

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	6 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Berger, Buckley, Esquivel, Roblan, Thatcher, Rosenbaum
Nays:	-
Exc.:	Hunt
Prepared By:	Jim Stenbridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/1, 3/7, 3/21, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Sets February 5 as date of Oregon's 2008 presidential primary. Changes, for 2008 only, the March local election date to February 5. Authorizes Secretary of State to participate in discussions for setting a schedule of rotating regional presidential primary elections.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon's influence at the national level in the choice of presidential candidates
- Proposals for a rotating regional primary, beginning in 2012
- Impact on county budgets; position of the County Clerk's Association
- Costs and funding mechanisms for special elections
- Affect of presidential primary on May primary voter turnout
- Cost of special election

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces original bill.

BACKGROUND: The date of Oregon's even-numbered-year primary election, set in statute (ORS 254.056) as the third Tuesday in May, doesn't give Oregon as much influence over the Presidential-selection process compared to states with earlier primaries. Historically, many potential Presidential candidates have folded well before Oregon's May primary. Many states recognize the benefits of going early, and many state legislatures are considering moving their presidential primaries forward to February 5, which is shaping up as the national primary date.

According to the on-line resource The Green Papers (<http://www.thegreenpapers.com/P08/>), the Democratic National Committee has approved the following 2008 Presidential Primary schedule:

- 14 January 2008, Iowa Caucus
- 19 January 2008, Nevada Caucus
- 22 January 2008, New Hampshire Primary
- 29 January 2008, South Carolina Primary
- 5 February 2008, and anytime after, all others.

As of January, 2007, states apparently holding Presidential primaries on February 5, 2008, are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Utah. California also has moved its presidential primary to February 5; New York's change to February 5 is awaiting Governor Spitzer's signature; and Illinois is said to be considering the same change. Michigan and Florida are reportedly considering January 29 in defiance of the Democratic National Committee.

The National Association of Secretaries of State proposal for rotating regional presidential primary elections, beginning in 2012, is at <http://www.nass.org/Primary%20Plan.htm>.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.