



Oregon Secretary of State Glossary of Election Terminology



Oregon Secretary of State
Elections Division

vote!

Contents

Purpose & Acknowledgements	3
Glossary of Election Terminology	4
A.....	4
B.....	6
C	8
D	15
E.....	18
F.....	20
G	22
H	23
I.....	24
J	25
L	25
M.....	27
N	29
O	30
P.....	34
Q.....	37
R	38
S.....	40
T.....	44
U	45
V.....	46
W.....	49
X.....	50
Y.....	50
Z.....	50

Purpose & Acknowledgements

Accessible voting materials in voters' languages improve government transparency and support more active voter participation. In 2021, the Oregon Legislature passed the Voter Language Access Bill (HB 3021) to remove barriers to voting for those who are not fully proficient in English. The law, codified in Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 251, centralized statewide election translation services in the Secretary of State's office and requires the Secretary of State to translate portions of state and county voters' pamphlets into Oregon's most spoken languages.

To help in this effort, the Secretary of State's [Translation Advisory Council](#) was created. The Council is made up of volunteer community members who represent the ethnic, linguistic, and cultural diversity of Oregon voters. Council members review voters' pamphlet translations before each election to make sure translations are accurate and retain the original tone and meaning in a culturally appropriate manner.

The Translation Advisory Council, translators, the Oregon Secretary of State's Election Division, and county bilingual elections staff collaborated to adapt the [U.S. Election Assistance Commission's](#) multilingual Glossary of Key Election Terminology to Oregon's elections terminology and procedures. Translated glossaries for each language of translation provide consistency across all translated materials regardless of the translator.

The Oregon Secretary of State asks contractors, vendors, county elections officials, and Council reviewers to use this Oregon Secretary of State Translated Glossary of Elections Terminology and the accompanying Oregon Secretary of State Style Guide when providing translated elections materials.

The Secretary thanks and acknowledges the [U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#) for providing their invaluable resources, the Multnomah County Elections Office for their mentorship and sharing their [Multnomah County Elections Definitions](#), the [Los Angeles County translated Elections Glossaries](#), and collaboration with the staff at King County, WA Elections Office for sharing their translated Elections Glossaries. The Oregon Secretary of State translated glossary will serve as an invaluable resource for translators and reviewers of translations and ensure uniformity across the state.

Glossary of Election Terminology

A

Absentee Ballot

A ballot cast by a registered voter who will be away from their home address during an election including a voter living abroad, serving in the military, traveling, or attending school.

Absentee Ballot Request Form

A form used by a voter to request an absentee ballot.

Absentee Mail Process

A series of actions or steps taken when voting using an absentee ballot.

Absentee Vote

A vote cast using an absentee ballot.

Absentee Voter

A voter who uses an absentee ballot to vote.

Absentee Voter Status

A term used by election officials when determining whether a voter is eligible for, applied for, or voted using an absentee ballot.

Accessibility

Measurable characteristics that indicate the degree to which a system is available to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities. The most common disabilities include those associated with vision, hearing, mobility, and cognitive disabilities.

Accessible Resources

Tools to increase access for individuals with disabilities or limited English proficiency, including assistive technology, alternate format ballots, assistance from county assistance teams, signature stamps, audio materials, videos, and translations, among others.

Active Registered Voter

A voter whose record is current with the appropriate election authority and is eligible to vote.

Active Status

A term used by election officials when a voter's record shows that the voter is eligible to vote.

Address Confidentiality Program (ACP)

A service to assist survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking to shield their address from public records.

Adjudicate

To make an official decision about who is right in a dispute.

Affiliated Voter

A voter currently registered to vote with a recognized political party.

Affiliation

Voters registering to vote and formally associating themselves with a recognized political party.

Alternate Format Ballot (AFB)

A ballot provided by election officials to serve voters who are unable to use a standard printed ballot to vote privately and independently.

Amendment

A change to the U.S. Constitution or the constitution of a state. Voters must approve changes to a constitution.

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

A federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life and all public and private places that are open to the general public.

Annexation

To extend the boundaries of a city to include territory that is not within a city and that is contiguous to the city and which affects the rate of taxation on property in the annexed territory.

Application

An official request for something in writing or by submitting a form.

Appointed

Officially chosen or given a role, job, responsibility, or position.

Argument

A written statement agreeing or disagreeing with a proposed measure.

Assistance to Vote

Voters with disabilities are allowed assistance from a person of their choice with limited exceptions.

Assistive Technology

An item used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities.

At Large

The whole membership or population rather than a subset.

Attorney General

An elected, state-level, partisan officer who is responsible for providing legal representation to the Oregon state government and running justice programs related to child support, district attorney assistance, crime victims, and consumer protections.

Audio Format

A format where information is communicated through sounds and speech.

Audit

(1) A systematic, independent documented process for determining the extent to which specified requirements are fulfilled. (2) A review of a system and its controls to determine its operational status and the accuracy of its outputs.

Automatic Voter Registration

An automatic, nonaffiliated voter registration process through qualifying interactions at the Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (DMV).

B

Ballot

A paper form with contests (a list of candidates for office) and ballot measures (proposed laws or amendments) that voters mark to make choices. What contests are on each voter's ballot depends on where that voter lives (which jurisdictions and districts the voter lives in).

Ballot Drop Box

An official, locked container, either indoors or outdoors, where voters can return a ballot for collection.

Ballot Drop Sites

An official ballot collection location with a ballot drop box for voters to cast their ballot.

Ballot Envelope

Official envelopes used to transport or enclose ballots.

Ballot Initiative

A measure or bill proposed by voters to create a law, a local ordinance, a change to the State Constitution, or to adopt or reject a bill passed by the Oregon Legislature. Once on the ballot, it is approved or rejected by voters.

Ballot Measure

A question that appears on the ballot for a proposed law, act, or part of an act of the Legislative Assembly, or a revision of or amendment to the Oregon Constitution.

Ballot Packet

Information mailed to voters which may include a ballot, envelope, and voting information, among others.

Ballot Return Envelope

An official envelope to return a voted ballot signed by the voter.

Ballot Secrecy

A set of rules and procedures to ensure the fundamental right of voters in the United States to cast a secret ballot. These procedures ensure that no ballot can be associated with a voter, thereby allowing voters to mark their ballots freely and without fear of repercussion or reprisal.

Ballot Title

The official short summary of a ballot measure that appears on a ballot, which consists of a caption, the question to voters, and a summary of the measure and its major effects.

Biennium

A specified period of two years.

Bilingual Requirements

Federal laws and regulations that determine which election materials need to be available in languages other than English.

Bill

A measure that, if passed, creates new law, amends, or repeals existing law, or takes other action.

Bill of Rights

A set of legal and constitutional protections ensuring the opportunity to vote in free and fair elections. In Oregon, these are called the Oregon Voter Bill of Rights.

Blind

Having very limited or lack of vision.

Board of Canvassers

An official group following specific rules and procedures to compile, review, and validate election materials.

Board of Commissioners

The governing body of a county consisting of members elected by the voters.

