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March 27, 2019

RE: 2019 Session - Secretary of State Election Division Budget Request

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

The Oregon Association of County Clerks (OACC) supports the Secretary of State's Budget Requests to Ensure Accurate, Secure and Transparent Elections in Oregon as submitted for the 2019 Session.

1. **Election Division Staffing** – In January 2017, Department of Homeland Security declared the electoral systems part of the nation's federally protected critical infrastructure. Technology and security is critical to Oregon's election process and voter confidence. It's imperative that State Elections has funding to recruit, train, and retain professional and highly qualified staff to provide the technical support to voter registration (OCVR), campaign finance (ORESTAR) and Election Night Reporting. Skilled staff is required to transition OCVR and the helpdesk that serves counties and the voters of Oregon in a secure environment. In addition, staffing is necessary to thwart misinformation and cyber attacks.
2. **OMV (Oregon Motor Voter) Mailers** - OMV, which became law January 2016, automatically registers citizens with a qualifying action at DMV. Understanding that OMV would both increase the number of registered voters and counties' costs for ballot printing, mailing and processing, the State committed to compensate counties for these increasing election costs. OACC anticipates the State will honor their promise to compensate counties for their increased costs.
3. **Elections Security Systems** – The security of Oregon's election system is a priority that State Elections is pursuing, that includes working with Homeland Security. All precautions and improvements to secure Oregon's critical infrastructure, applications and voting information from threats is essential to maintain the integrity, performance and defense of democracy. Maintaining healthy systems that actively guards against cyber attacks is an ongoing expensive task that requires fully funding the Division. Any new tasks added to the Division's responsibilities must be fully funded in addition to what the Division already does.

The Oregon Association of County Clerk strongly urges your support of the Secretary of State's Election Division Budget Requests.