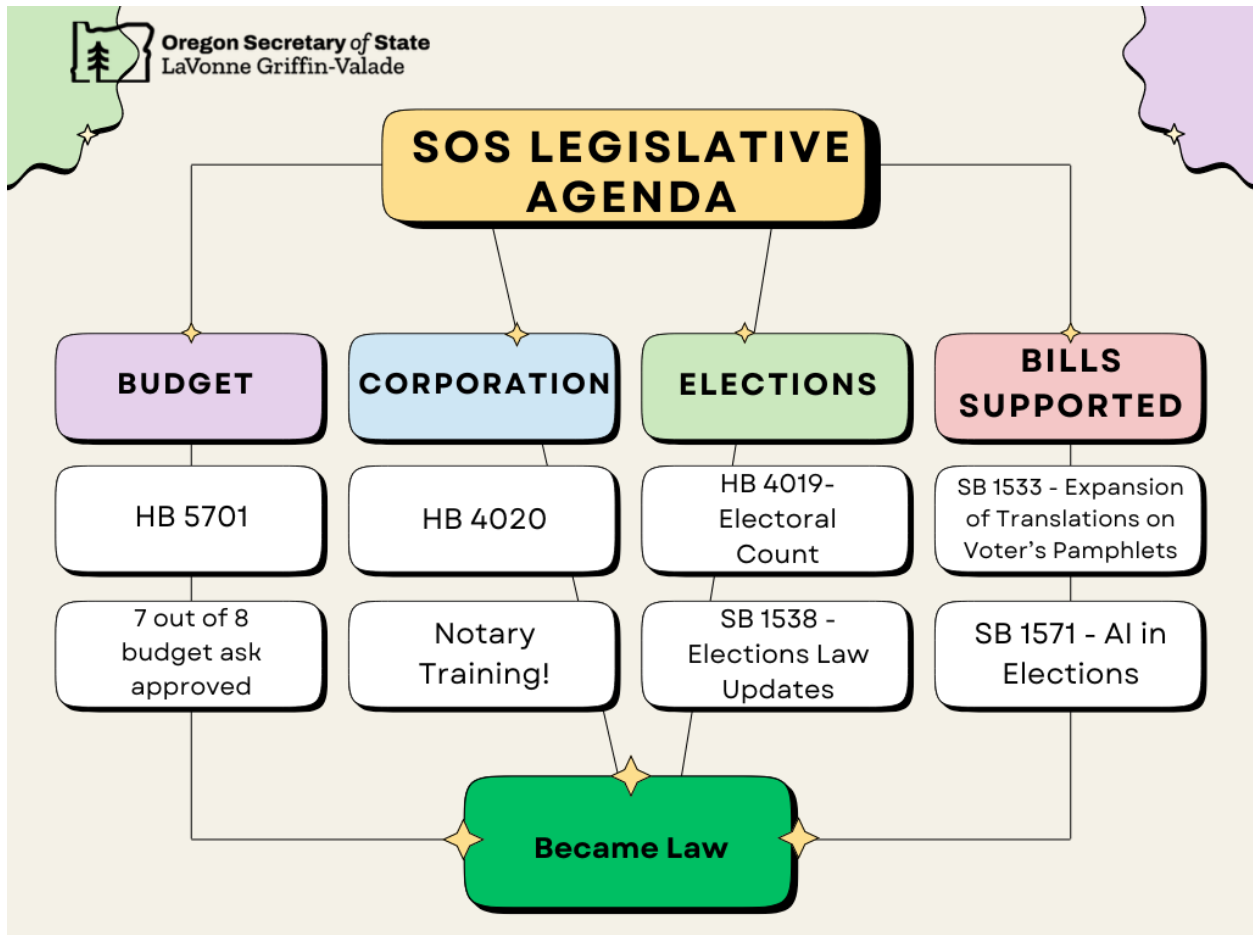
- [HB 4019](#): Updating the electoral count process for the nomination of Presidential electors. P.K. Runkles-Pearson (Exec.) and Lydia Plukchi (Elections)
- [HB 4020](#): Training requirements for notaries. Coline Benson (Exec.) and Jaime Weddle (Corporation)
- [SB 1538](#): Elections Omnibus bill with technical changes. Luke Belant, Alma Whalen, Lydia Plukchi, and Kelly Mills (Elections)
- [SB 5701](#): The budget omnibus bill that included Secretary of State asks. Steve Bergmann, Mike Hickham, and Aubrey Gesner (Budget)

SECRETARY OF STATE SUPPORTED BILLS

- [SB 1533](#): Languages expanded in voter pamphlets and in the Translation Advisory Council. Kelly Mills (Elections)
- [SB 1571 A](#): AI disclosures in campaign communications. Molly Woon and Alma Whalen (Elections), P.K. Runkles-Pearson (Exec.)
- [SCR 204](#): Memorial resolution honoring former Secretary Bill Bradbury; Jessica Ventura (Exec.) Molly Woon (Elections)