Bond

A debt obligation issued by jurisdictions to fund major capital improvement projects over time. Bonds are generally repaid through property taxes. The financial impact of a bond election will vary from resident to resident based on property values and the number of bonds issues.

Bond Election

An election where a proposal to allow a state or local government to approve additional spending in which a debt and obligation are repaid with interest appears on the ballot for voters to decide.

Bond Issue

A proposal to allow a state or local government to approve additional spending in which a debt and obligation are repaid with interest.

Bond Measure

A question that appears on the ballot proposing additional spending through the use of a bond.

Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI)

State agency which protects employment rights, advances employment opportunities, and protects access to housing and public accommodations free from discrimination.

C

Campaign

A series of democratic activities to influence a political vote for or against candidates or ballot questions.

Campaign Finance

The act of raising and spending funds for political purposes.

Campaign Finance Disclosure

The act of reporting campaign contributions and expenditures.

Campaign Finance Disclosure Statements

Required reports that detail political contributions and expenditures.

Campaign Finance Reporting Requirements

A set of requirements that detail the rules and regulations for raising and spending funds and contributions for political purposes.

Candidacy

The state of being a candidate.

Candidate

A person running for elected office.

Candidate Statement

A candidate-provided written summary of information about a candidate for public office for the purposes of influencing voters.

Candidate Withdrawal

A person files to be a candidate for office but later withdraws their filing and will not appear on the final ballot.

Canvass

(1) To reconcile every ballot cast and counted, including ballots received, accepted, rejected, provisional, challenged, and accounting for all ballots submitted by uniformed military and overseas citizen voters. (2) To solicit votes or political support.

Cast

The final action a voter takes in selecting contest options and irrevocably confirming their intent to vote as selected.

Cast Ballot

A ballot on which a voter has selected their contest options to vote and which they have submitted in an official ballot box or drop box.

Caucus (noun)

A group of people who share something in common, such as the same political party, area of the state, or something else.

Caucus (verb)

To meet with a local party or group to address policy questions and select political candidates for office or political party leaders.

Certification

Procedure by which a third party gives written assurance that a product, process, or service conforms to specified requirements.

Certification of Election

A written statement attesting that the tabulation and canvassing of the election is complete and accurate.

Certification of Official Election Results

A written statement attesting that the election results are a true and accurate accounting of all votes cast in a particular election.

Certified Ballot

A ballot that has been certified by the county clerk through the ballot counting process.

Certified Election Results

Final vote tallies that have been attested as true and accurate by the official responsible for confirming their accuracy.

Certify

The act of a third party giving written assurance that a product, process, or service conforms to specified requirements.

Chair

A person chosen to lead meetings of groups, boards, commissions, or councils, usually through an election of members.

Challenged Ballot

A ballot that is held for further research because there is a question about whether it should be counted.

Challenged Voter

A voter whose eligibility to cast a ballot has been questioned.

Change of Address

The act of a voter re-registering to vote to update their residence or mailing address.

Charter

A legal document that creates and sets rules for a municipal or local districts. Oregon is a home rule state which means that incorporated municipalities can make limited rules that have the force of law. Document by a legislative authority, such as a city or county, that defines the laws and regulations of that body.

Check the Box

The act of marking a vote on a ballot.

Checks and Balances

A system that allows each branch of government to amend, override, or veto acts of another branch to prevent any one branch from exerting too much power or power beyond its authority.

Chief Election Officer

The Oregon Secretary of State is the official responsible for overseeing elections in Oregon.

Chief State Election Officer

The official responsible for overseeing elections in a state.

Circuit Court

Oregon general jurisdiction trial courts in judicial districts that decide all types of civil and criminal cases.

Circuit Court Judge

Oregon nonpartisan elected officials in judicial districts, adjudicating on legal matters in the state system of trial courts.

Circulate

The act of attempting to gather signatures from voters for initiatives, referendums, or candidates.

Citizen

A person who, by place of birth, nationality of one or both parents, or naturalization is granted full rights and responsibilities as a member of a nation or political community.

Citizen Initiatives

The procedure and process by which citizens can propose a law directly to a governing body.

City

An incorporated local government body within a state.

City Charter

A written document by a city that defines the laws and regulations of that body.

City Council

The governing body of a city consisting of members elected by voters.

City Councilor

City Council members elected to represent city residents, often by geographic voting districts.

City Hall

A building used as offices by people working for a city government.

City Ordinance

A law passed by a city.

Clerk

An official responsible for administering an election or an election process.

Close of Registration

The last day that a citizen can register to vote or update their voter registration before an election.

Closed Primary

Major political parties in Oregon hold closed primary elections to choose candidates to represent them in general elections. Oregon law allows major political parties to decide whether to hold open or closed primary elections. In a closed party election, only voters who are registered with the major political party can vote for the candidates in that party's primary. Voters receive a ballot listing only those candidates running for office in the major political party with which the voters are affiliated, along with nonpartisan races and ballot measures. Voters not registered with a major political party receive a ballot listing only nonpartisan candidate races and ballot measures in a closed party primary election.

Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries

Nonpartisan, Oregon statewide elected official who oversees work to protect employment rights, advances employment opportunities, and protects access to housing and public accommodations.

Committee

A small group of people chosen to represent a larger organization and either make decisions or collect information for it.

Community College District

Two-year, public schools that provide postsecondary education with an elected board. Community colleges are sometimes called junior colleges.

Community Outreach

Programs and voter materials to remove barriers to voting, often through partnering with community-based organizations and attendance at community events.

Compression

To reduce property taxes on accounts whose taxes exceed tax limitations.

Conduct an Election

The act of managing, running, and overseeing an election.

Congressional District

A political subdivision for the purpose of electing U.S. representatives. Oregon has six Congressional districts.

Constituent

A voter or resident in a district that an elected official represents.

Constitution

The basic principles and laws of a nation, state, or social group that determine the powers and duties of the government and guarantee certain rights to the people in it.

Constitution (political party)

A minor political party in Oregon.

Contest

(1) One or more decisions being put before voters, such as candidates for public office, approval or disapproval of a constitutional amendment. These decisions are sometimes called “race,” “question,” or “issue.” (2) A legal challenge of an election outcome.

Contested Races

An election contest with more candidates than there are vacancies for that election.

Count

(1) Process of totaling votes. (2) The number representing the result of totaling numbers of votes.

County

One of 36 political and administrative divisions of Oregon, providing certain local government services and governed by boards of commissioners or county court.

County Clerk

County official responsible for administering an election or an election process.

County Commission

The governing body of a county consisting of members elected by the voters.

County Courthouse

A county building used for offices and courtrooms.

County District Attorney

Nonpartisan, elected state or county official providing legal representation of the public in criminal matters by filing and pressing criminal charges and seeking justice for crime victims.

County Election Office

County elections offices are responsible for mailing ballots and registering voters, among other duties.

County Election Officer

An official who is responsible for election administration for a county.

County Election Precinct

Election administrative division corresponding to a geographic area that is the basis for determining which contests the voters legally residing in that area are eligible to vote on.

County of Residence

The county in a state in which, at the time a person receives services, the person is living and has established an ongoing presence for a permanent or indefinite period of time.

