

Summary of 2023 Legislative Concepts

ARCHIVES

LC 258 Updating Public Records Law: The goal of this bill is to clarify definitions and terminology in the sections of the public records law (ORS 192) that pertain to records retention. There are currently references to outdated technology and align ORS 192 with recent efforts to ensure tribal governments in Oregon have a voice in how tribal information is kept.

AUDITS

LC 261 – Updating Municipal Audits: 1) Eliminate withholdings provision (ORS 297.466). 2) Increase the thresholds for audit exemption (ORS 297.435). 3) Replace Review reports with targeted Agreed Upon Procedures (ORS 297.435)

LC 262 Technical Fixes to Municipal Audits – General cleanup

LC 588 – Accessible Audits: Update current law by clarifying language on the Secretary's constitutional authority to access data and other records necessary to perform audits.

CORPORATION

LC 259 Technical Changes to Business Filing Registration: Removes 20 day waiting period to correct mistakes made by corporation's divisions.

ELECTIONS

LC 254 Establishes a Campaign Finance Team within Election's Division: Directs Secretary of State to create a Campaign Finance Team within the Elections Division – this is to create the fiscal for the office that would lead small donor PACs, public finance, outreach/education. Limits will be left to the legislature to decide.

LC 273 Taskforce on Sustainable Election Funding: The current needs are stark and local elections officials are working under challenging conditions. Since the 2020 election, we have seen an increased focus on elections administration. That's brought more records requests, disinformation campaigns, threats, and harassment — all of which takes work that isn't factored into existing budgets. Many elections officials are also in charge of technology projects, maintenance, security, and reporting required by an increasingly complex system of laws and administrative rules. LC 273 will allow us to make recommendations based on a current study on local election administration funding needs.



LC 275 Elections Security LC:

<p>Secret Ballot & Right to Vote:</p> <p>Most of us believe that our right to vote a secret ballot is codified in law. However, there are no explicit provisions affirming the right to vote or the right to do so with a secret ballot. Adding in these important fundamental rights for Oregonian's would send a message to voters that their vote is secured and that their ballot is their own business.</p>	<p>Expand Penalties for Election Workers (HB 4144-A): Increase from a Misdemeanor A to a Felony C. *</p>
<p>Amend Security Plans Law:</p> <p>Remove the January 31 deadline for counties to submit plans and allow SoS to set the yearly deadline by rule. SoS may require by rule that counties address additional issues in their security plans. Requires SoS requirements to be consistent with federal best practices</p>	<p>Removes the name or number of the precinct in which an elector resides, and the precinct split of an elector from ORS 247.948</p>

LC 279 Technical adjustments placeholder (Omnibus): These critical technical changes will allow our Elections Division to streamline translation on voter pamphlets, make changes to the requirements to provide free list to political parties, changes to timing for completing filing and verification of signatures, asking for rulemaking to adopt an electronic filing system to allow nominating petitions of candidacy to be declared electronically, to asking for limits on how many papers voter registration cards will be given upon request.

LC 281 Political Advocacy of Public Employees: Clarify when a public employee may express their personal political views on the job so long as it is not done in a way that leads a reasonable voter to infer they are expressing an opinion of the public agency.

LC 285 Oregon Association County Clerk Resolution

LC 313 Expansion of Automatic Voter Registration (AVR): Expanding the voter registration system to other state agencies who frequently interact with voters provides an efficient way to increase participation by reaching populations who don't interact with the DMV. We envision to expand AVR to:

<p>Link to Oregonians on the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) to AVR starting June 1, 2026.</p>	<p>Direct SoS to create a pilot program between Powder River Correctional Facility and ODMV to update ODL/IDS when Adults in Custody are released from Powder River Correctional Facility. Pilot program begins January 1, 2026 for two years.</p>
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LC 589 Same Day Voter Registration: Allow Oregonians to register to vote and then cast a ballot up until Election Day. This will require a constitutional amendment. Section 2, Article.

For more information contact: Jessica Ventura, Legislative Director