

Senate Bill 29

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SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes procedures for electing precinct committeepersons.

Requires one committeeperson 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 precinct committeeperson position if no other candidate for position exists.

Requires write-in candidate to signify acceptance of successful write-in candidacy before primary election, rather than after election.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to precinct committeepersons; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 248.015, 248.017
3 and 248.023.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2015 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 248.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) If the number of candidates in a precinct who qualify to serve as a pre-**
7 **inct committeeperson under ORS 248.015 and who submit a declaration of candidacy to serve**
8 **as a precinct committeeperson under ORS 249.031:**

9 (a) **Exceeds the number of positions for precinct committeeperson in the precinct, the**
10 **county clerk shall place the names of those candidates on the ballot for that precinct at the**
11 **primary election.**

12 (b) **Is less than or equal to the number of positions for precinct committeeperson in the**
13 **precinct, the county clerk shall declare those positions closed not later than 10 days after**
14 **the deadline for filing a declaration of candidacy. Not later than 20 days after the date of the**
15 **primary election, the county clerk shall declare the qualified candidates who submitted**
16 **timely declarations of candidacy to be elected as precinct committeepersons.**

17 (2) **If the number of candidates for precinct committeeperson who qualify for the ballot**
18 **under subsection (1) of this section is less than the number of positions for precinct com-**
19 **mitteeperson in the precinct, write-in candidates shall be considered eligible for election to**
20 **the precinct committeeperson positions.**

21 (3) **Subject to ORS 248.015 (4), a person may participate as a write-in candidate for pre-**
22 **inct committeeperson if the person submits, not later than eight days before the date of the**
23 **election, a form prescribed by the Secretary of State by rule to:**

24 (a) **Indicate the write-in candidate's acceptance to serve as precinct committeeperson, if**
25 **elected;**

26 (b) **Request that the county clerk count any write-in votes received by the write-in can-**
27 **didate; and**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (c) **Certify that the write-in candidate is legally qualified to serve as a precinct com-**
 2 **mitteeperson.**

3 (4) **Upon receipt of the form submitted under subsection (3) of this section, the county**
 4 **clerk shall determine whether the write-in candidate meets the qualifications to serve as a**
 5 **precinct committeeperson in the precinct. If the county clerk determines that the write-in**
 6 **candidate meets the qualifications, the county clerk shall record the write-in votes received**
 7 **by the write-in candidate.**

8 (5) **If no person qualifies as a candidate or write-in candidate under this section for a**
 9 **position of precinct committeeperson, that position shall be vacant.**

10 **SECTION 3.** ORS 248.015 is amended to read:

11 248.015. (1) A precinct committeeperson shall be a representative of the major political party in
 12 the precinct. At the primary election a major political party shall elect from its members a com-
 13 mitteeperson [*of each sex*] for every [500] **250** electors, or major fraction thereof, who are registered
 14 in the precinct on January 31 of the year of the primary election. In any event the political party
 15 members of a precinct shall be entitled to elect not less than [*one committeeperson of each sex*] **two**
 16 **committeepersons** in the precinct. [*No*] **A person [shall] may not** hold office as committeeperson
 17 in more than one precinct.

18 (2) A member of a major political party may become a candidate for precinct committeeperson
 19 of the precinct in which the person is registered, or of a precinct within the same county adjoining
 20 that precinct, [*by filing*] **in the manner set forth in section 2 of this 2015 Act if the person files**
 21 a declaration of candidacy described in ORS 249.031, except as provided in subsection (3) of this
 22 section.

23 (3) ORS 249.031 (1)(i) [*shall*] **does** not apply to declarations of candidacy for candidates for pre-
 24 cinct committeeperson.

25 (4) A member of the major political party who has been a member of that party for 180 days
 26 before the primary election may be elected by write-in votes as precinct committeeperson of the
 27 precinct in which the member is registered, or of a precinct within the same county adjoining that
 28 precinct. **A member elected by write-in votes must meet all of the requirements under this**
 29 **section and section 2 of this 2015 Act.**

30 (5) Unless a qualified person receives at least three votes, no person [*shall be*] **is** deemed to have
 31 been elected as precinct committeeperson and the office of committeeperson shall be vacant.

32 (6) The term of office of a precinct committeeperson is from the [*24th*] **35th** day after the date
 33 of the primary election until the [*24th*] **35th** day after the date of the next following primary
 34 election.

35 (7) A precinct committeeperson [*shall not be*] **is not** considered a public officer.

36 **SECTION 4.** ORS 248.017 is amended to read:

37 248.017. Notwithstanding any provision of ORS 248.015, an otherwise qualified person who will
 38 attain the age of 18 years after the deadline for filing a declaration of candidacy for the office of
 39 precinct committeeperson and on or before the date of the primary election, and who is registered
 40 as a member of the major political party not later than the date of the primary election, is eligible
 41 to file a [*nominating petition*] **declaration of candidacy** for the office of precinct committeeperson[,
 42 *to be listed on the ballot*] and to be elected to the office, including by write-in votes.

43 **SECTION 5.** ORS 248.023 is amended to read:

44 248.023. (1) Not later than the 20th day after a primary election, the county clerk shall mail a
 45 certificate of election to each newly elected precinct committeeperson within the county. [*The clerk*

1 *also shall mail an “Acceptance of Office” form to each person elected by write-in votes to the office of*
2 *committeeperson. The form shall include a statement to be signed by the person elected that the person*
3 *is qualified to hold the office.]*

4 *[(2) A person elected by write-in votes to the office of precinct committeeperson shall be certified for*
5 *the office by filing with the county clerk, not later than the 27th day after the date of the primary*
6 *election, a signed “Acceptance of Office” form.]*

7 *[(3)]* **(2)** Not later than the *[31st]* **37th** day after a primary election, the county clerk shall pre-
8 pare, maintain and furnish to the chairpersons of the respective retiring county central committees
9 within the county and the chairpersons of the state central committees, a list of the *[party]* precinct
10 committeepersons elected and certified. **The list shall be published and maintained on the**
11 **county’s website.** At the same time, the county clerk shall declare the other offices of **precinct**
12 committeeperson vacant.

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