


2017 Amended Synopsis of Oregon Election Laws

Compiled by

Elections Division
255 Capitol St NE Suite 501
Salem OR 97310-0722

 503 986 1518
fax 503 373 7414
tty 1 800 735 2900

www.oregonvotes.gov

Enacted by

2017 Legislative Assembly



Secretary of State

Elections Division Rev. 08/2017

Summary Table of Election Related Bills Enacted

Bill Order

House Bills


Bill No.	ORS	Page
HB 2298	Relating to statements of economic interest; creating new provisions; amending ORS 244.050.	18
HB 2505	Relating to election expenditures; Creating new provisions; amending ORS 260.005 and 260.007.	15
HB 2586	Relating to formation of a political committee; amending ORS 260.043.	15
HB 2605	Relating to the establishment of circuit court judge positions; creating new provisions; amending ORS 3.012; and declaring an emergency.	18
HB 2696	Relating to the voters' pamphlet; amending ORS 251.067, 251.185, and 251.285.	10
HB 2873	Relating to municipal corporation elections; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 254.095, 254.103, 255.085, and 294.311	12, 14, 18
HB 3408	Relating to voter registration; amending ORS 247.012.	4

Senate Bills

Bill No.	ORS	Page
SB 225	Relating to liability for campaign finance violations; creating new provisions; amending ORS 260.037, 260.042, 260.118, 260.215, and 260.232; and prescribing an effective date.	15-17
SB 229	Relating to elections; creating new provisions; amending ORS 204.020, 246.021, 247.420, 248.006, 248.007, 249.002, 249.005, 249.008, 249.064, 249.078, 249.735, 249.740, 249.865, 250.052, 250.065, 250.067, 250.075, 250.141, 250.175, 250.185, 250.275, 250.285, 251.065, 251.115, 251.255, 253.575, 254.115, 254.135, 254.431, 254.470, 254.515, 254.529, 254.565, 255.085, 255.145, 255.295, 260.043, 260.054, 260.055, 260.057, 260.078, 260.241, 260.407, and 260.715; repealing ORS 247.435; and declaring an emergency.	3-18
SB 520	Relating to recall of district officers of irrigation districts; amending ORS 198.425 and ORS 198.430.	18
SB 802	Relating to the age of voter registration; amending ORS 247.016.	4





ORS Chapter 246

Administration of Election Laws

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
246.021	SB 229	2	Amend	<p>Permits filing of any election document other than ballots, voter registration cards, or petitions requiring electors' signatures, to be filed by e-mail. If documents must be filed by specified time, the entire document must be received at the filing officer's office not later than 5pm on the due date or, if weekend or holiday, the next business day.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>



ORS Chapter 247

Qualification and Registration of Electors

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
247.012	HB 3408	1	Amend	<p>Permits a qualified person to register to vote or update voter registration by having a third party deliver the completed registration card by mail or in person. If required registration card information is missing, the county clerk must attempt to obtain missing/incomplete information from all sources available to the county clerk (including previous registration information). If the county clerk cannot obtain missing information from available sources, the county clerk must use reasonable efforts to contact the registrant by phone, mail, or e-mail.</p> <p> Effective January 1, 2018</p>
247.016	SB 802	1	Amend	<p>Allows otherwise qualified persons, at least 16 years of age, to register to vote.</p> <p> Effective January 1, 2018</p>
247.420	SB 229	3	Amend	<p>Revises ballots formerly marked “Presidential only” to now be marked “Federal only”.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
247.435	SB 229	62	Repeal	<p>Repeals law permitting “Presidential Only” ballots for electors who move out of state within a specific time period before the primary or general election and who do not qualify to vote in their new state.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>







ORS Chapter 248



Political Parties; Presidential Electors

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
248.006	SB 229	6	Amend	<p>Changes the date by which the Secretary shall determine whether the major political party has satisfied registration requirements to the 271st day before each primary election.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
248.007	SB 229	5	Amend	<p>Changes the date by which a major political party must notify the Secretary in writing whether the party will be subject to ORS 248.012-248.315 or elect precinct committeepersons to the 271st day before the primary election date.</p> <p>Changes the date by which a major political party files with the Secretary its statement of operation or copy of organizational documents to between the 271st and the 277th day before the third Tuesday in May of each odd-numbered year.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>

