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February 9, 2022

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Breese Iverson, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to questions posed during the public hearing on HB 4133- Expanding Online Voter Registration held on Tuesday February 8, 2021. Secretary Fagan is supportive of HB 4133 and you can read her testimony [here](#). Below are the questions posed during the hearing along with our responses provided by our technical staff within the Elections Division. We are happy to provide more information if necessary.

Thank you,
Jessica Ventura
Legislative Director for Secretary Fagan

HB 4133 Online Voter Registration Committee Questions

**QUESTION: Rep. Wallan- what is a qualified person of someone who can register?
Rep. Valderrama- what is the current process through paper and why would moving to online be better?**

SOS Response: A person must be at least 16 years old, a resident of Oregon, and a U.S. citizen to register to vote. Even though 16-year-olds may register to vote they will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after their 18th birthday.

There are three ways to register to vote in Oregon: Oregon Motor Voter automatic voter registration, online voter registration and paper registration.

The Oregon Motor Voter (OMV) registration law took effect on January 1, 2016, making Oregon the first state in the nation to implement automatic voter registration. Automatic registration is available to those who apply for an original, renewal or replacement driver's license, permit or identification card and provide evidence of citizenship at a Driver and Motor Vehicle Division (DMV) office.

A voter can also register to vote online at oregonvotes.gov/register if they have a driver's license or ID issued by the Oregon DMV. If an individual does not have an Oregon DMV issued driver's license or ID they must register using a paper voter registration form. The form may be mailed or hand-delivered to a county election office, the Secretary of State's office, or any other agency

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required by law to accept voter registration cards. Paper voter registration forms are located in many public buildings, in every county election office and in many state agency buildings including the office of the Secretary of State, Elections Division.

To respond to Rep. Valderrama's question: From an equity perspective, we know people without a driver's license or state issued ID must still either find a voter registration form, or print, sign, and mail the registration form. This is a barrier to completing voter registration and results in Oregonians not registering, updating their registration, or casting their vote. This change significantly broadens Online Voter Registration (OVR) access for individuals without licenses.

QUESTION: Rep. Zika- what is the verification process to make sure someone who's registering is actually a citizen? How often does the SOS check with the national registry? How often is the voter list scrubbed?

SOS Response: When people submit a voter registration form listing the last four digits of their Social Security number (SSN) the clerks verify that number against a federal database. This occurs each time a clerk receives a voter registration form containing the last four digits of an SSN. This is similar to how clerks verify DMV numbers when a paper voter registration form is received containing an Oregon driver's license or ID number. The clerks verify those numbers against a state database to ensure the DMV number listed is valid.

The county clerks and the state Elections Division continuously make sure voter rolls are as accurate as possible. The Elections Division works with the DMV to update voter registration records for individuals who obtained a DMV number after they registered using the last four digits of their SSN. For example, if an individual moved to Oregon and registered using the last four digits of their SSN but subsequently obtained an Oregon driver's license and provided proof of citizenship at the DMV, data transfers between the Elections Division and the DMV would prompt that individual's voter record to be updated to include the DMV number.

Oregon is also a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). This allows the Elections Division to compare voter rolls with other member states and remove people from the rolls who moved and forgot to cancel their Oregon voter registration. The services also provides deceased records that clerks update regularly. Additionally, the Oregon Health Association provides vital records on a regular basis to compliment the data. The Oregon Elections Division is also a member of NCOA (the National Change of Address), a program that sends data when a voter moves either within or out of state, and we use that data to update voter rolls and send the information to counties.

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Further, when a county clerk believes that someone who isn't qualified to vote submitted a registration card there is a process by which the clerk may challenge that registration. *See* ORS 247.174 and ORS 247.195. If a person registered to vote when they weren't qualified to do so, not only would their registration be cancelled, but they face fines of up to \$125,000 and/or 5 years imprisonment.

QUESTION: Rep. Zika- How many register with paper form without SSN?

SOS Response: Currently there are 83,851 individuals registered to vote with the last four digits of their SSN. Another 17,679 individuals are registered to vote using other acceptable identification. Because the online voter registration is only available to those with an Oregon DMV number this means that all these individuals registered to vote using the paper form.

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