



Legislative Fiscal Office
82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly
2024 Regular Session

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Bill Title: Relating to campaign finance.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Secretary of State, Cities, Counties, Department of Justice, District Attorneys, Judicial Department, Legislative Assembly, Special Districts Association of Oregon, Association of County Clerks

Summary of Fiscal Impact

Because the measure is referred to voters at the next regular general election, the fiscal impact will be determined by a financial impact committee created for each state measure submitted to the ballot through the initiative and referendum process - see explanatory analysis.

Measure Description

The measure refers for voters' approval a variety of new and modified requirements related to campaign finance. The measure directs rulemaking requirements for the Secretary of State. The measure permits unexpended funds that remain in the accounts of a candidate political committee to be transferred to the Campaign Finance Education Fund established under this measure, with moneys continuously appropriated to the Secretary of State to hire a full-time employee to provide voter education, support, and outreach; and to provide technical assistance regarding contribution limits for candidates, campaigns, and the public. The Secretary of State is directed to adopt an addition to the electronic filing system, and to create a web-based campaign finance dashboard, as well as to update software related to campaign filings. The measure also creates civil penalties for certain actions that are to be paid to the Secretary of State.

Fiscal Analysis

Because the measure is referred to voters at the next regular general election, the fiscal impact on the Secretary of State's office is the state's portion of incremental costs incurred for an already-funded election. The Secretary of State prepares and distributes the voters' pamphlet and collects a filing fee for each argument submitted in support or opposition of a ballot measure. Typically, these filing fees cover slightly more than half the cost of producing and mailing the voters' pamphlet. The remaining costs are paid by the General Fund. The fiscal impact on the Secretary of State is currently indeterminate because the cost of producing and distributing the voters' pamphlet is determined by the total number of initiatives and legislative referrals on the ballot, and number of arguments submitted in support or opposition of these ballot measures. This information will not be known until after election filing deadlines. The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) assumes that the Secretary will seek General Fund support from the Emergency Board or Legislative Assembly if the actual voters' pamphlet costs exceed currently budgeted election expenditures.

Under procedures established in ORS 250.125 and 250.127, a financial impact committee is created for each state measure submitted to the ballot through the initiative and referendum processes. For this reason, LFO does not include an estimate of the fiscal impact that would result if this joint resolution were adopted in an election.

Relevant Dates

The measure takes effect on the 91st day after sine die.

Only impacts on original or engrossed versions are considered official