



TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & JUSTIFICATION
ELECT 7-2025
CHAPTER 165
SECRETARY OF STATE
ELECTIONS DIVISION

FILED
09/11/2025 11:10 AM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE
& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Defines revised formulas for determining the list of languages for translation of voters' pamphlets.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 09/11/2025 THROUGH 03/09/2026

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 09/11/2025

CONTACT: Coline Benson
503-986-1518
election.sos@sos.oregon.gov

255 Capitol St. NE
ste. 126
Salem, OR 97310

Filed By:
Coline Benson
Rules Coordinator

NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

This rule is needed to define revised formulas for determining the list of languages for translation of voters' pamphlets, implementing SB 1533 and SB1538.

JUSTIFICATION OF TEMPORARY FILING:

The Secretary of State, Elections Division (Agency), finds that the failure to act promptly will result in serious prejudice to the public interest. If the changes aren't in place before State Voters' Pamphlet filing begins, candidates, measure argument filers, and the public might not know about the updated translation requirements. Making the changes effective immediately will help ensure a smooth and transparent filing process. A permanent rulemaking process will follow to accept public input on these changes.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

SB 1538 (2024) and SB 1533 (2024) available online from the Oregon legislature at oregonlegislature.gov or from the Elections Division.

AMEND: 165-024-0015

RULE TITLE: Language Lists for Translation of Selected State and County Voters' Pamphlet Materials

RULE SUMMARY: Defines revised formulas for determining the list of languages for translation of the State Voters' Pamphlet and each county's voters' pamphlet, as amended in SB 1533 (2024) and SB 1538 (2024) and codified in ORS 251.

RULE TEXT:

- (1) This rule defines the process by which the Secretary of State creates lists of languages to be used to translate Selected State and County Voters' Pamphlet Materials.
- (2) The Secretary of State shall use data about state and county populations to determine the Top Five languages in the state and Top Ten languages in each county in Oregon.
- (a) The data sources may include the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) from the United States Census

Bureau, estimates from the Population Resource Center at Portland State University, and other data sources that the Secretary of State determines are available and appropriate.

(b) The data sets obtained from the American Community Survey shall include estimated numbers of people with Limited English Proficiency who self-evaluate their ability to speak English as “less than very well.”

(3) Based on this data, the Secretary of State shall compile the following language lists and make them available on the Secretary of State’s website:

(a) a list of the state’s Top Five Languages and estimated numbers of speakers;

(b) lists of each county’s Top Ten Languages and estimated number of speakers in each county;

(c) the State List of Languages; and

(d) the County Lists of Languages.

(4) The Secretary of State shall update the language lists at least once every five years.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 251.026, 251.167, 251.170, 251.173, 251.315

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 251.026, 251.167, 251.170, 251.173, 251.315, SB 1533 (2024), SB 1538 (2024)