255 Capitol St NE, Ste 180
Salem, Oregon 97310

- [SCR 211](#): Memorial resolution honoring long-serving Linn County Clerk, Steve Druckenmiller; Nikki Fisher (Elections)



In addition to policy bills, the budget omnibus bill, [SB 5701](#) included the majority of our position and program funding requests. We are appreciative of our Budget Team: Steve Bergmann, Mike Hickam, and Aubrey Gesner and to the Legislative Fiscal Office for their collaboration and the Co-Chairs of the Ways & Means (budget committee) to bring back these asks from the previous session. Here's [the link](#) to LFO's narrative recommendation/budget, on page 28. The Elections Investigator and General Counsel positions we received are permanent positions. Positions given to us as limited duration include the ORVIS help desk position and the public records county liaison role. Here's a further breakdown:

Request #	Description	Division	FTE	OF	GF	FF	TF	Included in SB 5701?
1	Executive Office Personnel True-Up (OPA3 to OPA4 reclass; P/T to F/T for OPA2)	Executive Office	0.5	\$ 119,463	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 119,463	Yes
2	Server Room Costs	ISD	0	\$ 147,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 147,000	Yes
3	Public Records County Liaison	Executive Office	0.25	\$ 91,627	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 91,627	Yes
4	Microfilm Digitization	Corporation	0	\$ 557,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 557,000	Yes
5	Counsel for Audit and Election Integrity (General Counsel, full time, permanent)	Executive Office	1	\$ 303,963	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 303,963	Yes
6	Elections Investigator (Compliance Specialist 3, full time, permanent)	Elections	1	\$ -	\$ 162,207	\$ -	\$ 162,207	Yes
7	ORESTAR Modernization (\$750k S&S, OPA3 full time/permanent Elections; ISS8 .5 FTE LD for ISD)	Elections / ISD	1.5	\$ -	\$ 1,107,892	\$ -	\$ 1,107,892	No
8	Helpdesk Role for ORVIS (OPA2, full time, permanent)	Elections	1	\$ -	\$ 151,523	\$ -	\$ 151,523	Yes
9	Sal Pot Allocation	All Divisions	0	\$ 7,048,884	\$ 1,197,092	\$ 34,892	\$ 8,280,868	Yes
		Total:	5.25	\$ 8,267,937	\$ 2,618,714	\$ 34,892	\$ 10,921,543	

While we did not receive the ORESTAR requirements gathering requests during the short session, our team is working hard to craft the ORESTAR and Campaign Finance Reform (HB 4024) funding request in the upcoming request to the May Emergency (E-board) meeting. HB 4024 (2024) implements contribution limits, greatly expands reporting requirements for campaign contributions, and enacts enforcement and investigation pieces; all of these policy changes will greatly impact our Elections Division and Information Systems Division as they implement the bill. We appreciate all the hard work of the Elections Division, Information Systems Division, Human Resources, and our budget team for preparing the fiscals (including the number of positions needed), for reviewing the policy, and determining IT impacts of the bill.

In addition to our policy and budget requests, our Audits Division was very busy this session as they presented audit reports and presentations to various committees on a variety of topics. Thank you to the auditors for presenting on the following:

- Oregon Medical Board Audit
- Housing Rental Assistance
- Lottery Financial Report
- Department of Administrative Services Internal Auditors Report
- Measure 110 Audit
- Hotline Report
- Domestic Violence Report

Secretary Griffin-Valade also presented the [2024-25 Audit Plan](#) with Kip Memmott in the Joint Committee on Legislative Audits.

Much appreciation to Laura Kerns and Kierrah Byrd for their communications support and expertise during the session. From designing our fabulous one-pagers to responding to media and public records requests, they have been invaluable to our team.

OTHER BILLS IMPACTING DIVISIONS

Our Legislative Coordinators were instrumental this session, from working on bill analysis forms, to tracking over 60 bills from the start of session that would have impacted our agency and specific divisions.

Many of those bills died in committee, but we wanted to highlight several that have passed. We will continue to monitor them and will be engaged in implementation if needed.

List of 2024 Short Legislative Bills by Division:

ARCHIVES DIVISION:

[HB 4031](#): Applies confidentiality requirements to local government agencies that collect, administer or manage certain local taxes in the same manner the requirements apply to the Department of Revenue for public records disclosure or other reasons.

[HB 4063](#): The Act makes counties plan for areas of Metro that are not in a city. The Act allows homebuilders to use updated local rules; real estate agents accept love letters; it amends middle housing land divisions and permits city staff grant or end tax exemption for single-unit housing.

[HB 4117](#): Allows Oregon Government & Ethics Commission (OGEC) and OGEC staff to provide advice on public meetings law.

[SB 1523](#): Allows an adult who applies to a state agency to access a sealed original birth record to request the state agency to add or change the name of a biological parent.

AUDITS DIVISION:

The following bills tracked statute changes stemming from audit recommendations, bills that may inform future audit work, and bills establishing new task forces. Several bills demonstrate audit impact and inform current and planned audits, including the Boards and Commissions and Measure 110 audit projects.

