

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/22, 3/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Extends period of time, from 8 days to 15 days, that individual nominated or elected to public office by write-in votes has to accept nomination or office. Requires filing officer to deliver by mail and email form for individual to sign to accept nomination or office. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Changes in mail delivery service
- Ability of person to accept nomination or elected position
- Amendment
- Impact on county clerks' workload
- Timeline for person to receive and accept nomination or position

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

-3 amendment: Restores current timeline for notifying individual nominated or elected to public office by write-in votes has to accept nomination or office. Clarifies that notification will be made by email, if election official has email for individual who received write-in nomination or votes.

BACKGROUND: ORS 254.548 sets forth the timeline that an individual nominated or elected by write-in votes must sign and file the form indicating acceptance of nomination or position. The statute permits the Secretary of State (SOS) to prescribe, by rule, how the form a candidate must sign and file is delivered and returned. Currently, the method for delivery is mail via the United States Postal Service.

House Bill 2855 would allow an election official to notify an individual of their nomination or election as a write-in through mail or email. It is possible that changes in the processing and delivery for mail may result in notifications not arriving in time for an individual to affirm their nomination or election. In addition, email has become a common, timely, and simpler method for people to send and receive a variety of notifications including those pertaining to elections. As email provides written proof of notification, and candidates are currently permitted to file the signed form with the SOS Elections Division via email.