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March 23, 2017

### **Written Testimony in Support House Bill 2571**

Chair Williamson, Vice-Chairs McLane and Rayfield, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Association of County Clerk's (OACC) strongly urges your support for House Bill 2571, an elections efficiency and cost savings bill. Oregon taxpayers should not subsidize political parties.

- HB 2571 would repeal public funding of the election of local precinct committee persons (PCPs). PCPs are political party positions. The bill would allow each major political party to select their PCPs in any manner they choose, just not at taxpayer expense.
- Currently, only major political parties are entitled to have their PCPs elected, and only voters registered with a major political party can vote for PCPs.
- However, all Oregon taxpayers, regardless of party affiliation, subsidize these political party elections with general fund tax dollars.
- HB 2571 removes the subsidizing of political party elections with public tax money.
- In addition, the current process of electing PCPs is highly inefficient. In 2016, there were 18,212 PCP positions on the ballot. After the election, and acceptance by write-in candidates, 14,179 political party PCP positions still remained vacant! These numbers have been fairly consistent every two years, at a cost of nearly \$200,000 to taxpayers statewide.

The Oregon Association of County Clerks strongly urges your support of HB 2571.