

# Senate Bill 650

Sponsored by Senator L GEORGE

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Makes office of county assessor appointed office unless charter provides otherwise.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to county officers; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 202.110, 204.005, 204.010,  
3 204.016, 204.020, 249.002 and 254.005.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 204.005 is amended to read:

6 204.005. (1) **Unless a county charter provides otherwise**, the following county officers shall  
7 be elected at the primary election or general election, as provided in ORS 249.088:

8 [(1)] (a) A sheriff.

9 [(2)] (b) A county clerk.

10 [(3)] *A county assessor.*

11 [(4)] (c) A county treasurer.

12 [(5)] (d) A county surveyor.

13 [(6)] (e) A county commissioner to succeed any commissioner whose term of office expires the  
14 following January.

15 [(7)] (f) In any county where there is a vacancy from any cause in the office of county com-  
16 missioner, an additional commissioner to fill the vacancy.

17 (2) **Unless a county charter provides otherwise, subject to the requirements of ORS**  
18 **204.016, the governing body of a county shall appoint a county assessor.**

19 **SECTION 2.** ORS 204.016 is amended to read:

20 204.016. (1) A person is not eligible to any office listed in ORS 204.005 unless the person is a  
21 citizen of the United States, an elector under the Oregon Constitution and a resident of the county  
22 wherein the person is elected **or appointed** for the period of one year next preceding election **or**  
23 **appointment**, except that in counties of less than 25,000 population the requirement of residency  
24 in the county wherein the person is elected **or appointed** does not apply to the county surveyor.

25 (2) A person is not eligible to be a candidate for election or appointment to the office of county  
26 surveyor unless registered under the laws of this state as a registered professional land surveyor.

27 (3) A person is not eligible to be a candidate for [*election or*] appointment to the office of county  
28 assessor unless:

29 (a) The person has qualified as a registered appraiser or is an appraiser trainee under ORS  
30 308.015 and if an appraiser trainee, notwithstanding ORS 308.015, becomes a registered appraiser  
31 within two years after taking office; and

32 (b) The person either has two years of office and accounting experience, including experience

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 in office management activities, or has two years of full-time employment in the office of a county  
2 assessor.

3 (4) The Department of Revenue shall prepare applications and questionnaires, and obtain infor-  
4 mation it may deem necessary to determine that a candidate for the office of county assessor has  
5 met the requirements of this section, and shall furnish to applicants suitable certificates evidencing  
6 satisfactory compliance with the required qualifications.

7 **SECTION 3.** ORS 204.010 is amended to read:

8 204.010. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the term of office of each officer  
9 mentioned in ORS 204.005 is four years.

10 (2) When two or more county commissioners are elected for one county at a general election  
11 and one of them is elected to fill a vacancy, as provided in ORS 204.005 [(7)] (1)(f), one of them shall  
12 hold office for two years and the others four years.

13 **SECTION 4.** ORS 204.020 is amended to read:

14 204.020. (1) The term of office of each officer [*mentioned in*] **elected pursuant to** ORS 204.005  
15 [*shall commence*] **commences** on the first Monday of January next following election to office.

16 (2) Before entering upon any **elective** office listed in ORS 204.005, the person elected must  
17 qualify by filing with the county clerk of the county in which the person is elected the person's  
18 certificate of election, with an oath of office indorsed thereon, and subscribed by the elected person,  
19 to the effect that the person will support the Constitution of the United States and of this state, and  
20 faithfully carry out the office being assumed. The person shall also give and file the undertaking  
21 provided for under subsection (3) of this section.

22 (3) A county governing body may require, by ordinance, for the filing by each officer under ORS  
23 204.005, prior to that officer assuming office, of an official undertaking with such surety as the  
24 governing body determines necessary or of an irrevocable letter of credit issued by an insured in-  
25 stitution, as defined in ORS 706.008, in either case in a reasonable amount with the county govern-  
26 ing body.

27 **SECTION 5.** ORS 202.110 is amended to read:

28 202.110. (1) The county judge and the county commissioners appointed under ORS 202.100, acting  
29 as a county court, shall appoint a sheriff, a county clerk, a county assessor, a county treasurer and  
30 a county surveyor. An officer appointed under this subsection must be an elector of the new county  
31 and must accept and qualify for the office under ORS 204.016 and 204.020 before beginning service.  
32 The officers, **except the county assessor**, appointed under this subsection shall serve until the first  
33 Monday in January after the election at which their successors are elected. **The county assessor**  
34 **appointed pursuant to this section serves for the term specified in ORS 204.010.**

35 (2) At the next practicable general election following the appointment, successors to the county  
36 officers, **except the county assessor**, appointed under subsection (1) of this section shall be  
37 elected. The successors shall take office on the first Monday in January next following their  
38 election.

