

House Bill 2884

Sponsored by Representative J SMITH (Pre-session filed.)

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**.

Allows governing body of county to adopt ordinance to allow county to pay all or part of expense of postage for return identification envelopes for ballots sent to electors registered in county.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to ballots; amending ORS 254.470.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 254.470 is amended to read:

5 254.470. (1) The Secretary of State by rule shall establish requirements and criteria for the
6 designation of places of deposit for the ballots cast in an election. The rules shall also specify the
7 dates and times the places of deposit must be open and the security requirements for the places of
8 deposit. At a minimum, the places designated under this section shall be open on the date of the
9 election for a period of eight or more hours, but must be open until at least 8 p.m. At each place
10 of deposit designated under this section, the county clerk shall prominently display a sign stating
11 that the location is an official ballot drop site.

12 (2)(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection, the county clerk shall mail
13 by nonforwardable mail an official ballot with a return identification envelope and a secrecy envel-
14 ope not sooner than the 18th day before the date of an election and not later than the 14th day
15 before the date of the election, to each active elector of the electoral district as of the 21st day
16 before the date of the election.

17 (b) If the county clerk determines that an active elector of the electoral district as of the 21st
18 day before the date of the election does not receive daily mail service from the United States Postal
19 Service, the county clerk shall mail by nonforwardable mail an official ballot with a return iden-
20 tification envelope and a secrecy envelope to the elector not sooner than the 20th day before the
21 date of an election and not later than the 18th day before the date of the election.

22 (c) In the case of ballots to be mailed to addresses outside this state to electors who are not
23 long-term absent electors, the county clerk may mail the ballots not sooner than the 29th day before
24 the date of the election.

25 (3) For an election held on the date of a primary election:

26 (a) The county clerk shall mail the official ballot of a major political party to each elector who
27 is registered as being affiliated with the major political party as of the 21st day before the date of
28 the election.

29 (b) The county clerk shall mail the official ballot of a major political party to an elector not
30 affiliated with any political party if the elector has applied for the ballot as provided in this sub-
31 section and that party has provided under ORS 254.365 for a primary election that admits electors

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 not affiliated with any political party.

2 (c) An elector not affiliated with any political party who wishes to vote in the primary election
 3 of a major political party shall apply to the county clerk in writing. The application shall indicate
 4 which major political party ballot the elector wishes to receive. Except for electors described in
 5 subsection (4) of this section, and subject to ORS 247.203, the application must be received by the
 6 county clerk not later than 5 p.m. of the 21st day before the date of the election.

7 (d) If the primary election ballot includes city, county or nonpartisan offices or measures, the
 8 county clerk shall mail to each elector who is not eligible to vote for party candidates a ballot
 9 limited to those offices and measures for which the elector is eligible to vote.

10 (4) For each elector who updates a voter registration after the deadline in ORS 247.025, the
 11 county clerk shall make the official ballot, the return identification envelope and the secrecy en-
 12 velope available either by mail or at the county clerk's office or at another place designated by the
 13 county clerk. An elector to whom this subsection applies must request a ballot from the county
 14 clerk.

15 (5) The ballot shall contain the following warning:

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 18 Any person who, by use of force or other means, unduly influences an elector to vote in any
 19 particular manner or to refrain from voting is subject to a fine.

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 22 (6) Upon receipt of any ballot described in this section, the elector shall mark the ballot, sign
 23 the return identification envelope supplied with the ballot and comply with the instructions provided
 24 with the ballot. The elector may return the marked ballot to the county clerk by United States mail
 25 or by depositing the ballot at the office of the county clerk, at any place of deposit designated by
 26 the county clerk or at any location described in ORS 254.472 or 254.474. The ballot must be returned
 27 in the return identification envelope. **Except as may be provided by county ordinance under**
 28 **subsection (11) of this section,** if the elector returns the ballot by mail, the elector must provide
 29 the postage. A ballot must be received at the office of the county clerk, at the designated place of
 30 deposit or at any location described in ORS 254.472 or 254.474 not later than the end of the period
 31 determined under subsection (1) of this section on the date of the election.

32 (7) An elector may obtain a replacement ballot if the ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost or not
 33 received by the elector. Replacement ballots shall be issued and processed as described in this
 34 section and ORS 254.480. The county clerk shall keep a record of each replacement ballot provided
 35 under this subsection. Notwithstanding any deadline for mailing ballots in subsection (2) of this
 36 section, a replacement ballot may be mailed, made available in the office of the county clerk or made
 37 available at one central location in the electoral district in which the election is conducted. The
 38 county clerk shall designate the central location. A replacement ballot need not be mailed after the
 39 fifth day before the date of the election.

40 (8) A ballot shall be counted only if:

41 (a) It is returned in the return identification envelope;

42 (b) The envelope is signed by the elector to whom the ballot is issued; and

43 (c) The signature is verified as provided in subsection (9) of this section.

44 (9) The county clerk shall verify the signature of each elector on the return identification en-
 45 velope with the signature on the elector's registration card, according to the procedure provided by

1 rules adopted by the Secretary of State. If the county clerk determines that an elector to whom a
2 replacement ballot has been issued has voted more than once, the county clerk shall count only one
3 ballot cast by that elector.

4 (10) At 8 p.m. on election day, electors who are at the county clerk's office, a place of deposit
5 designated under subsection (1) of this section or any location described in ORS 254.472 or 254.474
6 and who are in line waiting to vote or deposit a voted ballot shall be considered to have begun the
7 act of voting.

8 **(11) The governing body of a county may adopt an ordinance allowing the county to pay**
9 **all or part of the expense of postage for return identification envelopes for ballots sent to**
10 **electors who are registered in the county.**

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