



Legislative Fiscal Office
 83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
 2026 Regular Session

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Bill Title: Relating to elections.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Department of Revenue, Department of Justice, Secretary of State, Employment Department, Government Ethics Commission, Legislative Assembly

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

2025-27 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Secretary of State	\$ 1,552,520	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,552,520	5	3.04
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ 1,552,520	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,552,520	5	3.04

2027-29 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Secretary of State	\$ 1,543,722	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,543,722	5	3.25
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ 1,543,722	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,543,722	5	3.25

- Costs for the Secretary of State’s (SOS) office for the 2027-29 biennium only reflect implementation of some of the measure’s immediate requirements. Additional costs are anticipated in future biennia as further scoping of requirements is completed.

Measure Description

This measure outlines campaign contribution limits for membership organizations that have the same person or substantially the same group of persons involved in the organization. It also clarifies and limits contributions from specified sources that are made to candidates, principal campaign committees, or political committees. The measure requires that a candidate or the candidate’s principal campaign committees may not accept a contribution from another candidate, principal campaign committee of a candidate, or a political committee unless the committee files a statement of organization.

The measure defines allowable in-kind contributions of staff time and outlines the number of hours per year that may be dedicated to a candidate or the candidate’s principal campaign committee by membership organizations. In-kind staff time contributions from professional pollsters, political consultants, and campaign strategists are prohibited. The measure permits candidates or candidate’s principal campaign committees to accept some services without limit, such as childcare and specified legal services, and in-kind contributions of office space, with a limit on incidental costs incurred by the contributor of these items of less than \$1,000 per year. The measure sets limits on in-kind contributions of food, beverages, and transportation costs. Candidates are not limited in the amount they may contribute to their own campaign.

The measure outlines what qualifies as coordinated expenditures and limits the amount and disposition of unexpended campaign funds. The measure limits the time for a political committee to reorganize as a small

donor political committee and prohibits contributions from certain organizations to candidates or their principal campaign committee.

The measure requires an investigation by the SOS to determine whether a person was established for the sole purpose of evading contribution limits. The measure additionally defines and sets limits for electioneering cost thresholds and requires reporting to SOS if these thresholds are exceeded. The measure limits political committee operations by corporations or labor organizations designated as tax exempt.

SOS is to establish by rule requirements regarding the administration of campaign contribution requirements, reporting of unexpended funds, deposits into the existing Campaign Finance Education Fund, donation reporting requirements by covered organizations, and the definition of terms used in the measure that are related to in-kind staff time. SOS is to adjust contribution limits every two years based on the Consumer Price Index, starting in 2028. SOS may impose civil penalties for certain contribution reporting errors, and SOS must send notice of the right to a hearing.

SOS is to provide for the use of an electronic filing system that is to be used to report the original source of funds used to pay for candidate campaign independent expenditures. The measure prescribes the requirements for reporting, and states that SOS is to adopt rules related to the system. The measure delays the requirement for SOS to create a web-based campaign finance dashboard, from January 1, 2028, to January 1, 2032.

Fiscal Analysis

The fiscal impact for SOS is estimated to be \$1.6 million General Fund and five positions (3.04 FTE) in the 2025-27 biennium and \$1.5 million General Fund and five positions (3.25 FTE) in the 2027-29 biennium. However, costs in the 2027-29 biennium have not been fully scoped and are considered a minimum amount necessary for near-term implementation of the campaign contribution limits which become operative on January 1, 2027.

Secretary of State

SOS costs are estimated to total \$1.6 million General Fund and five positions (3.04 FTE) in the 2025-27 biennium and \$1.5 million General Fund and five positions (3.25 FTE) in the 2027-29 biennium. Amounts for the 2027-29 biennium are preliminary and costs will increase as SOS further scopes the measure requirements, which span multiple biennia.

Costs include five new positions, including one permanent, full-time Information Technology Manager 2 (0.63 FTE in the 2025-27 biennium and 1.00 FTE in the 2027-29 biennium) for strategic projects oversight and two limited-duration, full-time Information Systems Specialist 7 positions (totaling 1.25 FTE in the 2025-27 biennium and 0.25 FTE in the 2027-29 biennium) who would assist with modification and testing of the current SOS campaign finance system (ORESTAR). Two permanent, full-time Compliance Specialist 2 positions (totaling 1.17 FTE in the 2025-27 biennium and 2.00 FTE in the 2027-29 biennium) would assist with oversight and enforcement of election law and required filings under this measure. The total cost of these positions, including position-related services and supplies, is estimated to be \$1 million General Fund in the 2025-27 and 2027-29 biennia.

In addition to the position costs, SOS would have estimated costs each biennium of \$300,000 General Fund related to legal advice for the regulatory framework outlined in the measure, and \$250,000 General Fund to contract for analysis and planning for the campaign finance dashboard.

Other entities

There is anticipated to be a minimal fiscal impact for the Department of Justice (DOJ). Should the legal workload created by this measure exceed DOJ capacity, the Department may need to request additional positions or

resources during a future Emergency Board or the 2027 legislative session. Any additional costs will be funded by SOS payments to DOJ for legal services.

There is no fiscal impact for the Oregon Employment Department, Legislative Assembly, Department of Revenue, and Government Ethics Commission.

Relevant Dates

The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

The amendments to ORS 260.007, 260.041, 260.044, 260.083, 260.205 and 260.268 by sections 30, 31 and 37 to 40 become operative on January 1, 2027.

Sections 13 and 14 and the amendments to ORS 260.005, 260.009, 260.014, 260.205, 260.402 and 260.995 by sections 1a, 2a, 11, 21, 32 and 35 become operative on January 1, 2031.

Sections 23 to 25 are repealed on January 2, 2031.