39 (3) All justices and constables in office within the boundaries of any new county shall continue  
40 to hold office in such new county during the remainder of their term, and shall give bonds to the  
41 new county of the same amount and in the same manner as previously given to the original county  
42 in which they were elected or appointed.

43 (4) At each general election following the general election at which the first county officers  
44 under this section are elected, a successor shall be elected to fill any expiring term.

45 **SECTION 6.** ORS 249.002 is amended to read:

1 249.002. As used in this chapter:

2 (1) "Candidate" means an individual whose name is or is expected to be printed on the official  
3 ballot.

4 (2) "County clerk" means the county clerk or the county official in charge of elections.

5 (3) "Elector" means an individual qualified to vote under section 2, Article II, Oregon Consti-  
6 tution.

7 (4) "Judge" means judge of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, circuit court or the Oregon  
8 Tax Court, or any county judge who exercises judicial functions.

9 (5) "Member" means an individual who is registered as being affiliated with the political party.

10 (6) "Minor political party" means a political party that has qualified as a minor political party  
11 under ORS 248.008.

12 (7) "Nonpartisan office" means the office of judge, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Com-  
13 missioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, any elected office of a metropolitan service district  
14 under ORS chapter 268, justice of the peace, county clerk, [*county assessor,*] county surveyor, county  
15 treasurer, sheriff, district attorney or any office designated nonpartisan by a home rule charter.

16 (8) "Prospective petition" means the information, except signatures and other identification of  
17 petition signers, required to be contained in a completed petition.

18 (9) "Public office" means any national, state, county, city or district office or position, except  
19 a political party office, filled by the electors.

20 (10) "State office" means Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General,  
21 Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, Superintendent of Public Instruction, judge,  
22 state Senator, state Representative or district attorney.

23 **SECTION 7.** ORS 254.005 is amended to read:

24 254.005. As used in this chapter:

25 (1) "Ballot" means any material on which votes may be cast for candidates or measures. In the  
26 case of a recall election, "ballot" includes material posted in a voting compartment or delivered to  
27 an elector by mail.

28 (2) "Ballot label" means the material containing the names of candidates or the measures to be  
29 voted on.

30 (3) "Chief elections officer" means the:

31 (a) Secretary of State, regarding a candidate for a state office or an office to be voted on in the  
32 state at large or in a congressional district, or a measure to be voted on in the state at large.

33 (b) County clerk, regarding a candidate for a county office, or a measure to be voted on in a  
34 county only.

35 (c) City clerk, auditor or recorder, regarding a candidate for a city office, or a measure to be  
36 voted on in a city only.

37 (4) "County clerk" means the county clerk or the county official in charge of elections.

38 (5) "Elector" means an individual qualified to vote under section 2, Article II, Oregon Consti-  
39 tution.

40 (6) "Major political party" means a political party that has qualified as a major political party  
41 under ORS 248.006.

42 (7) "Measure" includes any of the following submitted to the people for their approval or re-  
43 jection at an election:

44 (a) A proposed law.

45 (b) An Act or part of an Act of the Legislative Assembly.

1 (c) A revision of or amendment to the Oregon Constitution.

2 (d) Local, special or municipal legislation.

3 (e) A proposition or question.

4 (8) "Minor political party" means a political party that has qualified as a minor political party  
5 under ORS 248.008.

6 (9) "Nonpartisan office" means the office of judge of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, cir-  
7 cuit court or the Oregon Tax Court, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Commissioner of the Bu-  
8 reau of Labor and Industries, any elected office of a metropolitan service district under ORS chapter  
9 268, justice of the peace, county clerk, [county assessor,] county surveyor, county treasurer, county  
10 judge who exercises judicial functions, sheriff, district attorney or any office designated nonpartisan  
11 by a home rule charter.

12 (10) "Prospective petition" means the information, except signatures and other identification of  
13 petition signers, required to be contained in a completed petition.

14 (11) "Regular district election" means the election held each year for the purpose of electing  
15 members of a district board as defined in ORS 255.005 (2).

16 (12) "Vote tally system" means one or more pieces of equipment necessary to examine and tally  
17 automatically the marked ballots.

18 (13) "Voting machine" means any device that will record every vote cast on candidates and  
19 measures and that will either internally or externally total all votes cast on that device.

20 **SECTION 8. The amendments to ORS 204.005 by section 1 of this 2007 Act apply to a va-**  
21 **cancy in the office of county assessor that occurs on or after the effective date of this 2007**  
22 **Act.**

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