ORS Chapter 249






Candidates; Recall





ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
249.002	SB 229	51	Amend	<p>Adds “write-in candidate” to definition of candidate.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
249.005	SB 229	48	Amend	<p>Allows the Secretary to accept for verification photocopies of candidate nominating or recall signature sheets if originals were stolen or destroyed by fire, natural disaster or other act of God.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
249.008	SB 229	43	Amend	<p>Allows Secretary to compare electors’ signatures on nominating petitions, minutes of assembly of electors or petition by individual electors prior to offer for filing. Secretary may attach certificate to petition or minutes stating number of signatures believed to be genuine. Allows Secretary to use statistical sampling if total number of signatures presented to the Secretary is 15,000 or more. Requires Secretary to establish procedures to verify if submitted petition contains required number of signatures.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
249.064	SB 229	44	Amend	<p>Allows Secretary to certify signatures contained in nominating petition of a candidate.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
249.078	SB 229	45	Amend	<p>Allows Secretary to certify for genuineness the signatures for nominating petition for candidate of majority political party nomination for president of the United States.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
249.735	SB 229	46	Amend	<p>Allows presiding officer of assembly of electors a choice to deliver signatures of assembly members entered in the minutes to either the county clerk or the Secretary if the Secretary is designated as the filing officer. Allows Secretary to certify signatures. Requires copy of the minutes certified by the secretary of assembly and certificate of county clerk or Secretary to be filed with the certificate of nomination.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
249.740	SB 229	47	Amend	<p>Allows the Secretary to now verify the signatures contained in each certificate of nomination for genuineness for nominations made by individual electors.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
249.865	SB 229	52	Amend	<p>Changes the recall petition sheet form to include name and address of treasurer or chief petitioner listed on the statement of organization filed under ORS 260.118. Any intentional or willful violation of petition circulating requirements by a chief petitioner of the recall petition or by the treasurer listed on the statement of organization filed under ORS 260.118 invalidates the prospective petition before it is circulated for signatures.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>

ORS Chapter 250







Initiative and Referendum

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
250.052	SB 229	14	Amend	<p>Requires the Secretary to establish a process by rule for a chief petitioner to request a modification of templates for state initiative, referendum, recall petitions or prospective petitions. Now requires the Secretary to prepare official e-templates for signature sheets for prospective petitions. Electors may now print copies of e-signature sheets for prospective petitions for signature and delivery to chief petitioner or their agent.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
250.065	SB 229	16	Amend	<p>Requires the Secretary to now send only one copy of a prospective petition for a state measure to be either referred or initiated to the Attorney General (AG). After the AG receives the one copy, the AG will provide a draft ballot title and send one copy of the draft ballot title to the Secretary.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
250.067	SB 229	15	Amend	<p>Changes the deadline for the Attorney General to certify the draft ballot title (when no written comments are submitted to the Secretary) to not later than the 21st business day after the Secretary receives the draft title from the Attorney General.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
250.075	SB 229	17	Amend	<p>Requires the Secretary to send only one copy of a measure, which the Legislative Assembly refers to the people but for which a ballot title is not yet prepared, to the Attorney General.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
250.141	SB 229	23	Amend	<p>Requires statements, prepared by a citizen review panel relating to measures, to be electronically filed using e-filing system adopted by the Secretary.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
250.175	SB 229	18	Amend	<p>Requires the county clerk to now send only one copy of a prospective petition for a county measure to be referred or initiated to the District Attorney once the prospective petition is filed with the county clerk. Eliminates requirement for district attorney to return copy of the prospective petition to county clerk after preparing ballot title. District attorney certifies the ballot title to the county clerk.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
250.185	SB 229	19	Amend	<p>When a measure title is not prepared by a county governing body, but the measure is filed with the county clerk, the county clerk is required to now send only one copy of a measure referred to the people by the county governing body to the District Attorney. By the 5th business day after receiving the copy, the District Attorney must provide a ballot title for the measure and send a copy of the ballot title to the county governing body and the county clerk.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
250.257	SB 229	20	Amend	<p>Requires the county clerk to send only one copy of prospective petitions for city measures to be referred or initiated (which are filed with the city elections officer) to the city attorney. Eliminates the requirement for the city attorney to return a copy of the prospective petition.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
250.285	SB 229	21	Amend	<p>Requires the city elections officer to send only one copy to the city attorney of measures filed with the city elections officer, if the governing body has not prepared a ballot title.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>


