



May 8, 2013

Senate Rules Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97310

RE: Support for SB150 and proposed -2 amendment, Relating to conduct of elections

Chair Rosenbaum and Members of the Committee,

OACC supports the removal of the requirement to print primary ballots in color in the original bill as well as the extension of the voting period from 18 days to 20 days specified in the proposed -2 amendment.

Currently in primary elections, ballots for Democratic and Republican voters must be of different colors. The color applied to those ballots adds an additional \$0.05 per ballot for the 32 counties that use ES&S tally systems and ballots and \$0.03 for the 4 counties that use Hart tally systems and ballots. This adds up to more than \$76,000 statewide in printing charges for color. Each of these ballots is also clearly marked with a ballot style number and in some counties a precinct number. The ballot style number is enough to tell one ballot style from another. **SB150 would allow each county the ability to choose whether or not they wanted to spend the extra money to add color to their primary ballots.**

Currently ballots can be mailed to voters no later than 18 days prior to the election. The 18th day always falls on a Friday. The Oregon postal service usually gives county elections offices a three day delivery window so that ballots are delivered on Friday, Saturday and Monday. While this is usually sufficient to get voters their ballots in time to vote and return them there are reductions being implemented by the USPS that will have an effect on service. The closing of processing facilities that was put off in 2012 are now scheduled to happen later this year. Additionally some facilities scheduled for closure in 2014 have been moved up and will be closed this year. Three of the facilities in Oregon that will close on the advanced 2013 schedule are Bend, Pendleton and Salem.

What this means is that ballots that would normally be processed locally will have to be shipped to Portland or Medford for processing putting more strain on the existing processing facilities. This will result in slower processing times, eating into the delivery window for the voter. **The proposed -2 amendment to SB 150 would help address USPS service reductions by increasing the available voting window from 18 days to 20 days.**

OACC urges the committee's support of SB 150 and the proposed -2 amendment.

Sincerely,

Oregon Association of County Clerks