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## Written Testimony before the House Rules Committee in Support of Senate Bill 29

Chair Hoyle, Vice-Chair Gilliam, Vice-Chair Smith Warner, Rep. McLane, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Kennemer, Rep. Nosse, Rep. Rayfield and Rep. Wilson,

As I'm sure you know, during the month of May in even numbered years, the County Clerks & Elections Officials of Oregon are charged with conducting a Primary election. From an elections administration perspective, the Precinct Committee Person positions are a large part of each of these Primary elections.

SB 29 would add significant efficiencies and streamline the process of electing PCPs.

- ♦ If the number of Candidates that file is greater than the number of positions, the position will appear on the ballot.
- ♦ If the number of candidates is equal to or less than the positions available, those positions will be closed; Any vacant positions will be available for write-in candidates.
- ♦ For those interested in mounting a write-in campaign, they would file, by the 8<sup>th</sup> day prior to the election, a Declaration of Write-In candidacy. (the 8<sup>th</sup> day is well after the ballots have been mailed so prospective candidates have ample time to act before the filing deadline.) **Over 85% of the PCP positions would be accessible to write-in candidates.**
- ♦ Eliminates the gender designation (committee man, committee woman) changes number of positions to one for every 250 electors, or major fraction thereof, registered on January 1 of the Primary election year.
- ♦ Eliminates the need for Clerks to mail, and write-in candidates to return an acceptance of office form because the write-in candidate filed the Declaration of Intent, acknowledging they will accept the office if elected.
- ♦ The County Clerk / Elections Official will **publish & maintain** a list of PCPs on their website.
- ♦ While it would be hard to estimate the impact on election costs at this point, we believe that the potential savings to Counties are significant.

We understand that the Precinct Committeeperson positions are the foundation of the major parties at the local level. SB 29 maintains the integrity of these positions while creating a more efficient and cost effective way to conduct Primary elections.

**The Oregon Assoc. of County Clerk's respectfully requests that you support SB 29.**