ORS Chapter 251

Voters' Pamphlet

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
251.065	SB 229	25	Amend	<p>Updates grammar.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
251.067	HB 2696	1	Amend	<p>Adds “community college district measures relating to bonding” to those measures which must be included in the county voters’ pamphlet or, if not included in the appropriate county’s voters’ pamphlet, shall be included in the state voters’ pamphlet.</p> <p> Effective January 1, 2018</p>
251.115	SB 229	24	Amend	<p>Provides that a statewide or less than statewide political party or assembly of electors may file statements for insertion in the state voters’ pamphlet no sooner than 120 days prior to the general election and no later than the 70th day before the general election. Updates grammar.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
251.185	HB 2696	3	Amend	<p>Allows for a community college district measure relating to bonding to be included in the state voters’ pamphlet; defines community college district.</p> <p> Effective January 1, 2018</p>
251.255	SB 229	26	Amend	<p>Provides that measure arguments may be filed for insertion in the state voters’ pamphlet no sooner than 120 days prior to the general election and no later than the 70th day before the general election or 68th day before a special election held on the date of the primary election. Updates grammar.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
251.285	HB 2696	2	Amend	<p>Adds a “community college district measure relating to bonding” to those measures which, if included in the state voters’ pamphlet, must meet specific requirements regarding included information. Provides manner by which decision to include information regarding the measure is made. Requires community college district to file measure, ballot title, explanatory statement and arguments with the Secretary within a specified timeline. Defines “community college district”.</p> <p> Effective January 1, 2018</p>






ORS Chapter 253





Absent Electors

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
253.575	SB 229	53	Amend	<p>Removes requirement for the county clerk name and official title to appear on the front of the envelope containing the application for a special ballot by a military or overseas elector. Removes elector's statement "has not unnecessarily exhibited the marked ballot to any other person" from the back of the ballot signature envelope for military or overseas ballots.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>

ORS Chapter 254





Conduct of Elections

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
254.095	SB2873	4	Amend	<p>Requires that for each local option tax measure or general obligation bond measure placed on the ballot by a municipal corporation, the county clerk shall file a copy of the statement of the city measures to be voted on, including the ballot title, with the Secretary of State for publication on the electronic filing system.</p> <p> Effective January 1, 2018</p>
254.103	SB2873	5	Amend	<p>Requires that for each local option tax measure or general obligation bond measure placed on the ballot by a municipal corporation, the county clerk shall file a copy of each measure referred by the county governing body with the Secretary of State on the electronic filing system.</p> <p> Effective January 1, 2018</p>
254.115	SB 229	27	Amend	<p>Permits candidates holding more than one office or nomination for district offices to now have their name printed on the primary ballot in more than one place without violating election law under certain circumstances.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
254.135	SB 229	28	Amend	<p>Removes requirement that political party designations for the names of President and Vice President be printed “under” the candidates’ names. Party designation may be printed “with” the candidates’ names. Allows name of candidate to now be printed on general or special election ballot in more than one place where candidate holds more than one office or nomination without violating election law.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
254.431	SB 229	49	Amend	<p>Explains “providing sufficient evidence” to disprove a ballot challenge for an unsigned return identification envelope may include a certified statement signed by the elector and provided by the county clerk in order to count the elector’s ballot. Requires the Secretary to design a standard form to use for certified statements.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
254.470	SB 229	50	Amend	<p>Allows a ballot to be counted, even though unsigned by the elector to whom the ballot is issued, if among other requirements, a certified statement by the elector is submitted to the county elections official.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
254.515	SB 229	4	Amend	<p>Changes ballots formerly marked “Presidential only” to now read “Federal only”.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
254.529	SB 229	42	Amend	<p>Outlines which election contests and the number of ballots the county clerk shall conduct a hand count of ballots for at the general election and describes the method the Secretary shall use to randomly select the precincts or batches. Changes the deadline in which the Secretary must provide notification of the hand count to the 15th business day after the general election. Changes the date the county clerk begins the hand count to not later than the 23rd day after the election.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
254.565	SB 229	31	Amend	<p>Changes the date the city elections officer must canvass the vote on each city measure and proclaim which of measures’ conflicting provisions is paramount to not later than the 40th day.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>







