

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SHEMIA FAGAN
SECRETARY OF STATE

CHERYL MYERS
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE



900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97310
Information 503-986-1523
oregon.sos@oregon.gov
sos.oregon.gov

February 2, 2023

Chair Lieber, Members of the Senate Rules Committee:

Since taking office as Oregon's Secretary of State two years ago, I've truly enjoyed getting to know and work with Oregon's 36 County Clerks and Elections Administrators. They are truly the unsung heroes of our democracy. Please support of [SCR 1](#) to recognize these amazing public servants who protect our democracy.

My office submitted [SCR 1](#) this Session to recognize the work and dedication of Oregon's clerks. I've had the pleasure of visiting every single clerk at their home base in all 36 counties. They've walked me through their operations, shared their stories of public service, and truly impressed me with their dedication and professionalism.

While the Oregon Elections Division oversees statewide application of elections laws and Oregon's voter registration database, our county clerks are the people who truly run elections. And increasingly, this job comes with public skepticism and sometimes outright hostility.

On that note, I wanted to share one somewhat startling fact: since the 2020 election, 25% of county clerks have retired or left office, in many cases after over 30 years of service. These jobs are demanding. They are stressful, and they have become more so ever since the 2020 election as false information has led to increased lawsuits, public records requests, threats, and harassment. Our clerks have my unyielding respect and admiration for their service.

Whether intentional or not, I was pleased to see this resolution given the first SCR number. I think it's only appropriate as Oregon's clerks are first responders in the protection and stewardship of our democracy.

Thank you for your consideration of [SCR 1](#). I urge your support.

Shemia Fagan
Oregon Secretary of State

Point of Contact:

Jessica Ventura, Legislative Director
Jessica.Ventura @sos.oregon.gov