[HB 4001](#): Establishes the Task Force on Specialty Courts. Directs the task force to study certain issues concerning specialty courts and to provide the results of the study to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the judiciary no later than November 15, 2024.

[HB 4002](#): Declares emergency upon passage. This omnibus bill makes changes to Measure 110, specifically with [the -33 amendments](#).

[HB 4081](#): Repeals existing State Trauma Advisory Board and related boards. Becomes operative on January 1, 2027.

[HB 4113](#): Requires an insurer, a pharmacy benefit manager, the Public Employees' Benefit Board, the Oregon Educators Benefit Board, and a health care service contractor to count payments made by or on behalf of an enrollee for the costs of certain prescription drugs when calculating the enrollee's contribution to an out-of-pocket maximum, deductible, copayment, coinsurance or other required cost-sharing for the drugs.

[HB 4151](#): Directs the System of Care Advisory Council to establish a subcommittee on the youth behavioral health workforce. Requires the subcommittee to submit an initial report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to behavioral health not later than September 15, 2024, and a final report to the Legislative Assembly not later than December 15, 2025.

[HB 4153](#): Establishes the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence. Requires the task force to examine and identify terms and definitions related to artificial intelligence that may be used for legislation and report its findings and recommendations to the interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to information management and technology on or before December 1, 2024.

[SB 1503](#): Establishes the Task Force on Community Safety and Firearm Suicide Prevention and requires the task force to report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health care. Appropriates money for research on gun violence and suicide prevention ordered by the task force.

[SB 1579](#): Creates a new fund for a current grant program that provides money for child abuse response programs. Requires the Department of Justice to award and distribute all of the grants by June 30, 2025. Adds members to the Task Force on County Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams. Requires the task force to also identify challenges for drug-endangered children and propose solutions.

CORPORATION DIVISION:

The Corporation team tracked two bills that died this session but would have impacted the division. We will continue to monitor if these concepts reemerge and will engage with legislators and other stakeholders in the interim.

[HB 4101](#): Directs the Secretary of State to obtain voluntary demographic ownership data when registering a business in Oregon. [Secretary of State submitted testimony](#).

[HB 4130](#): Addressing the corporate practice of medicine. [B-15 amendments](#) adopted to delay the implementation to 2031.

ELECTIONS DIVISION:

There were a handful of election-related bills introduced this session, but many died. Of those that remained, we are proud to say most were Secretary of State bills that were referenced earlier in this document:

[SB 1533](#): Directs the Secretary of State to translate the voters' pamphlet into the 10 most common languages used in each county. Effective January 1, 2025.

[SB 1538](#): Elections omnibus bill with technical changes; our [submitted testimony](#).

[SB 1571](#): Requires a disclosure of the use of AI in campaign ads.

The campaign finance bill, [HB 4024](#), is one we will continue to closely monitor given its significant impact to the Agency and need for additional positions and funding. Here's our [testimony](#) and the [fiscal impact analysis](#).

[SB 1541](#): Creates new circuit court judge positions in certain judicial districts. Takes effect July 1, 2024.

OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES & IMPLEMENTATION

Each division should consider what new rules or rule amendments it should make based on activity during the session. Rulemaking might be necessary in response to Secretary of State bills, bills addressing divisions directly, or generally applicable bills affecting the agency.

To determine whether a rule is necessary, divisions should review the final legislation, to determine (1) whether the legislature expressly delegated rulemaking authority to the division (e.g., through statements such as “the Secretary of State is authorized to make rules necessary to implement this chapter”) or (2) whether implementing the legislation requires the division to make policy choices affecting the public directly. If either of these circumstances is present, the division should begin considering rules to inform the public about how it will implement the statute.

Each division should determine what rules are necessary and assign staff who are subject matter experts to draft and notice the rule in consultation with their Division Rule Writers and Coordinators and the in-house general counsel, P.K. Runkles-Pearson. Because rules are formal statements of law that can provide the basis for lawsuits against the agency, it is a best practice to have legal counsel review proposed rules before they are publicly distributed.

Rule Writers are division-specific representatives who have received special training in rule writing from legal counsel. The Rule Writers for each division are::

RULE WRITERS BY DIVISION:

Division	Rules Coordinator
Agencywide Rules: Executive Team	P.K. Runkles-Pearson (main point of contact)
Archives	Stephanie Clark
Audits	Amy John
Business Services	Camber Schlag
Corporation	Jaime Weddle
Elections	Alma Whalen, Bob Roberts

Rules Coordinators are division-specific representatives who have received approval to file division rules on behalf of each division. The Rule Writers for each division are::

RULES COORDINATORS BY DIVISION:

Division	Rules Coordinator
Archives	Stephanie Clark
Audits	Julie Sparks
Business Services (Agencywide, non-division specific rules are also filed in OAR 167, the BSD chapter)	Camber Schlag
Corporation	Matthew Tenney

Election	Alma Whalen
Human Resources	Melissa Gubbels

****Jaci Davis, the Senior Rules Administrator in the Archives Division, is a resource for all agency Rules Coordinators.****