County Measure

A law, issue, or question that appears on a ballot for voters of a county to decide.

County Special District

A political subdivision of a county established to provide a single public service (such as water supply or sanitation) within a specific geographic area.

County Voters' Pamphlet

A written document mailed at the direction of a county elections official to county residents for the purposes of providing information about the election such as election dates and deadlines, instructions for voting, and information about candidates and measures.

Court of Appeals

A statewide court hearing appeals from the circuit courts and administrative agency decisions.

Court of Appeals Judge

Nonpartisan, statewide elected official adjudicating in the first level of appeal following Oregon circuit court trials and administrative agency decisions.

Culturally Responsive

Identifying, nurturing, and using community customs, norms, and values, usually through direct experience in a culture, and appropriately expressing and reflecting those to meet the intended audience's needs.

Curbside Drop Box

A voter can cast a ballot in a ballot drop box while in a vehicle.

Current Resident Address

The address where a person is currently living and may be different than a mailing address.

Cybersecurity

Measures taken to protect computer systems and data from attack and unauthorized access or use.

D

Damaged Ballot

A ballot that has been torn, bent, or otherwise mutilated or rendered unreadable such that it cannot be processed.

Deadline

The last day or time to complete actions for a specific election or election processes.

Deaf

To have a hearing loss so severe that there is very little or no functional hearing.

Declaration of Candidacy

The act of completing the required paperwork to become a candidate for public office.

Defective Ballot

A ballot that has been torn, defaced, or marked in a way that it cannot be tabulated by a scanner.

Delegate

An authorized person chosen to represent each state at a political party's convention.

Democracy

A government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections.

Democratic (political party)

A major political party in Oregon.

Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

Central administrative agency of Oregon state government which works to implement the policy and financial decisions made by the Governor and the Legislature and ensure accountability of state government. The agency also oversees internet technology investments and cyber security services under the direction of the DAS Chief Information Officer.

Department of Human Services (DHS)

State agency which provides services through programs serving the elderly, individuals with disabilities, families and children, victims of domestic violence, refugees, and youth who are experiencing homelessness among others.

Department of Revenue (DOR)

State agency which administers Oregon tax laws, processes revenue, and acts as the central debt collection agency for other state agencies, boards, commissions, and local governments.

Department of Transportation (ODOT)

State agency that provides transportation systems through programs related to Oregon's system of highways, roads, and bridges; railways; public transportation services; transportation safety programs; driver and vehicle licensing (DMV); and motor carrier regulation.

Director of Elections

The head of the Oregon Elections Division in the Secretary of State's office charged with overseeing elections.

Disability

With respect to an individual and defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): (1) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual; (2) a record of such impairment; (3) being regarded as having such an impairment.

Disability Rights Oregon

A non-profit advocacy organization that ensures people with disabilities can readily access public resources through legal advocacy.

Disabled

An individual defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment.

Disabled Voters

Voters that may require assistance during the election process to interact with systems not designed using universal design.

Disclaimer

Public notice that voter pamphlet information paid for and submitted by a candidate, a political party, an assembly of electors, or a person supporting or opposing a measure to influence voting was not verified for accuracy by the state or county.

Discrimination

Unequal treatment.

District

A geographical area that elected official serves or represents. There are many different and overlapping special-districts (community college, school, water, fire, library, transportation, soil and water, and other districts).

District Map

The official map of the district boundaries and the areas within the district.

District Office

An office of the federal, state, or local government that is not voted on statewide.

Drive-through Ballot Drop Box

To use a vehicle to access the ballot drop box.

Drive-through Drop Box

To use a vehicle to access the ballot drop box.

Drive-up Ballot Drop Access

To use a vehicle to access the ballot drop box.

Drive-up Ballot Drop Box

To use a vehicle to access the ballot drop box.

Drive-up Drop Box

To use a vehicle to access the ballot drop box.

Drop Box

A locked container where voters can return a ballot for collection by an election official. It may be located at various local neighborhood sites for the convenience of voters.

Drop Site

An official location for a drop box or other official ballot collection location.

Drop Site Locator

An online tool to search for official locations of drop boxes in Oregon.

Duplicate Ballot

A blank ballot onto which original votes are copied exactly for the purposes of counting when the original ballot is damaged or is not machine-readable and cannot be enhanced.

E

Easy Voting Guide

A nonpartisan voting guide published by Disability Rights Oregon for people with disabilities.

Education Service District (ESD)

A regional education agency providing various school districts with a wide array of educational programs and services, many of which are too costly or limited in demand for a single location. Elected boards govern ESDs.

Elect

The act of choosing a person to hold public office through a public election.

Elected Officials

Individuals who have been elected to hold public office or candidates appointed in lieu of being elected to a public office.

Election

A formal process of selecting a person for public office or of accepting or rejecting a political proposition by voting.

Election Assistance Commission (EAC)

The Election Assistance Commission was created by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to assist the states in improving elections administration and security and administer a national clearinghouse on shared practices, information for voters, and other resources.

Election Calendar

The official list of key dates and voting deadlines for an election.

Election Day

The last day on which voters may cast a ballot.

Election Equipment Testing

Procedures to examine the readiness and legal compliance of election hardware, software, or other materials prior to conducting elections.

Election Integrity

An election that is professional, impartial, and transparent in its preparation and administration throughout the electoral cycle.

Election Law

The official laws that govern the electoral process.

Election Materials

Items to assist voters and conduct an election.

Election Office

A government department that is responsible for overseeing or administering elections.

Election Officer

An official responsible for administering an election or an election process.

Election Results

Unofficial reports of the outcome of an election appearing in media reports on election night that are preliminary.

Election Security

Detailed processes and procedures in place to identify improvements and to develop contingency plans to ensure systems and votes are secure.

Elections Director

The head of the Oregon Elections Division in the Secretary of State's office charged with overseeing elections.

Elections Division

The department of Oregon state government in the Secretary of State's office charged with overseeing elections.

Elections Officials

The people associated with administering and conducting elections.

Elective Office

An office that is filled primarily or exclusively via election.

Elector

(1) An individual qualified to vote in an election. (2) A person appointed by a state in the U.S. to vote for president and vice president in the electoral college.

Electoral College

A federal body of people representing the states of the U.S. who formally cast votes for the election of the president and vice president.

Electoral Votes

Votes cast by members of the electoral college.

Electorate

All the people in a political jurisdiction who are entitled to vote in an election.

Elementary School

Primary school usually encompassing grades one through five or six.

Eligibility for Office

Meeting all of the legal requirements to hold a public office.

Eligible

Having the necessary qualities or fulfilling the necessary conditions.

Eligible to Vote

A person who meets the requirements to vote.

Endorsement

An act of giving one's public approval or support to someone or something, such as a candidate for public office or a ballot measure question.

Estimate of Financial Impact

An analysis of a measure's financial effect on state, local or tribal government expenditures, revenues, or indebtedness.

Explanatory Statement

An impartial statement explaining a ballot measure.

F

Federal

Relating to a central government, not a state or local government.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

An intelligence-driven national security organization with both intelligence and law enforcement responsibilities.

