

2026 Budget Requests

Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on General Government

Michael Kaplan | Deputy Secretary of State



Agency Goals

1

Integrity

Nonpartisan
operations, prioritizing
Oregonians' needs

2

Accountability

Honesty, identifying
and fixing shortfalls

3

Competence

Improving
implementation,
attention to detail

Our Focus

What we've done first:

Program and operational efficiencies already implemented.

What success looks like:

Stable systems, timely implementation, and reduced operational risk.

Request 1: Stabilize Oregon Centralized Voter Registration (OCVR)

Ask: \$2,000,000 General Fund (equipment & software upgrades)

Maintains a secure, available, statewide voter registration backbone as election security threats increase.

- OCVR is Oregon's **single, centralized voter registration database** used statewide.
- System is hosted on **legacy infrastructure** that is increasingly costly and difficult to maintain.
- Federal HAVA resources are being spent down.
- SOS expects remaining balance to be exhausted, requiring transition to GF support.

Request 2: HB 4024 Implementation & Compliance

Ask: \$25,000,000 General Fund

Necessary to deliver HB 4024 on current schedule and reduce risk of implementation failure.

- HB 4024 requires SOS to implement major campaign finance changes supported by technology that can **monitor, publish, and aggregate** high transaction volumes.
- Current system (ORESTAR) is **decades old** and cannot meet new requirements.
- System must be operational **no later than January 1, 2027**.
- SOS is moving to an RFP-based approach to secure a qualified vendor.

Request 3: Corporation Division Digitization & Capitol Staff

Ask:

- \$456,397 Other Fund
- 1.0 FTE Admin Specialist 2 (OF)

Complete digitization of business registration records & ensures safe, professional, and efficient public access to the Secretary of State's Capitol office.

- Legislature previously approved funding to digitize approximately **4.3M** records.
- Project scope increased to an estimated **6.5M** records after discovery of additional microfilm/microfiche content.
- Contract amendment increased project cost (total project cost cited as **\$747,033**).
- As of Dec. 5, 2025, digitization completed for **3,077,667** records.
- Capitol office reopening creates a daily public-facing service need.
- Reception function supports:
 - Greeting and routing the public;
 - Administrative support for an additional physical location; and
 - Added layer of safety/security and controlled access.

Final Thoughts

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