

# Elections Cybersecurity & OCVR Update

**Mary Krehbiel**, Chief of Strategic Initiatives

**Steve Menachemson**, Information Systems Division Director

**Dena Dawson**, Elections Division Director



# SOS Information Security Program

## Mission Statement

*“Protecting the work of the Oregon Secretary of State’s office and the people it serves through strong cybersecurity.”*

# Oregon Elections Platform and Cybersecurity



**Oregon Centralized Voter Registration System (OCVR)**



**Oregon Motor Voter System (OMV)**



**Oregon Elections System for Tracking and Reporting (ORESTAR)**

# State and County Cybersecurity

The Secretary of State's office provides county-level support in the following ways:

## Funding Navigation

We connect jurisdictions to available grants and funding.

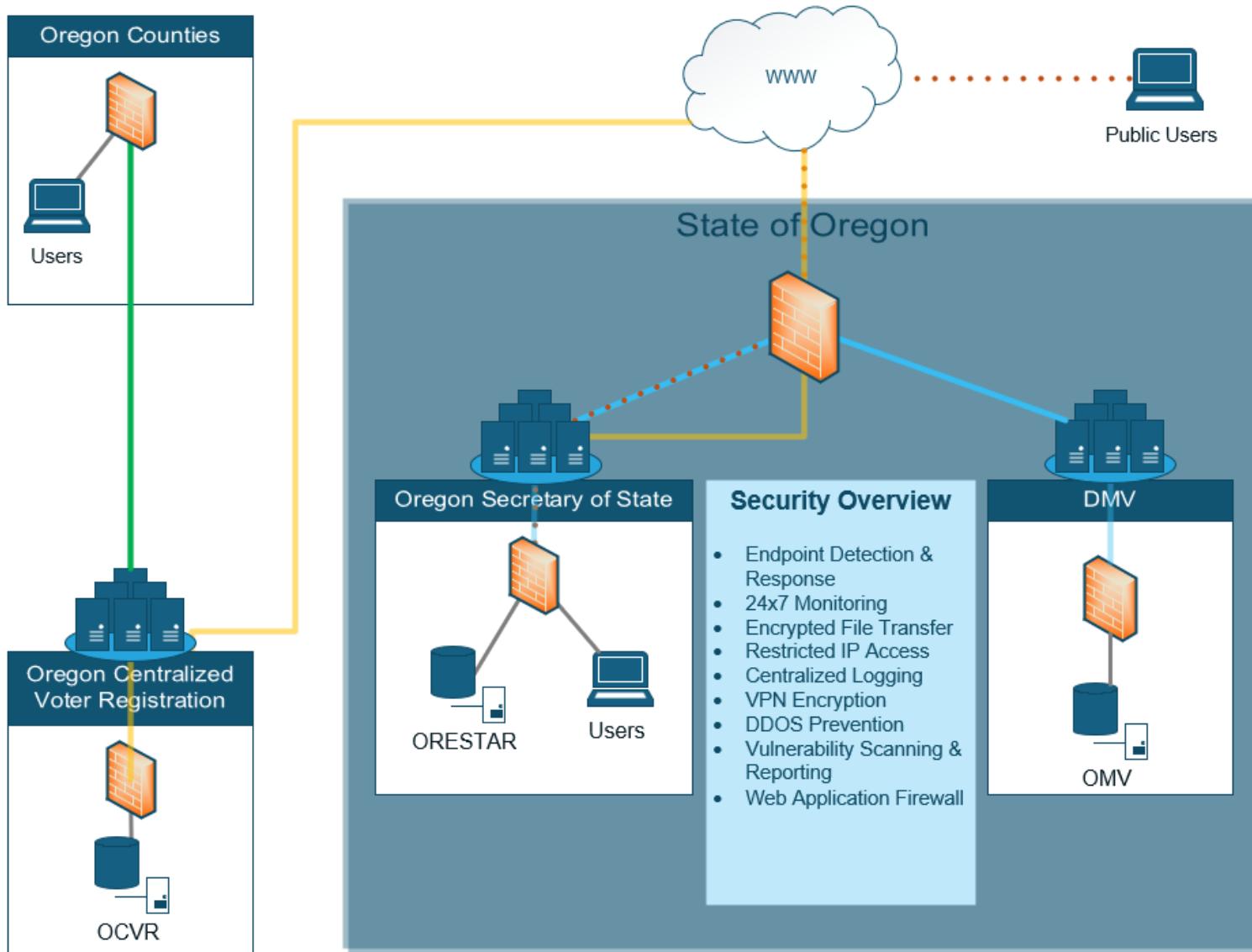
## Resource Coordination

We help local officials identify trusted cybersecurity resources.

## Peer-to-Peer Collaboration

We convene election officials and their IT counterparts to share information.

# High Level - SOS Elections Environment



# Top Risks in Cybersecurity 2026

- Threat Environment and GeoPolitical Risks
- AI – Offensive and Defensive Uses
- Legacy Systems and Technical Debt
- Workforce and Talent Scarcity



# 2026 Accomplishments

## Workforce is more secure

- Implemented tools to help individuals be secure.
- Deployed MFA and other physical improvements.
- Increased required training on security.

## Technology is more secure

- Expanded mobile and hardware policies.
- Updated plans and procedures.
- Applied access limitations and monitoring.

## Resilient security processes

- Improved reporting and dashboarding.
- Expanded device monitoring.
- Maintained updated documentation and procedures.

# Cybersecurity Strategy For 2026

## Federal Shifts from Cybersecurity Support

- A third of employees from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) have either resigned or been laid off.
- No cost services offered by the Center for Internet Security have either been eliminated or reduced significantly.
- The Election Infrastructure Sharing and Analysis Center has faced budget cuts.

## State-level Election System Security

- Continuing utilization of CIS Controls to improve cybersecurity posture.
- Expanding zero trust network access (ZTNA) deployment.
- Formalizing our Cybersecurity Program with policies and procedures.
- Implementing full static code analysis in CI/CD pipeline.

# 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: Support Local Election Infrastructure

- Provide stable and predictable funding streams for cybersecurity and system upgrades.
- Strengthen shared state services.
- Support workforce development.
- Encourage standardized security baselines.
- Support intergovernmental coordination.



# Questions?

**Ricardo Lujan Valerio**

Deputy Chief of Staff – Government Relations

(503) 779 – 5451 | [ricardo.lujanvalerio@sos.oregon.gov](mailto:ricardo.lujanvalerio@sos.oregon.gov)