



## Oregon Secretary of State's Office Testimony on HB 2685

It is important for the Elections Division and the public to have a means of communicating with candidates about their campaigns. To that end, the Secretary of State's office agrees with the intent behind HB 2685: candidate filings should not include emails or phone numbers owned by a public body or that require redaction for personal safety reasons. In fact, we have considered rulemaking on this topic since current laws may be ambiguous. We support HB 2685 with one technical amendment.

As currently written, Section 2(2) prohibits a candidate from listing on their candidate filing a phone number or email that is: (1) owned by a public body; (2) redactable for personal safety reasons; or (3) the candidate's personal phone number or email, even if there are no reasons for redaction. We believe the third impact was unintentional since prohibiting a candidate from using their own phone number or email could create an unnecessary barrier to running for office for some candidates.

In order to achieve the two desired impacts of this bill without the third undesired impact, we recommend replacing Section 2(2) with wording similar to the following:

(2) A person may not use a phone number or electronic email address that either requires redaction for reasons like personal safety or is provided to the person by a public body as defined in ORS 174.109 to satisfy the requirements set forth in subsection (1) of this section.

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