Federal Candidate

An individual running for nomination or election to a partisan federal office, including U.S. President, U.S. Vice President, U.S. Senator, and U.S. Representative.

Federal Election

Any primary, general, runoff, or special election in which a candidate for federal office appears on the ballot.

Federal Election Commission (FEC)

Independent agency responsible for administering and enforcing laws that cover federal election campaigns.

Federal Office

An elected federal-level position that includes U.S. President, U. S. Vice President, member of the U.S. Senate, or member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Federal Voting Rights Act

Federal legislation that prohibits racial discrimination in voting.

Filing Petitions

Formally submitting a petition to the governing authority.

Fill in The Oval

The act of making a mark on a ballot by filling in the shape to demonstrate one's voting choice.

Financial Impact

An analysis of a measure's financial effect on state, local or tribal government expenditures, revenues, or indebtedness.

Fire District / Fire Protection District

A geographical unit of local government given the task of providing fire suppression and emergency medical service to residents of the district community. Elected boards govern these districts.

First-class postage

The United State Postal Service service fee for regular mail with priority delivery within 1-5 business days.

Fiscal Statement

An analysis of a bill by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office that estimates future costs resulting from the passage of a bill.

Forensic Handwriting Analysis

An analysis of side-by-side known writing samples for the purpose of verifying signatures.

Forms of Identification

Means of proving a person's identity, especially in the form of official papers. Common examples include driver's licenses, DMV-issued identification cards, passports, and other government- issued documents.

Forwardable

U.S. Postal Service mail which can redirected to a new address.

Fraud

The misrepresentation or alteration of the true results of an election.

Fraudulent Activity

Actions that misrepresent or are unlawful.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

A document that provides answers to a list of typical questions that users might ask regarding a particular subject.

Fundraising

To seek financial support for a political candidate, campaign, or organization for the purpose of influencing an electoral outcome.

G

General Election

A statewide election that is held so that registered voters can decide state and national officials who will head the government.

General Fund

(1) State government general fund is a fiscal appropriation for agencies' general public purposes, largely from personal and corporate income taxes. These are separate from lottery funds, federal funds, and other funds. (2) Local government general funds are the budgeted funds for general and operations expenditures at the local level. General funds are separate from special revenue funds such as capital improvement project funds, debt service funds, etc.

General Obligation Bond

A debt obligation issued by jurisdictions to fund major capital improvement projects over time through property taxes. These bonds are not subject to Oregon Constitutional tax limits.

Governor

A constitutionally established partisan officer holding chief executive powers of the State.

Gubernatorial

Relating to a state governor or the office of state governor.

**Hand Count**

Counting ballot sheets or selections on ballot sheets by human examination.

Hard of Hearing

Refers to a hearing loss where there may be enough residual hearing that an auditory device may provide aid.

Hearing

An opportunity to state one's case through a formal administrative process.

Hearing Impaired

To have any degree of hearing loss, from mild to profound including deafness and being hard of hearing.

Help America Vote Act Of 2002 (HAVA)

Act passed by the U.S. Congress to make reforms to the nation's voting process.

High School

A school attended after elementary school and middle school consisting of grades 9 through 12.

Hold Elections

The term used when government authorities administer elections.

Hold Office

A term used to describe an individual who has been sworn into public office and is currently serving in the position.

Home Rule

The right of the people in cities or other local districts to set up and change their own governmental structure.

Homeless

Persons who do not have a fixed habitation.

House of Representatives

The lower house of the United States Congress or Oregon State Legislature.

House Seat

Region from which voting representatives are elected to the U.S. House of Representatives or State House of Representatives.

Houseless

Persons who do not have a fixed habitation.

HTML Ballot

Ballots marked using assistive technology then printed and returned.

**Incumbent**

A candidate who is currently holding an office.

Independent (Political Party)

A minor political party in Oregon.

Independent Candidates

Any candidate who claims not to be affiliated with a political party.

Indicator

The space provided next to the name of each candidate and ballot question choice, to be used for marking a vote.

Initiative

Voters ask to place proposed laws or local ordinances, or changes to the State Constitution, on the election ballot via petition.

Initiative Petition

A voter-driven petition to place proposed laws, local ordinances, or constitutional amendments on the ballot through gathering signatures.

Interpreter

A person who processes a spoken message in one language and accurately and completely renders it into another spoken language.

Issue

To give something to someone in an official manner.

Issue (To Issue a Vote)

When an official authority gives a voter a ballot to vote.

J

Judge

A nonpartisan elected official in an Oregon judicial district adjudicating on legal matters in the state system of trial courts.

Judge of the Oregon Tax Court

A nonpartisan elected official adjudicating on legal matters related to state tax laws.

Judicial District

State districts with elected circuit court judges.

Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court

One of seven nonpartisan judges elected to the Supreme Court to interpret Oregon law by discretionary review of appeals from the Court of Appeals and direct review of original jurisdiction cases.

L

Language Assistance

Tools to increase access for individuals with limited English proficiency, including translated materials and use of interpreters and bilingual staff, among others. The Voting Rights Act (VRA) outlaws literacy- and language-based voting qualifications or prerequisites.

Large Print Ballot

A ballot designed to have a larger print, making it easier to read.

Law Enforcement

Members of government who act to enforce the law by discovering, deterring, rehabilitating, or punishing people who violate the rules and norms governing that society.

Lawful Permanent Resident

Non-citizens who are authorized by law to live permanently within the United States.

Legislative Committee

A small group of appointed legislators from both political parties to consider bills and make recommendations to the full Senate or House.

Legislative Fiscal Office

A nonpartisan legislative service agency that provides research, analysis and recommendations on the state's 2-year biennial budget and prepares fiscal impact statements on legislative measures for legislators and legislative committees.

Legislative Initiative Amendment

A ballot measure that proposes to amend a law.

Legislative Referral

A measure on statutory or constitutional changes proposed by the Legislature which is passed to voters to adopt or reject.

Legislative Revenue Office

A nonpartisan state service agency that provides research and analysis on tax policy and school finance issues for legislators and legislative committees.

Legislators

An elected group of people serving in U.S. Congress or state legislature.

Legislature

An elected group of people serving in the State Senate and House of Representatives to enact new state laws and revise existing ones.

Levy (noun)

A collection of local taxes by government based on the assessed value on a property's real market value to support local services (fire departments, parks, road improvements, etc.). It is approved by voters and increases property taxes.

Levy (verb)

To impose a local tax above current amounts over a period of time. Approval is by voters.

Libertarian (Political Party)

A minor political party in Oregon.

Limited English Proficient (LEP)

According to the U.S. Census and American Community Survey, an individual five years or older, who does not speak English as their primary language, and who self-reports their ability to speak English as "less than very well."

Local

Governmental jurisdictions below the level of the state including counties, cities, and districts.

Local Measures

A proposal to enact, amend, or repeal a new law, ordinance, or charter at the local government level that is placed on the ballot for approval or rejection by voters.

Local Option Tax Levy (noun)

An imposed collection of local taxes beyond tax limitations in the Oregon Constitution, by voter approval, for a limited term, to fill a gap between tax limits and local government needs. It may be a renewal of existing taxes or an increase to a tax. Voter approval of tax levies increase property taxes.

