



## **Oregon Secretary of State's Office Testimony Supporting SB 1567**

As Oregon's chief elections officer, the Secretary of State is responsible for ensuring a fair election process and for encouraging maximum citizen participation in our democracy. Secretary Richardson supports SB 1567's common sense improvement to empower Oregon voters to choose their own elected officials.

While researching questions on the statutory requirements for a special election to fill the last two years of a four year term, our office discovered that political parties could bypass a primary election and select special election nominees even when a vacancy occurred prior to the 70th day before a primary election. For future vacancies in similar circumstances, this bill ensures that a primary election is used to select nominees for a special election for state senate and statewide offices.

Secretary Richardson applauds senate leaders for moving quickly in a bipartisan manner to improve our election laws and empower the citizens of Oregon through SB 1567.

**Contact:** Steve Elzinga 503-986-2259 or [stephen.elzinga@oregon.gov](mailto:stephen.elzinga@oregon.gov)