



Oregon Association of County Clerks

OACC advocates passing HB 2491 (with amendment HB 2491-2)

The Oregon Association of County Clerks (OACC) supports improvements to the process of electing Precinct Committee People (PCPs) in Oregon. OACC worked directly with representatives from the Democratic and Republican Parties to include several improvements in one bill.

Collaboration. After meeting with political party officials, we determined that we share the goal of improving PCP elections. The Democratic Party of Oregon (DPO), the Oregon Republican Party (ORP) and OACC agree that we can improve efficiencies and transparency throughout the process.

Specific ideas for improvement. Representatives from the DPO and the ORP met multiple times with members of OACC. These meetings resulted in HB 2491. The key proposed changes (with amendment HB 2491-2) include:

- A) Removes the gender designation and adjusts the number of PCPs per precinct in order to create a more equitable and inclusive process without changing representation per voter
- B) Allows candidates to file earlier in the process (filing opens the same day that all Primary Election offices open – 250 days before Primary)
- C) Creates write-in declaration process (eliminates need for elections offices to mail and write-in winners to return “Acceptance of Office”)
- D) Creates nomination process (fills perceived void created by required write-in process)
- E) Allows PCPs to serve their county more broadly (extends boundary to be within House District)

More efficient process. Requiring either a write-in declaration or nomination creates a more efficient and transparent system. It eliminates the burden of tabulating thousands of fictitious names written in for PCP races across the state while providing quicker results to political parties for filed candidates that actually want to run and serve. It also saves postage and time creating an earlier opportunity for write-in candidates to confirm their intent to serve.

-2 Amendment completes the package. All of the concepts in the proposed amendment HB 2491-2 should have been included in the original draft legislation as agreed to by the DPO, ORP, and OACC. OACC urges the adoption of the -2 amendment as proposed.

Position on HB 2491: This bill came from the collaboration between the two political parties utilizing the PCP election process and Oregon election officials. We urge you to adopt our amendment and pass HB 2491.