

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 6/11, 6/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Removes requirement that person elected to county office provide county clerk with certificate of election. Requires electronic filing of candidate's nominating petition or declaration of candidacy for primary election. Changes certain ballot markings from "Presidential only" to "Federal only." Alters certain filing deadlines. Adds prospective petition to requirement that full text of measure being circulated must be carried by signature-gatherers and available for review. Removes requirement that signature sheets for initiative or referral petition be attached to full and correct copy of measure. Requires Secretary of State (SOS) to establish process for modifying petition templates. Requires that one copy of prospective initiative and referral petitions be sent to required officials, rather than two. Permits district attorney to make clerical corrections to ballot title for district measure. Requires all estimates, portraits, statements and arguments for voters' pamphlet to be filed electronically. Makes candidate's statement for voters' pamphlet subject to prohibition on and penalties for false publication. Requires that district elections authority include ballot title for district election on measure at the time measure is submitted to county elections officials. Provides person, to whom civil penalty may be imposed ability to request hearing 20 days from service date on notice. Directs SOS to prepare and allow electors, chief petitioners and their agents to use electronic signature sheets to collect signatures for prospective initiative petition. Requires SOS to verify signatures in certain instances where county clerks currently verify signatures. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Extension of liability to alternative treasurer for violations of campaign finance reporting requirements
- Verification of information submitted by candidate in voters' pamphlet statements
- Remedies for submission of false information
- Independent expenditures

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

-A4 amendment: Removes reference "to excess of any amount (campaign contribution) necessary to defray expenditures" regarding use of contributions by campaign committees to resolve account debt. Corrects statutory reference in House Bill 2177 (2015) so that July 1, 2015 is established as date for determination of total number of registered voters in Oregon for purpose of maintaining status as minor political party for 2016 general election, as intended by measure. (Amends section 9 of HB 2177 to make it reference to ORS 248.008(4)(a) instead of ORS 248.008(4)(b)).

-A5 amendment: Removes provision that any false statements made by candidates in any submissions to voters' pamphlets by or on behalf of a candidate are subject to civil remedy in circuit court. Requires Secretary of State to verify accuracy of candidate's statement including candidate's occupation, educational and occupational background, and prior governmental experience and report to Attorney General for immediate examination, if SOS has reasonable belief that statement contain objectively false information. Provides that individual designated by candidate or treasurer of political committee is liable for any violations that may occur regarding reporting of campaign finance transactions. Applies responsibility for ensuring amended certification designating treasurer of political committee is filed, to individual serving as treasurer on date amended certification is due.

6/18/2015 10:52:00 AM

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

BACKGROUND: Each legislative session the Secretary of State's Elections Division introduces a measure that identifies and resolves technical issues and inconsistencies in election statutes. House Bill 2176-A is this measure for the 2015 Legislative Session. The measure addresses a number of issues including: alignment of election administration deadlines, modernization of voters' pamphlet filing procedures, updating signature-gathering process and increasing efficiency for election administration for local governments and county elections officials.