

2024 Synopsis of Oregon Election Laws

Laws enacted by the 82nd Legislative Assembly during the 2024 Regular Session.
Synopsis compiled by the Secretary of State, Elections Division.



Secretary of State

Elections Division Rev. 8/2024

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House Bills

Bill No.	Summary	Page
HB 4019	Updates date and processes related to the convening of presidential electors in Oregon. HB 4019 is effective on June 6, 2024.	5
HB 4024	Relating to campaign finance disclosures and enforcement: - Establishes campaign finance contribution limits and creates new disclosure provisions, updates associated penalties; - Adjusts disclosure requirements for political communications; - Requires creation of a web-based dashboard to enhance transparency; - Modifies deadlines for incumbent candidates to file nominating petitions or declaration of candidacy. HB 4024 is effective on June 6, 2024, but most provisions are not operative until 2027 and 2028.	8

Senate Bills

Bill No.	Summary	Page
SB 1533	Increases the number of languages that state and county voters' pamphlets must be translated into. SB 1533 is effective on January 1, 2025.	6
SB 1538	Relating to election administration: - Clarifies filing processes relating to translated voters' pamphlets; - Removes duplicate public certification test of tally systems; - Changes the number of voter registration cards a person may request; - Increases threshold requiring establishment of candidate committee; - Increases threshold requiring filing of campaign finance transactions; - Allows political committees to use campaign funds to pay certain civil penalties imposed by local jurisdictions; - Allows political committees to use campaign funds to pay for legal expenses incurred in connection with certain legal proceedings; - Prescribes ballot title and explanatory statements process for legislative referrals passed during the 2024 Legislative Session. SB 1538 is effective on March 27, 2024, but some provisions are not operative until January 1, 2025.	4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
SB 1541	Increases the number of circuit court judge positions in three districts. Effective July 1, 2024.	10
SB 1571	Requires disclosure of synthetic media in campaign communications. Effective March 27, 2024.	8

ORS Chapter 247

Qualification and Registration of Electors

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
247	SB 1538	5	Amend	Changes the number of voter registration cards a person may request from 5,000 per person to 500. Requires Secretary of State to promulgate administrative rules describing the instances in which the Secretary will honor requests of more than 500 cards. Effective March 27, 2024.

ORS Chapter 248

Political Parties; Presidential Electors

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
248.370	HB 4019	1	Amend	Establishes date for presidential electors to convene and establishes an oath of office for electors. Requires Secretary of State to preside over the convening of presidential electors and to act on their behalf for any duties placed on them under federal or state law. Requires issuance of certificate of ascertainment of appointment and clarifies process to fill elector vacancies. Effective June 6, 2024.

ORS Chapter 251

Voters' Pamphlet

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
251	SB 1533	1 - 5	Amend	Increases the number of the most commonly spoken languages that state and county voters' pamphlets must be translated into from the top five languages to the top 10. Increases the number of councilmembers on the Translation Advisory Council. Increases the number of people required to speak the language for the language to qualify as a top 10 language from 100 people to 300 people. Effective January 1, 2025 and applied to voters' pamphlets distributed on or after January 31, 2025.
251.170	SB 1538	1	Amend	Clarifies that translated statements may be filed by a candidate or their agent. Allows candidates to submit statements translated into the most commonly spoken languages in the counties the office represents, instead of only the most commonly spoken languages in the state. Allows filers to submit certain measure arguments translated into the most commonly spoken languages in the county in which the measure will be voted on instead of only the most common spoken languages in the state. Effective March 27, 2024.
251.315	SB 1538	2	Amend	Clarifies that voters' pamphlets produced by counties typically contain a letter from the county clerk, filing office or other public election official instead of a letter from the Secretary of State. Effective March 27, 2024.

ORS Chapter 254

Conduct of Elections

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
254.485	SB 1538	3 & 4	Amend	Removes the requirement for a duplicate public certification test of a vote tally system. Public certification tests of vote tally systems are required pursuant to ORS 260.235. The amendments made by SB 1538 remove the requirement for a duplicate public certification test. Effective March 27, 2024.
254.555	SB 1538	6	Amend	Allows the Secretary of State to issue a certificate of ascertainment of presidential electors to conform with federal law. Effective March 27, 2024.

ORS Chapter 260

Campaign Finance Regulations; Election Offenses

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
260	HB 4024	All	Add & Amend	Establishes campaign finance contribution limits and creates new disclosures provisions; Establishes new committee types/definitions and updates associated penalties. Adjusts disclosure requirements for political communications. Requires the Secretary of State to commence investigations within 30 days of receiving a complaint and issue a finding within 60 days; allows complainants to request administrative hearings for certain alleged violations. Requires creation of a web-based dashboard to enhance transparency and requires modernization of online filing system. Establishes Campaign Finance Education Fund for the Secretary of State to provide campaign finance voter education and technical assistance to filers. Modifies deadlines for incumbent candidates to file nominating petitions or declaration of candidacy. HB 4024 is effective on June 6, 2024, but most provisions are not operative until 2027 and 2028.
260	SB 1571	1 - 3		Requires campaign communications to disclose use of synthetic media. Allows the Secretary of State or, in some instances, the Attorney General, to investigate alleged violations and to institute proceedings for violations of the disclosure requirements. Allows the court to impose civil penalties up to \$10,000 for violations. Effective March 27, 2024.
260.043	SB 1538	7	Amend	Increases threshold requiring the establishment of a candidate committee from \$750 to \$1,500. To be exempt from the requirement to establish a candidate committee the candidate must serve as their own treasurer, must not have an existing candidate committee, and must not plan to spend or receive more than \$1,500 in the calendar year. Effective January 1, 2025.

ORS Chapter 260 (continued)

Campaign Finance Regulations; Election Offenses

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
260.112	SB 1538	8	Amend	Increases threshold requiring filing of detailed campaign finance transactions from \$3,500 to \$5,000. To be exempt from the requirement to file detailed campaign finance transactions a committee must file a Certificate of Limited Contributions and Expenditures stating that they do not plan to spend or receive more than \$5,000 in the calendar year. Effective January 1, 2025.
260.407	SB 1538	9	Amend	Allows political committees to use campaign funds to pay civil penalties imposed for campaign finance violations by a county or city charter or ordinance. Committees are still prohibited from using campaign funds to pay civil penalties associated with a “personal use” violation of state law or an equivalent provision of a county or city charter or ordinance. Allows political committees to use campaign funds to pay for legal expenses incurred in connection with a legal proceeding brought under ORS chapters 246 - 260 or a campaign finance provision of a county or city charter or ordinance. Committees are still prohibited from using campaign funds to pay for legal expenses incurred in connection with a “personal use” proceeding under state law or an equivalent provision of a county or city charter or ordinance. Effective March 27, 2024.

Statutes Outside Election Law

ORS	Bill No.	Section	Action	Synopsis
3.012	SB 1541	1	Amend	Increases the number of circuit court judge positions in the 1 st Judicial District (Jackson County) from ten to eleven. Increases the number of circuit court judge positions in the 20 th Judicial District (Washington County) from fifteen to sixteen. Effective July 1, 2024.
3.012	SB 1541	1	Amend	Increases the number of circuit court judge positions in the 5 th Judicial District (Clackamas County) from eleven to twelve. Effective July 1, 2025.

Related To Election Administration

Bill No.	Synopsis
SB 1538, Section 11	Prescribes process for creating ballot title and explanatory statements for legislative referrals passed during the 2024 Legislative Session. Effective March 27, 2024.