M

Machine-Readable Mark

Mark on a paper ballot that meets requirements for detection by a scanner.

Mail Ballots (Noun)

Ballots in vote-by-mail elections returned via U.S. Postal Service mail, deposited in an official drop box, or delivered in-person to a county elections office.

Mail Ballots (Verb)

The process of mailing ballots to voters using the U.S. Postal Service.

(to) mail in ballot (verb)

Voter casts marked ballot via U.S. Postal Service.

Mailing Address

The address where a person can receive mail, which may be different than the address where a person lives.

Major Party

A political party with registered members numbering a certain percentage of all state voters who are registered and eligible to vote.

Majority

More than half.

Mandate

An official or authoritative command, usually by legislative statute or executive order.

Mark

Any symbol made by the signer that represents execution of a document or indicates a voting selection.

Measure

A measure is any of the following submitted to the people for their approval or rejection at an election: a) a proposed law, b) an Act or part of an Act of the Legislative Assembly, c) a revision of or an amendment to the Oregon Constitution, d) local, special, or municipal legislation, e) a proposition or question.

Measure Argument

A written statement supporting or opposing a measure on the ballot.

Measure Information

Voting materials that contain information about a proposed law, constitutional amendment, or question that is placed on the ballot for approval or rejection by voters.

Metro

1) Relating to a large city and the area surrounding it. 2) The name of an Oregon regional government with elected officials serving portions of Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties.

Middle School

An intermediate school between elementary school and high school, usually encompassing grades five or six through eight. It was formerly known as Junior High School.

Midterm Election

Elections that take place between presidential elections.

Military Voting

Voting by a member of the United States uniformed services in active service, including Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines, and their spouses and dependents.

Minor Party

A political party that does not meet the requirements to be recognized as a major party, but otherwise is recognized typically because its candidates have received a certain percentage of the vote or through a petition process.

Municipal (adjective)

Relating to a city or town.

Municipal Bond Election

An election where a proposal to allow a municipal government to approve additional spending in which a debt and obligation are repaid with interest appears on the ballot for approval or rejection.

Municipal Elections

A regular election of candidates and measures within a municipal governing body.

Municipal School District

A geographical unit for the local administration of elementary or secondary schools.

Municipal Water District

A geographical unit of local government given the task of supplying water and sewer needs to a community. Elected boards govern these districts.

Municipality

Refers to a city or town usually governed by a mayor and council.

N

National

Belonging to or maintained by the federal government.

No Labels Party (political party)

A minor political party in Oregon.

Nominate

To propose an individual to be considered for public office.

Nomination

The process of being proposed for consideration to public office.

Nominee

An individual who has been proposed for consideration to public office.

Non-Affiliated Voter (NAV)

Voter with no specific relationship or membership in a political party and registered to vote as “Not a member of a party.”

Nondiscriminatory

Fair and equitable.

Nonpartisan

A candidate or public office not affiliated with a political party.

Nonpartisan Election

An election usually held at the state or local level where the candidate’s party membership is not given on the ballot.

Nonpartisan Office

Elected office for which candidates run without political party affiliation.

Not Contested

When there are fewer individuals who file to become candidates than there are open seats for election.

Not Forwardable

U.S. Postal Service mail which cannot be redirected to a new address and is returned to the sender.

Notice

The announcement of an organization's intention, action, or reminder.

Notice to Voters

Official communication from an election office about an election, voter registration, or election process.

**Office**

Any federal, state, county, town, municipal, school, district, or other government position.

Officer

A term used to describe an individual who has been sworn into public office and is currently serving in the position.

Official

(1) Of or relating to an office, position, or trust. (2) Holding an office; having authority.

Official Election Results

Final outcome of votes after the election upon certification of election and the official abstract of votes is published.

Online Registration

A voter registration form submitted via the internet to election officials.

Open Primary

Primary election in which any voter can participate, regardless of their political affiliation. In Oregon, primary elections are closed. However, each major political party, at each different primary, may choose to open their primary election ballot to nonaffiliated voters. Electors registered as not being affiliated with any political party must request major parties' ballot.

Open Seat

A public office that does not have an elected official in it and an election will fill the office.

Opponent

Other candidates running for office who belong to a different party or who have different aims or policies.

Oppose

Disapproving of or disagreeing with.

Order on The Ballot

The arrangement of contests and candidates appearing on a ballot.

Ordinance

A piece of legislation enacted by a local authority.

Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR)

Any state agency directive, standard, regulation, or statement of general applicability that implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy, or describes the procedure or practice requirements of any agency.

Oregon Attorney General

An elected, state-level, partisan officer who is responsible for providing legal representation to the Oregon state government and running justice programs related to child support, district attorney assistance, crime victims, and consumer protections.

Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI)

State agency which protects employment rights, advances employment opportunities, and protects access to housing and public accommodations free from discrimination.

Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

Central administrative agency of Oregon state government which works to implement the policy and financial decisions made by the Governor and the Legislature and ensure accountability of state government. The agency also oversees internet technology investments and cyber security services under the direction of the DAS Chief Information Officer.

Oregon Department of Revenue (DOR)

State agency which administers Oregon tax laws, processes revenue, and acts as the central debt collection agency for other state agencies, boards, commissions, and local governments.

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)

State agency that provides transportation systems through programs related to Oregon's system of highways, roads, and bridges; railways; public transportation services; transportation safety programs; driver and vehicle licensing (DMV); and motor carrier regulation.

Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (DMV)

A division of the Oregon Department of Transportation that promotes driver safety, provides services for vehicle registration, issues driver's licenses or other forms of official identification, and other services. It is sometimes called the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Oregon Elections Division

The department of state government in the Secretary of State's office charged with overseeing elections.

Oregon Emergency Management

State agency which coordinates and maintains a statewide emergency services system for emergency and disaster communications.

Oregon Governor

A constitutionally established officer holding chief executive powers of the State.

Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office

A nonpartisan legislative service agency that provides research, analysis and recommendations on the state's 2-year biennial budget and prepares fiscal impact statements on legislative measures for legislators and legislative committees.

Oregon Legislative Revenue Office

A nonpartisan state service agency that provides research and analysis on tax policy and school finance issues for legislators and legislative committees.

Oregon Legislature

An elected group of people serving in the State Senate and House of Representatives to enact new state laws and revise existing ones.

Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC)

State agency which oversees access to alcohol and cannabis products in Oregon.

Oregon Motor Voter Act (OMV)

An automatic voter registration process through qualifying interactions at the Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (DMV). The individual is registered to vote as a nonaffiliated voter, without any party affiliation.

Oregon National Guard

A force of citizen soldiers providing the State of Oregon and the United States ready to respond to any contingency, natural or man-made.

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS)

A list of Oregon state laws which are published every two years.

Oregon Secretary of State (SOS) (Officer, any Secretary of State, gender neutral)

A constitutionally established partisan elected officer who serves as the Oregon state chief elections officer, chief auditor, and chief archivist, and oversees business and nonprofit filings.

Oregon Secretary of State (SOS) (the Office)

A state government office led by a Secretary who serves as the state chief elections officer, chief auditor, and chief archivist, and oversees business and nonprofit filings.

