



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Alex.Cuyler@co.lane.or.us

DATE: February 19, 2015
TO: Senate Committee on Rules
RE: SB 29, relating to precinct committee persons

Chair Rosenbaum and Members of the Committees:

The Lane County Board of County Commissioners regularly identifies priorities for each Legislative Assembly. They have identified the elimination of precinct committee person selection from local ballots (with sidebars) as one of their priorities. Their primary interest in this issue is from a fiscal perspective; a streamlined ballot equals less dollars required for each election managed by the County Clerk.

While not technically a recommendation from the 2009 Governor's Task Force on Federal Forest Payments and County Services, that group did focus on elections as an area where the state of Oregon could adopt policies that would help counties in fiscal distress.

The concept of streamline the voting process for committee precinct persons began to be floated legislatively in the 2011 session. County Clerks have worked on crafting a bill that still allows a vote for these positions to take place if the seat is contested. For non-contested seats, a process exists whereby the Clerk will certify the outcome of the election for that individual. Finally, for any seat for which no-one has expressed interest, a write in option will exist on each ballot.

Lane County urges the Rules Committee to schedule a works session for this measure and to vote it to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY