

Dear Members of the Rules Committee:

I am a member of the executive team of OneSmallThingPDX, a Indivisible group that has undertaken a effort to review, track, and make recommendations on over 70 bills before the Oregon Legislature this session. I am the chair of the 17-person Legislative Task Force that is undertaking this effort, the results of which have been widely disseminated via social media and through the state-wide Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network. A copy of our latest list of recommendations is attached.

I understand that SJM 11 is included in the agenda for today's committee meeting for a hearing and possible work session.

While SJM 11 would express the desire that Oregonians have that candidates for the two highest national offices transparently provide voters with essential information about their finances, SJM 11 is a toothless measure.

It merely asks Congress to act to require these disclosures. We know that a Republican Senate led by Mitch McConnell will never do so, and President Trump would veto any such law, if passed by both houses of Congress.

Instead, I urge the Rules committee to hold hearings on and move SB 594, which would enact a state law requiring that candidates for president and vice president disclose 5 years of their tax returns to be appear on the ballot in Oregon. The Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network has identified this bill (and its companion bill, HB 2762) as one of a small handful of priority bills. The OneSmallThingPDX Legislative Task Force supports SB 594/HB 2762.

As a lawyer, I am aware of the potential legal challenges that could be mounted against SB 594, if it were enacted. However, it is worth the effort to make sure that all candidates for president and vice president reveal information that is critical to voters in making their choices at the polls.

Please heed these views, which are not just mine, but the opinion of many voters at the grassroots who demand the means to hold these candidates accountable.

Very truly yours,
Mary Chaffin
OneSmallThingPDX
Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network