ORS Chapter 255

Special District Elections








ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
255.085	SB 229	29	Amend	<p>Requires district elections authority to include measure ballot title when measure is submitted to the elections officer. Adds requirement for district that submits measure to electors to have district elections officer file measure's ballot title along with measure itself for special district elections.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
255.085	HB 2873	6	Amend	<p>Requires that for each local option tax measure or general obligation bond measure placed on the ballot by a municipal corporation, the elections officer shall file a copy of the notice stating the date of a district election and ballot title with the Secretary of State on the electronic filing system.</p> <p> Effective January 1, 2018</p>
255.145	SB 229	22	Amend	<p>Reduces number of copies of prospective petitions to be referred or initiated which the elections officer sends the district attorney to one copy. Eliminates requirement for district attorney to send a copy of the prospective petition to the elections officer. Allows district attorney to make clerical corrections of ballot title; defines "clerical correction".</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
255.295	SB 229	30	Amend	<p>Changes deadline for district elections authority to determine election results from the 40th day after receiving the abstract to the 40th day from the date of election.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>






ORS Chapter 260

Campaign Finance Regulation, Election Offenses








ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
260.005	HB 2505	1	Amend	<p>Expands the meaning of “communication in support of or in opposition to a clearly identified candidate or measure” within the definition of “independent expenditure”.</p> <p> Effective January 1, 2018</p>
260.007	HB 2505	2	Amend	<p>Revises definition of what is not considered contribution or expenditure to include: nonpartisan activity designed to encourage voting or voter registration, including non-profit 501(c)(3) corporations’ permitted activity, candidate debates/forums for state office and communications publicizing such when all state office major party candidates invited to participate, and certain nonpartisan communications referencing candidates or political parties within applicable time frames.</p> <p> Effective January 1, 2018</p>
260.037	SB 225	1	Amend	<p>Provides that treasurer of political committee or treasurer of petition committee is personally responsible for performance of specified duties. Defaults or violations by individuals designated as alternate transaction filers by the treasurer are considered defaults or violations by treasurer.</p> <p> Effective October 6, 2017.</p>
260.042	SB 225	2	Amend	<p>Allows a treasurer of a political committee to designate an Oregon elector to be liable for civil penalties imposed under ORS 260.232. Requires treasurer to include specific information about the designated elector.</p> <p> Effective October 6, 2017.</p>
260.043	HB 2586	1	Amend	<p>Exempts the fee for a candidate statement in the voter pamphlet from being considered when calculating expected or actual aggregate amount of contributions received or expenditures made.</p> <p> Effective January 1, 2018</p>
260.043	SB 229	33	Amend	<p>Updates candidate \$750 aggregation period from any time following candidacy filing to any time in the calendar year.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>

ORS Chapter 260 (cont.)

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
260.054	SB 229	34	Amend	Changes required deposit date for contributions received by candidates, chief petitioners, or treasurers of petition committees from 7 calendar to 7 business days.  Effective August 18, 2017
260.055	SB 229	35	Amend	Changes requirement for candidates, treasurers of political committees, and treasurers of petition committees to keep detailed accounts current within seven business days, instead of calendar days.  Effective August 18, 2017
260.057	SB 229	36	Amend	Expands who may sign and certify as true the campaign finance statements to include persons who file statements of independent expenditures. Deletes requirement to notify Secretary in writing of the designation of an individual authorized to file campaign finance statements.  Effective August 18, 2017
260.078	SB 229	37	Amend	Requires petition committees that file a campaign finance statement showing initial assets, to list in the statement all contributions and expenditures giving rise to the initial assets.  Effective August 18, 2017
260.118	SB 229	54	Amend	Clarified the period for the treasurer of a recall petition committee to follow 7 day reporting requirements to start on the day on which the recall petition is filed.  Effective August 18, 2017
260.118	SB 225	3	Amend	Allows a treasurer of a petition committee to designate an Oregon elector to be liable for civil penalties. Requires treasurer to include specific information about the designated elector.  Effective October 6, 2017.
260.215	SB 225	1	Amend	Updates subsection numbers based upon other section amendments.  Effective October 6, 2017.

