



**Oregon Secretary of State
Dennis Richardson**

Testimony Supporting SB 225

The goal of Senate Bill 225 is to ensure that there is accountability for all petition and political committees. Currently, candidates are accountable for campaign finance violations of their own campaign committees. In contrast, there is currently no person accountable for violations by political and petition committees due to a 2013 drafting error that accidentally removed treasurer accountability.

As currently drafted, SB 225 restores treasurers as the person held accountable for campaign violations. However, several legislators had concerns with this solution possibly resulting in a treasurer being held liable despite following orders of their employer. Our office put together a list of alternatives for consideration that would ensure accountability and also be enforceable by the Elections Division.

Accountability options for petition committees:

1. Treasurer is liable, as set forth in the bill currently.
2. Treasurer is liable as a default, unless the committee designates someone else to be liable on the Statement of Organization.
3. Committee designates someone to be liable on the Statement of Organization.
4. All chief petitioners are jointly and severally liable.
5. First-listed chief petitioner is liable.

Accountability options for political committees:

1. Treasurer is liable, as set forth in the bill currently.
2. Treasurer is liable as a default, unless the committee designates someone else to be liable on the Statement of Organization.
3. Committee designates someone to be liable on the Statement of Organization.
4. All directors are jointly and severally liable.
5. First-listed director is liable.

We would support any of these options because they all further the goals of ensuring full responsibility and being enforceable. We would be glad to work on any amendments that the committee desires.

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