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TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & JUSTIFICATION
ELECT 8-2025
CHAPTER 165
SECRETARY OF STATE
ELECTIONS DIVISION

FILED
09/11/2025 11:12 AM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE
& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Updates the lists of languages for State Voters' Pamphlet translations.

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

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 09/11/2025

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NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

This rule implements legislative mandates found in SB 1538 (2024) and SB 1533 (2024). The changes in SB 1538 and 1533 are in effect, and impact State Voters' Pamphlet filings for the 2026 Primary and General Elections beginning September 11, 2025. Candidates and measure argument filers for the 2026 Primary Election need to be aware of the languages for which translations may now be filed to accompany statements and arguments. The rule needs to be in effect by the first day to file.

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 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: 165-024-0030

RULE TITLE: Translation of Selected State Voters' Pamphlet Materials

RULE SUMMARY: This rule governs the required translation of selected State Voters' Pamphlet Materials by the Secretary of State for all primary, general, and state special elections into lists of languages amended through SB 1538 (2024), SB 1533 (2024) and requires counties to use the Secretary of State Translated Elections Glossaries when producing their own translations.

RULE TEXT:

(1) This rule governs the required translation of Selected State Voters' Pamphlet Materials by the Secretary of State for

all primary, general, and special elections.

(2) The Secretary of State shall translate Selected State Voters' Pamphlet materials from English into the State List of Languages and shall post the translations publicly on the Secretary of State's website.

(3) The Secretary of State shall include in the State Voters Pamphlet a plain language statement concerning translated material.

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

(b) The statement shall notify the public that portions of the State Voters Pamphlet have been translated and shall identify where to find the translation.

(c) The statement shall appear in the State Voters' Pamphlet on the page immediately following the Secretary of State's letter to voters or other similar introductory statement.

(d) If the State Voters' Pamphlet does not include a letter from the Secretary of State or other similar official communication, the statement shall be prominently placed on the page immediately before the Table of Contents page of the State Voters' 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;

(E) 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) 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 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.

(d) Political Parties may submit their own translated statement for General Election that argues for the success of its principles and the election of its candidates on a statewide or county basis or opposes the principles and candidates of other political parties or organizations on a statewide or county basis.

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

- (a) Filers must use 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 meet requirements of ORS 251.049, 251.055, 251.085, 251.170, and 251.260 and and OAR 165-016-0000. Translations that fail to meet compliance requirements may be excluded under ORS 251.055 and OAR 165-016-0000.
- (c) Filers may submit translated statements or arguments in of the list of languages defined in ORS 251.167 and in ORS 251.170. 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.
- (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 State Voters' Pamphlet Material. Translations shall be in the County List of Languages.
- (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 and shall use the translated terms from the Secretary of State Translated Elections Glossaries for the County List of Languages

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 1538 (2024), SB 1533 (2024)