

SB 861
Relating to elections

SB 861 requires the state to pay postage costs for ballots returned by mail for all elections in Oregon.

For each election, voters will be given a pre-addressed Business Reply Mail envelope with their ballot. When voters submit their ballots by mail in a Business Reply Mail envelope, the U.S. Postal Service will charge the state a fee for each Business Reply Mail envelope received. Voters will also have the option to continue to return their ballot to ballot drop sites, at no additional cost to the state.

The cost to the state of prepaid postage for ballots will vary. Factors influencing costs could include voter turnout, how many voters return ballots by mail, and the size of the ballot.

The recommended amendment includes a General Fund appropriation of \$1.7 million to implement this measure. A special purpose appropriation of \$1.1 million will be included in the 2019 end of session budget bill, should the costs of prepaid postage for ballots exceed budgeted election expenditures.

The Capital Construction Subcommittee recommends SB 861 be amended by the –A2 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.