Oregon State Treasurer

The state, partisan officer responsible for the receipt and charge of all monies paid into the State Treasury and payments as directed by law and other duties as assigned by law.

Oregon Supreme Court

Highest state court for the interpretation of Oregon law by discretionary review of appeals from the Court of Appeals and direct review or original jurisdiction cases.

Oregon Tax Court Judge

A nonpartisan elected official adjudicating on legal matters related to state tax laws.

Oregon Titan Fusion Center

An Oregon all-crimes information clearinghouse to protect from terrorist and criminal activity.

Overseas Military Voter

A member of a uniformed service in active service, including Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines, and their spouses and dependents who are qualified and registered to vote.

Overseas Voter

A U.S. citizen who is living outside of the United States and is eligible to vote in their last place of residence in the United States.

Overvote

When the number of selections made by a voter in a contest is more than the maximum number allowed.

P

Pacific Green (political party)

A minor political party in Oregon.

Paper Ballot

A piece of paper, paper roll or multiple card stock, on which all voter selections are marked.

Paper Oregon Voter Registration Card

A paper form filled out by an individual to register to vote which includes an affirmation that they meet the requirements to vote.

Park & Ride

A transportation system where people drive to a designated parking place, leave their vehicle, and get on a bus, train, or carpool for the remainder of their journey.

Partisan (adjective)

A committed member of a political party who strongly supports their party's policies.

Party

An organization that coordinates candidates to compete in a country's elections. It is common for the members of a political party to have similar ideas about politics, and parties may promote specific ideological or policy goals.

Party Affiliation

A voter's, candidate's, or elected official's relationship to or registration in a particular party.

Personal Assistive Device

A device that is carried or worn by an individual with some physical impairment to help compensate for that impairment.

Persons with Disabilities

Voters who may require assistance during the election process to interact with voting systems.

Petition

A document with information about measures, initiatives, referendums, or candidates used to gather signatures from registered voters.

Petition Signature Gathering

The act of attempting to gather signatures from voters for initiatives, referendums, or candidates.

Platform

The declared policy of a political party, candidate, or group.

Political Action Committee (PAC)

A combination of two or more individuals, or a person other than an individual, that receives a contribution or makes an expenditure for the purpose of supporting or opposing a candidate, measure, or political party.

Political Disclaimer, “Paid for”

The required information that must accompany certain political communications that are paid for and made for the purposes of influencing an election.

Political Party

An organization that coordinates candidates to compete in a country’s elections. It is common for the members of a political party to have similar ideas about politics, and parties may promote specific ideological or policy goals.

Political Party Affiliation

Refers to a voter, candidate, or elected official’s relationship to a particular party.

Political Party Statement of Purpose

The declared policy of a political party or group.

Politician

A person who is professionally involved in politics, especially as a holder of or a candidate for an elected office.

Popular Vote

The vote for a candidate or issue made by the qualified voters, as opposed to a vote made by elected representatives.

Position

(1) The proper, appropriate, or usual place, such as the location a contest or candidate will appear on a ballot. (2) An opinion or what a person thinks about a political candidate, issue, or policy.

Postage

The fee to use a postal service.

Postage Paid

A form of indication on an envelope that the costs for sending were paid in another way than using stamps or a franking machine. The indication is usually placed in the upper right corner of the front side of an envelope, where otherwise stamps would have been stuck.

Postage Stamp

A small piece of paper issued by a post office, postal administration, or other authorized vendors to customers who pay postage, who then affix the stamp to the face or address-side of the mail.

Postmark

A postal marking applied by the US Postal Services to a mailpiece which displays the location of the processing facility that applied the marking and the date of the first automated processing of the mailpiece. A postmark also cancels postage so that it cannot be reused.

Precinct

A precinct is a geographic subdivision for voting purposes.

Precinct Committeeperson (PCP) / Precinct Committee Person

An elected or appointed individual who represents a major political party and voters in a precinct.

Primary

Major political parties in Oregon hold primary elections to elect precinct committeepersons and to nominate candidates to represent them in general elections.

Primary Election

A preliminary election in which voters nominate major political party candidates to represent their party in general elections. Nonpartisan races and ballot measures may also appear on ballots in primary elections.

Primary Presidential Delegation Nomination

Primary election in which voters choose the delegates to the presidential nominating conventions allotted to their states by the national party committees.

Privacy

The ability to prevent others from determining how an individual voted.

Progressive (Political Party)

A minor political party in Oregon.

Proponent

Someone who proposes something, or at least supports it by speaking and writing in favor of it.

Property Tax

A system of tangible property taxation based on the assessed value. The system is one of the most important sources of revenue for more than 1,200 local taxing districts in Oregon.

Proposition

A proposal to enact a new law or constitutional amendment that is placed on the ballot for approval or rejection by voters.

Provisional Ballot

A ballot that is issued when the eligibility of the voter has not yet been determined.

Public Jurisdiction

The authority of a sovereign power to govern or legislate.

Public Notice

A notice issued by a government agency or legislative body to make the public aware of the various government activities, elections, hearings, public bids, or other actions.

Public Office

A national, state, county, city or district office or position, except a political party office, filled by the electors.

Public Officer

A term used to describe an individual who occupies a federal, state, county, city or other district office or government position.

Public Records

Any information that is prepared, owned, used, or retained by a state agency or political subdivision and is necessary to satisfy policies, requirements or needs of the state agency or political subdivision.

Q

Qualification

A requirement that is necessary to vote, be a candidate, or for an election process to be acceptable for a specific purpose.

Qualified

Officially recognized as having met the requirements.

Qualified Voting Systems

Voting Systems that have met the standards to be certified for use in a jurisdiction.

Qualify

The process of meeting all the requirements to be officially recognized as certified.

Question Petitions

A formal written request signed by voters, to propose to create, amend, or repeal a state law or constitutional provision.

R

Race

Specific kinds of contests.

Racial and Ethnic Impact Statement

Describes the effects of a state measure on the racial and ethnic composition of the state criminal offender population or recipients of human services.

Ranked Choice Voting

A vote variation which allows each voter to rank contest options in order of the voter's preference, in which votes are counted in rounds using a series of runoff tabulations.

Re-Elect

To elect for another term to the same public office.

Reappointment

To appoint for another term to the same public office.

Recall

A petition process for electors to remove an individual from state or local public office prior to the expiration of their term of office.

Referendum Petition

A petition to adopt or reject any nonemergency act passed by the Oregon Legislature.

Referendum

A process which allows people to propose laws or amendments to the constitution, or adopt or reject a bill passed by the Oregon Legislature.

Referral

The legislature may directly refer a measure to voters to adopt or reject.

Register

To complete a form with information to be added to an electoral roll for the jurisdiction where a voter resides, as a prerequisite for being entitled to vote.

Register by Mail

As a prerequisite to vote, to complete a form through the mail with information to be added to an electoral roll in the jurisdiction where a voter resides.

Register to Vote

To complete a form with information to be added to an electoral roll for the jurisdiction where a voter resides.

