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SECRETARY OF STATE

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 165
SECRETARY OF STATE
ELECTIONS DIVISION

FILED

01/16/2026 3:49 PM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILING CAPTION: Outlines the translation requirements for state voters' pamphlet materials submitted under ORS 251.170(3).

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 02/25/2026 5:00 PM

The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

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Filed By:
Coline Benson
Rules Coordinator

HEARING(S)

Auxiliary aids for persons with disabilities are available upon advance request. Notify the contact listed above.

DATE: 02/17/2026

TIME: 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM

OFFICER: Coline Benson

REMOTE HEARING DETAILS

MEETING URL: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

PHONE NUMBER: 503-446-4951

CONFERENCE ID: 27683769978023

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Passcode: L2fd3ZP9

NEED FOR THE RULE(S)

An amendment to this rule is necessary because the current rule is unclear about the information the Secretary of State will translate and the requirements filers must comply with to submit translated statements or arguments. Without the amendments to this rule, the public and filers would not have clear information about the requirements for filing and availability of translated statements. The changes in this rule will require fewer future amendments as statutes change. Amending the rule ensures compliance with the updated statutes, re-organizes the rule for clarity, incorporates statutory references, incorporates grammatical improvements, and ensures uniformity of translations.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE

SB 1014 (2025), available online from the Oregon legislature at oregonlegislature.gov or from the Elections Division.

STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE

This rule promotes racial equity. ORS 251.167 and ORS 251.170 require the translation, posting, and notification of certain county and state voters' pamphlet materials and the filing requirements for translated statements or arguments submitted under ORS 251.170(3). Translation of voters' pamphlets promotes racial equity by providing citizens in Oregon who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English with meaningful access to voter information and to fully exercise their voting rights.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The fiscal and economic impact of the proposed amendments to this rule is expected to be minimal.

COST OF COMPLIANCE:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

1) There may be a minimal economic impact for the Secretary of State, Elections Division to answer questions regarding compliance with this rule, or for other unanticipated reasons.

2) This rule does not regulate small businesses and is not expected to create any economic impact or cost of compliance for them.

DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

Small businesses were not involved in the development of this rule because this rule does not regulate small businesses.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?

A rules advisory committee was not involved in the development of this rule because the fiscal and economic impact and cost of compliance is expected to be minimal.

AMEND: 165-024-0030

RULE SUMMARY: This administrative rule outlines the state voters' pamphlet information the Secretary of State will translate under ORS 251.026, ORS 251.167, and ORS 251.170. The rule outlines certain compliance requirements for translations filed under ORS 251.170(3). The proposed amendments include the addition of statutory references and removal of information and filing requirements which are already outlined in said statutes and in OAR 165-016-0000. The amended rule is also re-organized for clarity.

CHANGES TO RULE:

165-024-0030

Translation of ~~Selected~~ State Voters Pamphlet Materials

(1) This rule governs the required translation of ~~Selected~~ Certain state Vvoters' ~~P~~pamphlet ~~M~~materials by the Secretary of State for all ~~primary, general, and special elections.~~ ¶

~~(2) Elections in which the Secretary of State produces a voters' pamphlet.~~ ¶

(2) Pursuant to ORS 251.167 and ORS 251.170, the Secretary of State shall translate Selected State Vs certain state and county voters' Ppamphlet materials information from English into the State List of Languages and shall most commonly spoken languages in the state and each county other than English and posts the translations publicly on the Secretary of State's website. ¶

(3) ¶ In each state voters' pamphlet, the Secretary of State shall include in the plain language Sstate ~~V~~voters ~~P~~pamphlet a plain language statement concerning ment stating that portions of the pamphlet have been translated and specifying the website address where the translated material may be found. ¶

(a) The statement shall will be provided in English and in each of the State List of Languages. ¶

(b) The statement shall notify the public that portions of languages other than English the Sstate ~~V~~voters ~~P~~'

~~pamphlet have~~will been translated and shall identify where to find the translation into.

~~(e)~~ The statement ~~sh~~will appear in the ~~S~~state ~~V~~oters' ~~P~~pamphlet on the page immediately following the Secretary of State's letter to voters or other similar introductory statement.

~~(d)~~ If the ~~S~~state ~~V~~oters' ~~P~~pamphlet does not include a letter from the Secretary of State or other similar official communication, the statement ~~sh~~will be prominently placed on the page immediately before the ~~T~~able of ~~C~~ontents page of the ~~S~~state ~~V~~oters' ~~P~~pamphlet.

