



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

ELECTIONS DIVISION

Directive of the Secretary of State	Subject: Election to fill Alder Slope and Joseph Cemetery District Vacancies	Directive Issued at the Request of: Secretary of State	Date: May 16, 2023	Number: 2023-02
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The Secretary of State in carrying out the duties of the office shall issue detailed directives necessary to maintain uniformity in the application, operation, and interpretation of Oregon election laws. (ORS 246.110-120) The information provided here is an official directive of the Secretary of State.

Background

On May 12, 2023, the Elections Division became aware of an error in Wallowa County's May 2023 ballots prepared for residents of the Alder Slope and Joseph Cemetery Maintenance Districts (the "Districts").

In 2019, the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners changed the boundaries of the Districts, but the boundary change information was not provided to the Wallowa County Clerk. Therefore, when the Districts submitted contests for their board seats to the Clerk for inclusion on the May 2023 special election ballot, the clerk sent ballots using the outdated district boundaries.

Upon learning of the issue, the Elections Division reviewed information provided by the county clerk and met with them to discuss the solution. Because incorrect ballots have already been issued, it is not possible to correct the ballots to ensure voters can vote on the correct cemetery district contests. Because the correct voters did not receive the correct ballots, the results from the currently issued ballots cannot reflect the votes of all the Districts' eligible voters.

Purpose

This directive directs the Wallowa County Clerk to place the Alder Slope and Joseph Cemetery Maintenance District vacancies on the ballot at the earliest practicable regularly scheduled election, upon timely requests by the Districts.

Action

In order to limit voter confusion and prioritize efficiency, accuracy, and timeliness of the conduct of elections, the Secretary further directs the Wallowa County Clerk to exclude results of the May 2023 special election contests for the Districts from results reporting, and to place the affected contests on the ballot at the earliest practicable regularly scheduled election, upon timely requests by the Districts.

The Clerk is encouraged to contact the Elections Division for assistance or advice that they deem helpful in responding to this directive.

Cheryl Myers
Acting Secretary of State

By: Molly Woon, Director