



Oregon Secretary of State's Office

The Secretary of State focuses on encouraging voter participation and maximizing access while ensuring election integrity. We thank the League of Women Voters for their partnership and advocacy for improving public access to the elections process.

HB 2234 would require the Secretary of State to act as a centralized repository of some, but not necessarily all, candidate filings and to timely forward filings to the appropriate filing officer. If the centralized candidate filing system is electronic, ORESTAR functionality would be expanded. It would require a large IT development project and have a significant fiscal impact.

With amendments and full funding, HB 2234 has the potential to increase transparency and improve Oregon's candidate filing process for candidates and local government elections officials. Since the cost of implementing this improvement would be significant, we encourage legislators to weigh the benefits of this proposal compared to other important elections improvements that also need to be completed. Since IT professionals experienced in ORESTAR have limited time, projects must be prioritized based on the highest needs.

Significant Preliminary Cost Estimates

Elections Staffing Costs:

Significant costs for staff time in the Elections Division to field the inevitably large volume of questions from thousands of potential candidates, hundreds of local governments, political parties, political action committees, media, etc., as well as time to resolve errors and logistical challenges with the system. Costs depend on the structure of system and are not yet estimated.

Large IT Costs:

Our *very preliminary* estimate is that *IT costs alone* would exceed \$838,000 for implementation and an additional \$270,000 per biennium for ongoing operations. This is a very preliminary estimate that will change depending on the structure of the system and upon full analysis.

Delaying Other IT Projects:

Because this is a large IT project that would require the involvement of our senior IT staff with expertise in ORESTAR, other elections projects would have to be delayed to accommodate this project. Below is a list of projects currently in the Secretary of State IT portfolio for comparison.

Even if we are able to hire contractors qualified to perform this work, it would take time and resources to go through the procurement process to execute contracts. Additionally, internal resources would be necessary for security and integration with our systems, as well as project management. Please note that contractors without experience with ORESTAR would be less efficient and more costly than internal development by staff already familiar with the system.

Current Elections IT Projects

All Secretary of State IT resources are fully allocated according to the priorities set by the legislature and agency Portfolio Review Board. A change in priorities would require a change in the projects accomplished due to the finite set of resources within the agency. Adding HB 2234's project to the portfolio would necessarily replace some of the projects listed below that are currently in the portfolio. There are currently 17 elections-focused projects in the portfolio. Only five of them are in active development, and the other 12 are waiting in line. This project would further delay those 12 waiting projects, plus some of the active ones.

Elections IT Project Portfolio - Project Name (current as of February 15)	Status
SOS AWS Migration Project	Active
Level 1 - ORESTAR data.oregon.gov Integration	Active
Level 1 - OCVR Transition	Active
LEVEL 3 - ORESTAR 2018 Security Maintenance	Active
Level 1 - OCVR ERIC Integration	Active
Level 1 - OCVR Multi-Factor Authentication	On Hold
ORESTAR - Complaints & Violations/Other violations	On Hold
ORESTAR - Statement of Organization Fixes/Upgrades	On Hold
ORESTAR - Electronic Business System (EBS1) Oracle Forms Calendar Transition into ORESTAR	On Hold
Level 1 - OCVR ORESTAR STANDARDIZATION	Requested
Level 1 - Campaign Finance Cleanup	Requested
Level 1 - ORESTAR - INITIATIVES, REFERRALS, REFERENDUM UPGRADE	Requested
Level 1 - ORESTAR - SOO Phase II	Requested
Level 1 - Online Voters Pamphlet	Requested
Level 1 - OCVR-ORESTAR Ballot Tracking	Planning
Level 1 - OCVR Migration	Planning
Level 3 - ORESTAR - 2019 Voters Pamphlet Updates	Idea

Technical Changes Needed to HB 2234

We agree with the Oregon Association of County Clerks that HB 2234 would need a variety of technical changes to be workable. While we appreciate that the League of Women Voters has reached out to some stakeholders for preliminary discussions, a project of this magnitude and scope would need the sustained attention of a focused group with representatives of all impacted entities, including the Elections Division, counties, cities, special districts, and candidates.

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