

Submitter: Carla KC Hanson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB578

To Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham and the esteemed members of the Senate Rules Committee,

I'm in strong support of this logical and common-sense bill; making Voter Pamphlet Candidate statement deadlines uniform across the state is a correction that is long overdue.

Not only have 12 of our 36 Oregon Counties operated with earlier Voter Pamphlet (VP) deadlines, in a number of those counties the deadlines were either published with obscure placement on County Elections websites or left unpublished entirely.

These remarkable inconsistencies have resulted in an extraordinary number of new candidates, unaware of the different and earlier deadline for their particular county, being left off the most significant piece of communication that Oregon candidates enjoy. And to be clear, there is no mercy when the deadline - even if mysteriously early and unpublished - is missed. "Late" filings are not accepted, and a candidate who does not have a statement in the VP will not win in a contested race at any level.

Obscure rules and deadlines, whether intentionally complicated or not, have historically undermined election processes and worked against the greater concept of election accessibility for all, be they voters or candidates.

This is not a partisan issue, but a most necessary correction that ensures consistency and fairness in a critical piece of our election process.

Please vote for SB 578.

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