

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: No fiscal impact
SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/19, 3/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes procedures for electing precinct committeepersons (PCP). Requires one PCP for every 250 electors, rather than for every 500 electors, who are registered in precinct. Provides that write-in candidate may be eligible for election to PCP position if there is no other candidate. Requires write-in candidate to accept successful write-in candidacy before primary election, rather than after election.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current process for administrating PCP elections
- Reducing costs and streamlining PCP election process
- Proposed changes to PCP elections
- Timeline for declaration of candidacy as write-in for PCP position
- Removal of gender requirements
- Role of PCP
- Major parties election
- Number of PCP positions filled and vacant
- Financial impact of removing PCP elections from ballot entirely
- Ability of political party to appointment person to unfilled position after the election

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: A precinct is the smallest political unit in the country. A precinct cannot be divided by legislative, congressional or supervisor district. A Precinct Committeeperson (PCP) is a representative of a political party in the precinct in which he or she resides. Currently, Oregon's election law authorizes one or more male and one or more female PCP for each major political party for each precinct depending on its size. For every 500 registered voters in a precinct, there should be one PCP of each gender.

A political party member may file for election as PCPs in May Primary Elections or may be write-in candidates, where upon receipt of at least three write-in votes, a person is elected as a PCP. A county clerk is required to include PCP elections on primary election ballots regardless if the PCP positions are contested. If there are PCP vacancies, after the election, the positions may be filled by appointment between elections at a political party central committee meeting. SB 29 will change the PCP election process in several ways, with the objective of streamlining the process and producing cost-savings for counties. The measure would require that when the number of candidates for PCP is greater than number of PCP positions, they will all be on the ballot; if number of candidates is equal to or less than the positions available, those positions will be closed; and the remaining vacant positions will be available for write in; and no later than the 8th day before election date, a person must file a request and declaration of intent their write-in votes be counted. If no person files a request, the position would be considered vacant.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.