


2016 Synopsis of Oregon Election Laws

Compiled by

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Enacted by

78th Legislative Assembly – 2016 Regular Session



Secretary of State

Elections Division Rev. 05/2016

Summary Table of Election Related Bills Enacted

Bill Order

House Bills


Bill No.	ORS	Page
HB 4092	Specifies ballot title and certain other voters' pamphlet elements for House Joint Resolution 203 (2016).	6

Senate Bills

Bill No.	ORS	Page
SB 1501	Amending ORS chapter 248 – Relating to calculation for maintain status as a minor political party.	4
SB 1573	Adding a new section to ORS 222.111 to 222.180 – Relating to boundary changes; and declaring an emergency.	5
SB 1586	Adding a new section to ORS 247 - Directs public universities and community colleges to increase voter registration access and information.	3
SB 1599	Amending ORS chapter 248 – Relating to calculation for maintain status as a major political party.	4

Note: There were no changes made to ORS chapters 246, 247, 249, 250, 251, 253, 254, 255, 258 and 260 in the 2016 Legislative Session. Sine Die - March 3, 2016.



Unnumbered ORS

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
Unnumbered	SB 1586	1 – 4	New	<p>Requires Secretary of State to ensure at least one official drop site within four miles of the main campus of each public university and community college for any election held within the electoral district of the main campus.</p> <p>Directs public universities and community colleges to increase voter registration access and information.</p> <p>First applies to 2017-2018 academic year. Becomes operative July 1, 2017.</p> <p> Effective April 4, 2016.</p>

Note: There were no changes made to ORS chapters 246, 247, 249, 250, 251, 253, 254, 255, 258 and 260 in the 2016 Legislative Session. Sine Die - March 3, 2016.


ORS Chapter 248

Political Parties; Presidential Electors

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
Unnumbered	SB 1599	1		<p>Provides that for the purpose of maintaining status as a major political party under ORS 248.006(3) for the period up to and including the November 6, 2018, General Election, the total number of registered electors is deemed to be the number identified in the registration records of the Secretary of State on July 1, 2015.</p> <p> Effective January 1, 2017</p>
248.008	SB 1501	1	Amend	<p>Amends Section 9, chapter 8, Oregon Laws 2015 to provide that for the purpose of maintaining status as a minor political party under ORS 248.008(4)(a), for the period up to and including the November 6, 2018, General Election, the total number of registered electors is deemed to be the number identified in the registration records of the Secretary of State on July 1, 2015.</p> <p>Establishes that for purpose of maintaining status as minor political party under ORS 248.008(4)(b), for the period up to and including the November 6, 2018, General Election, the total number of votes cast for Governor is deemed to be the total number of votes cast in the state or electoral district for Governor on November 4, 2014.</p> <p> Effective April 4, 2016</p>

Note: There were no changes made to ORS chapters 246, 247, 249, 250, 251, 253, 254, 255, 258 and 260 in the 2016 Legislative Session. Sine Die - March 3, 2016.



Statutes outside Election Law

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
222.111 to 222.180	SB 1573	1 – 3	New	<p>Applies to cities whose laws require a petition proposing annexation of territory be submitted to voters.</p> <p>Requires city to annex territory without vote upon receipt of a petition for annexation submitted by all owners of land in the territory provided territory is included within urban growth boundary of city or Metro and is, or will be, subject to acknowledged comprehensive plan of city, at least one parcel in territory is contiguous to city limits and proposal conforms to all other requirements of city's ordinances.</p> <p> Effective March 15, 2016.</p>

Note: There were no changes made to ORS chapters 246, 247, 249, 250, 251, 253, 254, 255, 258 and 260 in the 2016 Legislative Session. Sine Die - March 3, 2016.

Legislative Referrals

November 8, 2016 General Election

Measure No.	Bill
To be assigned	<p>SJR 4 – Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution to remove provisions fixing age for mandatory retirement of judges and provisions allowing Legislative Assembly or people to fix age for mandatory retirement of judges.</p> <p> SJR 4 was referred by the 78th Legislative Assembly during the 2015 Regular Session and is provided here for completeness.</p>
To be assigned	HJR 203 – Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution providing that public universities are not constitutionally prohibited from owning stock in companies, associations or corporations.
Not applicable	<p>HB 4092 – Specifies ballot title, explanatory statement and legislative argument for HJR 203. Exempts ballot title and explanatory statement from Supreme Court review under the provisions of ORS 250.085 and ORS 251.235. Suspends explanatory statement and legislative argument electronic filing requirements under ORS 251.215 and ORS 251.245.</p> <p> Effective March 29, 2016.</p>
To be assigned	HJR 202 – Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution to require 1.5 percent of lottery revenues to be expended for benefit of veterans.

Note: There were no changes made to ORS chapters 246, 247, 249, 250, 251, 253, 254, 255, 258 and 260 in the 2016 Legislative Session. Sine Die - March 3, 2016.