

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Atkinson, Beyer, Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Permits printing names of political party or political parties and word ‘incumbent’ with candidate name on ballot. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In 2009, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 326 to allow a candidate to identify on the ballot up to three political parties who have nominated the candidate.

Currently, the statute requires the political party or political parties to be printed "opposite" the candidate's name. This causes problems for county elections officials printing ballots because there is not always enough character space available to print the political party opposite the corresponding candidate names. During the 2010 election, to ensure uniformity in how a political party appeared on a ballot, the Elections Division adopted a rule allowing for three-character abbreviations selected by the political parties to be printed opposite the candidate’s names on the ballot.

Many counties remain unable to print up to three political parties "opposite" the candidates' names, but all can print up to three political parties underneath the corresponding candidate's name. House Bill 4173 would permit county elections officials to print up to three political parties “with” the candidate’s name instead of requiring it to be "opposite" candidate’s name.