

House Bill 2919

Sponsored by Representatives BUCKLEY, SHIELDS; Representative CANNON, Senator DECKERT

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Sets limits on amounts that may be contributed to political candidates and political committees. Provides civil penalties.

Becomes effective if amendment to Oregon Constitution allowing regulation of campaign contributions is approved by people at next general election.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to elections; creating new provisions; amending ORS 260.005 and 260.737; and prescribing
3 an effective date.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2007 Act are added to and made a part of ORS**
6 **chapter 260.**

7 **SECTION 2. (1) Subject to section 25, Article II of the Oregon Constitution, with respect**
8 **to an election period, an individual may not contribute an aggregate amount exceeding:**

9 (a) \$1,000 to a candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor, Secretary
10 of State, State Treasurer or Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Com-
11 missioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries or judge of the Supreme Court, Court of
12 Appeals or Oregon Tax Court.

13 (b) \$500 to a candidate for nomination or election to any other public office.

14 (c) \$100 to any one small donor committee.

15 (d) \$5,000 to any one political committee, other than a principal campaign committee or
16 a political party committee.

17 (e) \$10,000 to any one political party committee.

18 (2) With respect to an election period, a small donor committee may not contribute an
19 aggregate amount exceeding:

20 (a) \$50,000 to a candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor, Secretary
21 of State, State Treasurer or Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Com-
22 missioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries or judge of the Supreme Court, Court of
23 Appeals or Oregon Tax Court.

24 (b) \$25,000 to a candidate for nomination or election to any other public office.

25 (3) With respect to an election period, a political party committee may not contribute
26 an aggregate amount exceeding:

27 (a) \$50,000 to a candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor, Secretary
28 of State, State Treasurer or Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Com-
29 missioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries or judge of the Supreme Court, Court of
30 Appeals or Oregon Tax Court.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (b) \$25,000 to a candidate for nomination or election to any other public office.

2 (4) With respect to an election period, a political committee other than a principal cam-
3 paign committee, a small donor committee or a political party committee may not contribute
4 an aggregate amount exceeding:

5 (a) \$5,000 to a candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor, Secretary
6 of State, State Treasurer or Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Com-
7 missioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries or judge of the Supreme Court, Court of
8 Appeals or Oregon Tax Court.

9 (b) \$2,500 to a candidate for nomination or election to any other public office.

10 (5) With respect to an election cycle, a political committee that is not a principal cam-
11 paign committee, a small donor committee or a political party committee may not contribute
12 an aggregate amount exceeding \$5,000 to another political committee that is not a principal
13 campaign committee or a small donor committee.

14 (6) A person, other than an individual, or a political committee may not make a contri-
15 bution to a small donor committee.

16 (7) A small donor committee may not make a contribution to any political committee,
17 other than a principal campaign committee.

18 (8) A candidate, principal campaign committee of a candidate or political committee may
19 not accept a contribution in excess of the limits specified in this section.

20 (9) This section does not:

21 (a) Apply to contributions made to a political committee organized exclusively to support
22 or oppose a measure or a candidate for nomination or election to federal office;

23 (b) Apply to contributions made to or received by a candidate for nomination or election
24 to federal office or political party office; or

25 (c) Limit the amount a candidate may contribute from the candidate's personal funds to
26 the candidate.

27 (10) For purposes of this section, a contribution to a candidate includes a contribution
28 to the candidate's principal campaign committee.

29 (11) For each calendar year, the Secretary of State, by rule, shall adjust the amount of
30 the contribution limits described in this subsection to account for changes in consumer
31 prices. The secretary shall use an official indicator of consumer prices and round the ad-
32 justed amount to the nearest whole dollar.

33 **SECTION 3.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the Secretary of
34 State or Attorney General may impose a civil penalty under ORS 260.995 for each violation
35 of section 2 of this 2007 Act.

36 (2) For a violation of section 2 of this 2007 Act, the Secretary of State or Attorney Gen-
37 eral may impose a civil penalty not to exceed the greater of \$1,000 or three times the amount
38 of the contribution made in excess of the applicable limit or prohibition.

39 (3) If a candidate or a candidate's principal campaign committee violates any provision
40 of section 2 of this 2007 Act, the candidate and the candidate's treasurer are personally liable
41 for the penalty imposed under this section. If a political committee, other than a principal
42 campaign committee, violates any provision of section 2 of this 2007 Act, the directors of the
43 political committee are jointly and severally liable for the penalty imposed under this section.