Registered Voter

A voter who is listed on an electoral roll for the jurisdiction where a voter resides.

Registration

A term used by election officials when referring to a voter's record.

Registration Deadline

The last day to complete the documents to become a registered voter to participate in a specific election or election process.

Registration Status

A term used by election officials to describe whether a voter's record shows that the voter is eligible to vote.

Rejected Ballot

A ballot which has been cast but cannot be counted due to a defect or ineligibility of the voter.

Renewal Levy

An extension of existing local taxes for substantially the same purpose as the current local option tax, approved by voters.

Repeal

The removal or reversal of a law.

Replacement Ballot

A ballot issued upon request from a voter when the original ballot has been destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received by the voter.

Represent

An arrangement whereby one is enabled to speak and act with authority on the behalf of another.

Republican (Political Party)

A major political party in Oregon.

Requirement

Provision that conveys criteria to be fulfilled.

Residence for Voting

The place in which a voter's habitation is fixed, wherein the person has the intention of remaining, and to which, whenever they are absent, the person has the intention of returning.

Resident

A person whose habitation is fixed and to which, when the person is absent, the person intends to return.

Restoration of Voting Rights

The process of restoring voting rights to people who were disqualified from voting.

Results

Unofficial reports of the outcome of an election appearing in media reports on election night that are preliminary.

Return Envelope

An official envelope to be signed by the voter in a vote-by-mail election.

Returns

Preliminary reporting of election results. The number of votes may not yet include all the ballots submitted and will not have yet been subject to the canvassing process.

Right to Vote

A set of legal and constitutional protections designed to ensure the opportunity to vote in free and fair elections.

Running for Office

Person contending in a contest for office. A candidate may be explicitly presented as one of the choices on the ballot or may be a write-in candidate.

Rural Fire District / Rural Fire Protection District

A geographical unit of local government given the task of providing fire suppression and emergency medical service to residents of the rural district community. Elected boards govern these districts.

S

Sample Official Ballot

An official example ballot provided to voters with information specific to the voter.

School District

A geographical unit charged with the local administration of public schools including elementary, middle, and high schools, and is governed by an elected school district board.

Seal

A security mechanism that alerts officials if a device used in the elections process has potentially been altered or accessed without authorization.

Secrecy Envelope

An envelope that encloses a ballot to maintain the secrecy of how a voter marked their ballot used by some counties.

Secrecy Sleeve

An optional sub-envelope or folder that encloses a ballot inside the ballot return envelope to maintain the secrecy of how a voter marked their ballot.

Secret Ballot

A set of rules and procedures to establish the fundamental right of voters to cast a ballot that cannot be associated with a voter.

Secretary of State (SOS) (Officer, any Secretary of State, gender neutral) (SOS)

A constitutionally established partisan elected officer who serves as the Oregon state chief elections officer, chief auditor, and chief archivist, and oversees business and nonprofit filings.

Secretary of State (the Office) (SOS)

A state government office led by a Secretary who serves as the state chief elections officer, chief auditor, and chief archivist, and oversees business and nonprofit filings.

Security Weave

A printed pattern on the inside of the ballot return envelope to maintain the secrecy of how a voter marked their ballot.

Senate District

Electoral divisions for the purpose of electing senators.

Sign (verb)

To write one's name to demonstrate agreement with, or authorize a document's contents.

Signature

A person's name written in a distinctive way as a form of identification as a security measure to verify voter identity.

Signature stamp

Tool used by a physically disabled voter who is unable to sign his or her name on election documents.

Simple Majority

A majority in which the highest number of votes cast for any one candidate, issue, or item exceeds the second-highest number, but less than 50%.

Social Security Number (SSN)

A unique identifying number assigned by the Social Security Administration.

Special District

Public agencies created to provide one or more specific services to a community, such as water service, sewer service, parks, fire protection, and others.

Special District Election

An election held by a public agency, such as school boards, water districts, fire districts, to elect board members or to present ballot measures for approval to voters in the district.

Special Election

An election that is not held on a date regularly scheduled through statute.

Spoiled Ballot

A ballot that cannot be counted because it is ruined in some way by the voter.

Stamp

A small adhesive piece of paper of specified value issued by a postal authority to be affixed to a letter or parcel to indicate the amount of postage paid.

State

A territory with its own government and borders within a larger country. Oregon is one of 50 states in the United States of America.

State Measures

Proposals to approve or reject a proposed law, an act of the state Legislative Assembly, or an amendment to the Oregon Constitution that are placed on the ballot for approval or rejection by voters.

State Office

A public office at the state government level.

State Representative

A partisan member of the Oregon House of Representatives representing constituents from districts. State Representatives pass Oregon legislation with the Senate and hold other powers.

State Senator

A partisan member of the Oregon Senate representing constituents from districts. State Senators pass Oregon legislation with the House of Representatives and hold other powers.

State Treasurer

The state partisan officer responsible for the receipt and charge of all monies paid into the State Treasury and payments as directed by law and other duties as assigned by law.

State Voters' Pamphlet

A voters' guide published by the Secretary of State Elections Division for each primary, general, and state special election. The pamphlet provides voters with information about the election such as election dates and deadlines, instructions for voting, and information about candidates and measures. Participation by candidates and other filers is optional.

Statement of Endorsement

A publicly disseminated quotation by a person or organization in support of a candidate or measure for the purpose of influencing voters.

Statewide

Extending throughout Oregon.

Statewide Office

A government position elected by voters from across the entire state. Statewide elected offices include Attorney General, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, Governor, Judge on the Court of Appeals, Justice of the Supreme Court, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, and Tax Court Judge.

Statute

A written law passed by a legislative body of a city, county, state, country, or other political body.

Stylus

Adaptive device that allows individuals to access screens, boards, and other devices.

Summary

A concise and impartial statement for a ballot measure summarizing the measure and its major effect.

Superintendent

The title of one who has executive oversight and is in charge of something, often used in school districts.

Supreme Court

The highest judicial tribunal of the judicial department of government in Oregon.

T

Tabulation

Process of summarizing the counted data and displaying votes in a compact form.

Tally

Process of counting votes.

Tax bracket

Groupings of income ranges which determine the amount of taxes owed, depending on the taxpayer's or organization's filing status.

Tax rate

A percentage or fixed amount used to calculate the amount of tax an individual or organization owes.

Term

The period of time for which a person is elected or appointed to hold a public office.

Threat Information Gathering and Election Resources (TIGER)

A team that identifies threats and vulnerabilities to Oregon's election system and mitigates them.

Threat-assessment

A process used to determine if a person, group, or situation poses a risk of violence.

Town

A civil and political subdivision of a state, which varies in size and significance according to location but is ordinarily a division of a county. A town may or may not have a local government.

Track Your Ballot

An online system for voters to track when their returned ballot was accepted for counting to the county elections office.

Translation

The process of transferring written text accurately from one language to another.

Translation Advisory Council

A volunteer group appointed by the Oregon Secretary of State to review voters' pamphlet translations for accuracy and original tone and meaning in a culturally appropriate manner.

**U.S. Congress**

The legislative branch of the federal government that consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

A federal department overseeing a comprehensive national strategy to safeguard the country against terrorism and coordinate and unify national homeland security efforts.