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
260.232	SB 229	38	Amend	<p>Expands notification options for Secretary. If a person fails to file campaign finance statements or certificates timely, the Secretary may notify electronically that a penalty may be imposed. If a person required to file is a candidate or principal campaign committee, the Secretary may send notice to the candidate electronically. Changes 20 day deadline to file a hearing request to begin from the service date on the notice.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
260.232	SB 225	4	Amend	<p>Permits the Secretary of State to notify the elector designated as liable for any civil penalty regarding campaign finance penalty notices.</p> <p> Effective October 6, 2017.</p>
260.241	SB 229	39	Amend	<p>Allows the filing officer to notify the candidate and candidate's treasurer or the treasurer of the candidate's principal campaign committee electronically that candidate's name may not be placed on the general election ballot because campaign finance filing statements or a certificate is not filed before the 61st day before the general election.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
260.407	SB 229	40	Amend	<p>Adds "principal campaign committee of a holder of public office" to those who receive campaign contributions which may or may not be used for specific expense types. Removes requirement for contributions by principal campaign committee of a candidate to be in excess of any amount necessary to defray expenditures and any other funds donated to a holder of public office. Expands uses of campaign contributions received by a candidate or treasurer of a political or petition committee to pay legal expenses for legal proceedings brought under ORS chapters 246 to 260, except for a proceeding under ORS 260.409.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>
260.715	SB 229	41	Amend	<p>Adds an "actual intent" element to the prohibition to offer to sell or purchase any official ballot, return identification envelope, or secrecy envelope.</p> <p> Effective August 18, 2017</p>

Statutes outside Election Law

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
3.012	HB 2605	1	Amend	Increases the number of circuit court positions in the 14 th judicial district (Josephine County) from 4 to 5 and in the 20 th judicial district (Washington County) from 14 to 15.  Effective August 2, 2017
198.425	SB 520	1	Amend	Expands ORS 249.865 and ORS 249.855 to apply to district officer recalls of irrigation districts organized under ORS 545, except as provided in ORS 545.189.  Effective January 1, 2018
198.430	SB 520	2	Amend	Changes where an irrigation district recall petition is filed to now be filed with members of the irrigation district's board of directors who are not subject to the recall petition.  Effective January 1, 2018
204.020	SB 229	1	Amend	Requires a person who has received a certificate of election, before entering elective office, to qualify by filing the oath of office with the county clerk.  Effective August 18, 2017
244.050	HB 2298	1	Amend	Increases the deadline for candidates not required to file statements of economic interest under other subsections to no later than the 40 th day before the date of the statewide general election.  Effective January 1, 2018
294.305 to 294.565	HB2873	2,3	Add and Amend	Requires that if a municipal corporation places a local option tax measure or a general obligation bond measure on the ballot to be voted on by the electors of the corporation, the chief elections officer shall file a copy of materials with the Secretary of State for publication on the electronic filing system.  Effective January 1, 2018
294.311	HB2873	1	Amend	Adds e-filing with the Secretary of State as a method of publishing notice for elections involving local option tax measures or general obligation bond measures.  Effective January 1, 2018

Legislative Referrals

January 23, 2018, Special Election

Measure No.	Bill No.
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To Be Assigned	Pending Referendum of HB 2391. SB 229, Sections 55 to 61 sets election date as January 23, 2018, and provides alternative ballot title, explanatory statement and fiscal impact processes.
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May 15, 2018, Primary Election

Measure No.	Bill No.
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	SB 229, Sections 55 to 61 specifies if a referendum petition is filed on HB 2017 the election shall be held at the May 15, 2018, Primary Election and provides alternative ballot title, explanatory statement and fiscal impact processes. No referendum petition has been filed as of August 14, 2017.
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