

House Bill 3403

Sponsored by Representative OLSON

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 county clerk to establish inspection boards to inspect and prepare ballots for counting and to count ballots. Specifies requirements relating to political party affiliation of inspection board members. Provides for observation of inspection boards.

Directs Secretary of State to adopt rules establishing system to allow challenge of inspection, preparation or counting of ballots by inspection board observer.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to elections; amending ORS 254.476 and 254.482.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 254.476 is amended to read:

5 254.476. (1) The county clerk may employ personnel as necessary to open envelopes, prepare
6 ballots for counting and count ballots. The personnel may not all be members of the same political
7 party.

8 **(2) The county clerk may establish inspection boards of three or more individuals to in-**
9 **spect and prepare ballots for counting and to count ballots. An inspection board must include**
10 **at least two individuals who are members of different political parties and at least two indi-**
11 **viduals who are members of each major political party.**

12 (3) A candidate on the ballot at an election, other than an incumbent candidate for county clerk,
13 or a person who is the spouse, child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, parent, mother-in-law, father-in-law,
14 sibling, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, stepparent or stepchild of any can-
15 didate on the ballot may not be employed and may not serve as a volunteer in *[the]* a capacity de-
16 scribed in this section.

17 **SECTION 2.** ORS 254.482 is amended to read:

18 254.482. (1) After the date that ballots are mailed as provided in ORS 254.470, the county clerk,
19 if requested, shall permit authorized persons to be at the office of the county clerk to watch the
20 receiving and counting of votes. The authorization shall be in writing, shall be signed by an officer
21 or its county affiliate of a political party, a candidate or the county clerk and shall be filed with the
22 county clerk.

23 (2) The county clerk shall permit only so many persons as watchers under this section as will
24 not interfere with an orderly procedure at the office of the county clerk.

25 **(3) Persons authorized under this section may observe one or more inspection boards**
26 **established under ORS 254.476. Board observers must be able to watch and hear any dis-**
27 **ussions among board members while the board inspects and prepares or counts ballots.**
28 **Upon the request of an observer, board members shall respond to any questions asked by an**
29 **observer regarding the inspection, preparation or counting of ballots.**

30 **(4) The Secretary of State shall adopt rules establishing a system by which observers of**

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 **inspection boards may challenge the inspection, preparation or counting of ballots by an in-**
2 **spection board.**

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