U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC)

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission was created by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to assist the states in improving elections administration and security and to administer a national clearinghouse on shared practices, information for voters, and other resources.

U.S. President

A partisan, elected federal official who serves as the head of state and government of the U.S.A., directs the executive branch, and is the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Armed Forces.

U.S. Representative

A partisan member of the U.S. Congress, representing constituents from districts. The House of Representatives has various powers and passes federal legislation with the U.S. Senate and U.S. President.

U.S. Senator

A partisan member of the U.S. Congress representing all state constituents. The Senate has various powers and passes federal legislation with the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. President.

U.S. Vice President

A federal official elected as a team with the U.S. President, who serves as the presider of the U.S. Senate and serves as U.S. President if the President is unable to serve.

Unconstitutional

Not in accordance with a political constitution, especially the U.S. Constitution, or with procedural rules.

Undervote

Occurs when the number of choices selected by a voter in a contest is less than the maximum number allowed for that contest or when no selection is made for a single choice contest.

Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)

UOCAVA citizens are U.S. citizens who are active members of the Uniformed Services, the Merchant Marine, and the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, their eligible family members, and U.S. citizens residing outside the United States. This Act provides the legal basis for these citizens' absentee voting requirements for federal offices.

United States Citizen

An individual with a legal status that provides them with certain rights within the United States.

United States Postal Service (USPS)

A federal government institution that provides delivery service to every address in the nation.

Unofficial Election Results

Frequently changing report of the number of votes between election night and the date the election results are certified.

**Vacancy**

When a public office becomes vacant before the end of a term due to death, resignation, or removal from office, among other reasons.

Valid

Legally binding due to having been executed in compliance with the law.

Valid Identification (ID)

A means of proving a person's identity, according to the laws of the jurisdiction. Common forms of Identification include driver's licenses, DMV-issued identification cards, passports, and other government-issued documents.

Verification

Process of evaluating a system or component to determine whether the products of a given development phase satisfy the conditions imposed at the start of the phase.

Verify Your Voter Registration

Voters confirm that all their voter registration information is accurate and up to date so that they may vote in the next election.

Violate

Fail to comply with a rule or statute.

Visually Impaired

Any kind of vision loss.

Vote (noun)

A valid mark on an official ballot indicating the voter's preference for a particular candidate or ballot measure.

Vote (verb)

To make a valid mark on an official ballot indicating the voter's preference for a particular candidate or ballot measure.

Vote For

To cast a ballot in favor of a political candidate or proposition.

Vote-by-Mail / Vote-by-Mail System

Oregon method of casting ballots by which eligible voters are mailed ballots and information by the county elections office. Voters return their marked ballots by mail, to a county elections office, or in ballot drop boxes.

Vote!

The Oregon Secretary of State's branded logo on official election materials meant to inspire and encourage voters to actively participate in the democratic process of voting in every election.

Voted Ballot

Ballot that contains all a voter's selections and has been cast.

Voter

An individual qualified to cast a vote.

Voter Education Outreach Program

Programs and voter materials to educate voters and remove barriers to voting especially in underrepresented communities, through partnering with community-based organizations and attendance at community events.

Voter Files

Publicly available records of who is registered to vote and who cast ballots in past elections. Voter files do not indicate a voters' ballot choices.

Voter Information Pamphlet

A guide that may provide election information such as election dates and deadlines, instructions for voting, and information about candidates and measures.

Voter Intimidation

Threat of violence, manipulation, harassment, or fear for the purpose of influencing how a person votes.

Voter Notification Card

Cards furnished by an elections office to registered voters that contain information regarding a voters' registration record.

Voter Outreach

Programs and voter materials to remove barriers to voting, often through partnering with community-based organizations and attendance at community events.

Voter Registration

A term used by election officials when referring to a voter's record. Voter Registration also refers to the requirement for citizens to register with a state or local elections office in order to be eligible to receive an official ballot for a given election, and to participate in certain election-related activities.

Voter Registration Card

A form filled out by an individual to register to vote which includes an affirmation that they meet the requirements to vote.

Voter Registration Record

Electronically stored data and images, such as paper affidavit images or voter participation history, associated with a registered voter.

Voter Turnout

The number of people voting in an election, typically reported as a percentage of the total number of voters in an election divided by the total number of registered voters in a given precinct or jurisdiction.

Voter's Bill of Rights

A set of legal and constitutional protections designed to ensure the opportunity to vote in free and fair elections.

Voters with Disabilities

A voter who requires assistance or assistive technology to access processes that are not universally designed.

Voters' Pamphlet

A guide that provides voters with information about the election such as election dates and deadlines, instructions for voting, and information about candidates and measures.

Voting Center Express

An additional county voter service location that is typically open on the days prior to an election.

Voting Instructions

Information provided to a voter that describes the procedures for voting.

Voting Official

Persons who are officially associated with elections and voting systems.

Voting Prohibitions

Actions that violate election laws.

Voting Right

Laws that protect a citizen's ability to participate in public elections.

Voting Status

A term used by election officials to describe whether a voter's record shows that the voter is eligible to vote or if they have voted.

Voting System Test Laboratory

Tests of voting systems and other election systems for conformance to the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines and state requirements. Laboratories are reviewed for conformance by the National Institute for Standards and Technology.

W

Water District

A regional water service provider charged with providing drinking water to residents in the district. It is governed by an elected board of commissioners.

We the People (Political Party)

A minor political party in Oregon.

Web Page

A page of information on the internet about a particular subject, that forms a part of a website.

Website

A set of web pages of information on the internet about a particular subject, published by a single person or organization.

Withdrawn Candidates

Candidates who announced a candidacy or filed for an election but later decided not to appear on the final ballot.

Working Families (Political Party)

A minor political party in Oregon.

Write-In (noun)

A vote for a candidate who was not listed on the ballot but is added by the voter writing the candidate's name.

Write-In Candidate

A person whose name was not printed on the ballot but there is a space provided to write in the candidate's name.

X

Y

Z

Acronyms

ACP	Address Confidentiality Program
ADA	Americans With Disabilities Act
AFB	Alternate Format Ballot
BOLI	Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries
DAS	Oregon Department of Administrative Services
DHS	Oregon Department of Human Services
DMV	Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Services
DOR	Oregon Department of Revenue
EAC	Elections Assistance Commission
ESD	Educational Service District
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigations
FEC	Federal Election Commission
HAVA	Help America Vote Act
ID	Identification
LEP	Limited English Proficient
NAV	Non-Affiliated Voter
NVRA	National Voter Registration Act
OAR	Oregon Administrative Rule
OCVR	Oregon Central Voter Registration System
ODOT	Oregon Department of Transportation
OMV	Oregon Motor Voter
OLCC	Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission
ORS	Oregon Revised Statute
PAC	Political Action Committee
PCP	Precinct Committeeperson
SOS	Secretary of State
TIGER	Threat Information Gathering and Election Resources
UOCAVA	Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986
U.S.	United States
USEAC	United States Elections Assistance Commission
USPS	United States Postal Service
VP	Voters' Pamphlet