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RE: SB 5536 - Secretary of State budget

Co-Chairs Manning and Smith, and members of the joint subcommittee,

As you know, the Oregon Association of County Clerks (OACC) supports SB 5536, and Policy Package 106 in particular. However, near the end of your hearing on SB 5536, Representative Gomberg inquired about the position of OACC with regard to the use of HAVA funds and the state voter's pamphlet – issues that arose earlier in the hearing. I indicated that I would get back to Representative Gomberg and the Committee. Here is the response from OACC:

- Several years ago the HAVA committee voted to discontinue the use of HAVA funds for anything other than the support for and potential replacement of the Oregon Centralized Voter Registration (OCVR) system. The county and state representatives on the HAVA committee felt that was the best way to stretch those dollars in support of a system that is essential to everything that we do in elections.
- At some point HAVA funds will be gone, and the legislature will have to fund OCVR or its replacement. Steve Trout, Elections Division Director, has been having that conversation with the legislature since his first appointment as Director. The fact that State Elections has been using HAVA funds for their half of the OCVR maintenance payments, while County general funds have been paying for the other half of those payments, is a long-standing point of contention. OACC feels that the legislature needs to fully fund OCVR because it is critical infrastructure to running elections in the state, and there must be a plan to support it when the HAVA funds are gone.
- Finally, the voters' pamphlet is the most valuable outreach and educational tool available because it is delivered to every home in Oregon. It is inexpensive advertising for candidates, and valuable to voters.

The Oregon Association of County Clerks strongly urges your support of SB 5536.