(4) The Secretary of State shall translate the following Selected State Voters' Pamphlet Material into the State List of Languages:

~~(a)~~ State voters' pamphlet general information including:

~~(A)~~ The Secretary of State's letter to voters;

~~(B)~~ Requirements for a citizen to qualify as an elector;

~~(C)~~ Voter registration requirements including qualifications and when to register or update a registration;

~~(D)~~ The right of an elector to request and obtain a second ballot if the first ballot is spoiled; In addition to the information required to be translated under ORS 251.170(2), the Secretary of State will translate the following information into each language other than English the state voters' pamphlet will be translated into:

~~(Ea)~~ Resources for voters with disabilities and the right of an elector to seek assistance in marking the ballot;

~~(F)~~ Maps showing the boundaries of senatorial and representative elections;

~~(G)~~ Voter registration forms;

~~(H)~~ Other information the Secretary of State considers relevant to the conduct of the election;

~~(I)~~ir ballot;

~~(b)~~ Contact information for county elections offices;

~~(J)~~ Information regarding services offered by elections offices;

~~(K)~~ Key dates for the election;

~~(L)~~ How to cast a ballot; and

~~(M)~~ The duties and responsibilities of a precinct committee person to be elected at the primary elections.

~~(b)~~ Statewide ballot measure information including:

~~(A)~~ The ballot title for each statewide measure;

~~(B)~~ The explanatory statement for each measure;

~~(C)~~ The financial estimate for each measure;

~~(D)~~ Any racial or ethnic impact statements prepared under ORS 137.685; and

~~(E)~~ Any statements submitted by a citizen panel Filings of translated statements or arguments submitted under ORS 250.141.

(5) The following people shall have the option to submit their own translated statements or arguments for posting on the Secretary of State's website of translated materials:

~~(a)~~ A federal or statewide candidate may submit their own translated candidate statements. The filer shall be the candidate or the candidate's agent.

~~(b)~~ A filer of arguments in support of or in opposition to a state measure may submit their own translated arguments. The filer shall be the person who will be listed as furnishing the argument in the voters' pamphlet.

~~(c)~~ Committee filers of arguments for a statewide measure prepared by the Legislative Assembly may submit their own translated arguments.

~~(6)~~ Filers of translated statements or arguments shall meet the following requirements:

~~(a)~~ Filers must use 70(3) shall meet the following requirements:

~~(a)~~ The filing must be filed using the electronic filing system adopted by the Secretary of State and all associated forms and procedures under OAR 165-016-0000 to submit statements or arguments.

~~(b)~~ Translations must be accurate and complete. Translations that are not accurate and complete or.

~~(b)~~ Translations must meet the requirements of ORS 251.049, 251.055, 251.085, 251.170, and 251.260 and OAR 165-016-0000. Translations that fail to meet other compliance requirements may be excluded under ORS 251.055.

~~(c)~~ Filers may submit translated statements or arguments in any or all the State List of Languages. Translated statements or arguments shall not be limited in word count.

~~(d)~~ Filers shall bear the cost of said translations for inclusion in state voters' pamphlet on the Secretary of State's website. from the translated pamphlet under ORS 251.055 and OAR 165-016-0000.

~~(6)~~ The filing must be translated prior to being filed and the filers shall bear the cost of said translations.

(7) For counties that do not produce a county voters' pamphlet, the Secretary of State shall translate community college district measures relating to bonding, and metropolitan service district measures, according to ORS 251.285 for inclusion in translated ~~S~~state ~~V~~oters' ~~P~~pamphlet Material. Translations shall be in the most commonly spoken languages other than English for the county or counties in which the measure(s) are to be voted on.

(8) A county may translate any portion of the state voters' pamphlet or accept translations for publication that are

not described in this rule for publication on the County's website.¶

(a) The county shall bear the cost of translations, if applicable, and publishing on the County's website.¶

(b) The county's translations, if any, shall follow ~~OAR 165-024-0020~~ the requirements of OAR 165-024-0020, and shall use the translated terms from the Secretary of State's Translated Elections Glossaries.

Statutory/Other Authority: ~~HB3021, ORS 247.005, ORS 246.150, ORS 251.026, ORS 251.167, ORS 251.170, ORS 251.173, ORS 251.315~~

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 251.026, ORS 251.167, ORS 251.170