44 **SECTION 4.** ORS 260.005, as amended by section 21, chapter 809, Oregon Laws 2005, is
45 amended to read:

1 260.005. As used in this chapter:

2 (1)(a) "Candidate" means:

3 (A) An individual whose name is printed on a ballot, for whom a declaration of candidacy,
4 nominating petition or certificate of nomination to public office has been filed or whose name is
5 expected to be or has been presented, with the individual's consent, for nomination or election to
6 public office;

7 (B) An individual who has solicited or received and accepted a contribution, made an expendi-
8 ture, or given consent to an individual, organization, political party or political committee to solicit
9 or receive and accept a contribution or make an expenditure on the individual's behalf to secure
10 nomination or election to any public office at any time, whether or not the office for which the in-
11 dividual will seek nomination or election is known when the solicitation is made, the contribution
12 is received and retained or the expenditure is made, and whether or not the name of the individual
13 is printed on a ballot; or

14 (C) A public office holder against whom a recall petition has been completed and filed.

15 (b) For purposes of this section and ORS 260.035 to 260.159, "candidate" does not include a
16 candidate for the office of precinct committeeperson.

17 (2) "Committee director" means any person who directly and substantially participates in
18 decision-making on behalf of a political committee concerning the solicitation or expenditure of
19 funds and the support of or opposition to candidates or measures. The officers of a political party
20 shall be considered the directors of any political party committee of that party, unless otherwise
21 provided in the party's bylaws.

22 (3)(a) Except as provided in ORS 260.007, "contribute" or "contribution" includes:

23 (A) The payment, loan, gift, forgiving of indebtedness, or furnishing without equivalent compen-
24 sation or consideration, of money, services other than personal services for which no compensation
25 is asked or given, supplies, equipment or any other thing of value:

26 (i) For the purpose of influencing an election for public office or an election on a measure, or
27 of reducing the debt of a candidate for nomination or election to public office or the debt of a pol-
28 itical committee; or

29 (ii) To or on behalf of a candidate, political committee or measure; and

30 (B) Any unfulfilled pledge, subscription, agreement or promise, whether or not legally enforcea-
31 ble, to make a contribution.

32 (b) Regarding a contribution made for compensation or consideration of less than equivalent
33 value, only the excess value of it shall be considered a contribution.

34 (4)(a) "Controlled committee" means a political committee that, in connection with the making
35 of contributions or expenditures:

36 (A) Is controlled directly or indirectly by a candidate or a controlled committee; or

37 (B) Acts jointly with a candidate or controlled committee.

38 (b) For purposes of this subsection, a candidate controls a political committee if:

39 (A) The candidate, the candidate's agent, a member of the candidate's immediate family or any
40 other political committee that the candidate controls has a significant influence on the actions or
41 decisions of the political committee; or

42 (B) The candidate's principal campaign committee and the political committee both have the
43 candidate or a member of the candidate's immediate family as a treasurer or director.

44 (5) "County clerk" means the county clerk or the county official in charge of elections.

45 (6) "Elector" means an individual qualified to vote under section 2, Article II of the Oregon

1 Constitution.

2 (7) Except as provided in ORS 260.007, “expend” or “expenditure” includes the payment or fur-
 3 nishing of money or anything of value or the incurring or repayment of indebtedness or obligation
 4 by or on behalf of a candidate, political committee or person in consideration for any services,
 5 supplies, equipment or other thing of value performed or furnished for any reason, including support
 6 of or opposition to a candidate, political committee or measure, or for reducing the debt of a can-
 7 didate for nomination or election to public office. “Expenditure” also includes contributions made
 8 by a candidate or political committee to or on behalf of any other candidate or political committee.

9 (8) “Filing officer” means:

10 (a) The Secretary of State:

11 (A) Regarding a candidate for public office;

12 (B) Regarding a statement required to be filed under ORS 260.118 by the chief petitioners of a
 13 statewide initiative or referendum petition or by the chief petitioners of a recall petition relating
 14 to a person holding state office;

15 (C) Regarding any measure; or

16 (D) Regarding any political committee.

17 (b) The county clerk, regarding a statement required to be filed under ORS 260.118 by:

18 (A) The chief petitioners of a county initiative or referendum petition;

19 (B) The chief petitioners of a district initiative or referendum petition where the district is sit-
 20 uated wholly within one county; or

21 (C) The chief petitioners of a recall petition relating to a county public office holder or a district
 22 public office holder where the district is situated wholly within one county.

23 (c) The chief city elections officer, regarding a statement required to be filed under ORS 260.118
 24 by:

25 (A) The chief petitioners of a city initiative or referendum petition; or

26 (B) The chief petitioners of a recall petition relating to a city public office holder.

27 (d) The county clerk of the county in which the office of the chief administrative officer or ad-
 28 ministrative board is located, when the district is situated in more than one county, regarding a
 29 statement required to be filed under ORS 260.118 by:

30 (A) The chief petitioners of a district initiative or referendum petition; or

31 (B) The chief petitioners of a recall petition relating to a district public office holder.

32 (e) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) to (d) of this subsection, in the case of an irrigation district
 33 formed under ORS chapter 545:

34 (A) The county clerk, regarding any candidate for office or any measure at an irrigation district
 35 formation election where the proposed district is situated wholly in one county;

36 (B) The county clerk of the county in which the office of the secretary of the proposed irrigation
 37 district will be located, regarding any candidate for office or any measure at an irrigation district
 38 formation election where the proposed district is situated in more than one county; or

39 (C) The secretary of the irrigation district for any election other than an irrigation district
 40 formation election.

41 (9) “Independent expenditure” means an expenditure by a person for a communication in support
 42 of or in opposition to a clearly identified candidate or measure that is not made with the cooper-
 43 ation or with the prior consent of, or in consultation with, or at the request or suggestion of, a
 44 candidate or any agent or authorized committee of the candidate, or any political committee or
 45 agent of a political committee supporting or opposing a measure. For purposes of this subsection:

- 1 (a) A communication is “in support of or in opposition to” a candidate or measure if:
- 2 (A) The communication, taken in its context, clearly and unambiguously urges the election or
- 3 defeat of a clearly identified candidate for nomination or election to public office, or the passage
- 4 or defeat of a clearly identified measure;
- 5 (B) The communication, as a whole, seeks action rather than simply conveying information; and
- 6 (C) It is clear what action the communication advocates.
- 7 (b) “Agent” means any person who has:
- 8 (A) Actual oral or written authority, either express or implied, to make or to authorize the
- 9 making of expenditures on behalf of a candidate or on behalf of a political committee supporting or
- 10 opposing a measure; or
- 11 (B) Been placed in a position within the campaign organization where it would reasonably ap-
- 12 pear that in the ordinary course of campaign-related activities the person may authorize expen-
- 13 ditures.
- 14 (c) “Clearly identified” means, with respect to candidates:
- 15 (A) The name of the candidate involved appears;
- 16 (B) A photograph or drawing of the candidate appears; or
- 17 (C) The identity of the candidate is apparent by unambiguous reference.
- 18 (d) “Clearly identified” means, with respect to measures:
- 19 (A) The ballot number of the measure appears;
- 20 (B) A description of the measure’s subject or effect appears; or
- 21 (C) The identity of the measure is apparent by unambiguous reference.
- 22 (e) “Made with the cooperation or with the prior consent of, or in consultation with, or at the
- 23 request or suggestion of, a candidate or any agent or authorized committee of the candidate, or any
- 24 political committee or agent of a political committee supporting or opposing a measure”:
- 25 (A) Means any arrangement, coordination or direction by the candidate or the candidate’s agent,
- 26 or by any political committee or agent of a political committee supporting or opposing a measure,
- 27 prior to the publication, distribution, display or broadcast of the communication. An expenditure
- 28 shall be presumed to be so made when it is:
- 29 (i) Based on information about the plans, projects or needs of the candidate, or of the political
- 30 committee supporting or opposing a measure, and provided to the expending person by the candidate
- 31 or by the candidate’s agent, or by any political committee or agent of a political committee sup-
- 32 porting or opposing a measure, with a view toward having an expenditure made; or
- 33 (ii) Made by or through any person who is or has been authorized to raise or expend funds, who
- 34 is or has been an officer of a political committee authorized by the candidate or by a political
- 35 committee or agent of a political committee supporting or opposing a measure, or who is or has been
- 36 receiving any form of compensation or reimbursement from the candidate, the candidate’s principal
- 37 campaign committee or agent or from any political committee or agent of a political committee
- 38 supporting or opposing a measure; and
- 39 (B) Does not include providing to the expending person upon request a copy of this chapter or
- 40 any rules adopted by the Secretary of State relating to independent expenditures.
- 41 (10) “Initiative petition” means a petition to initiate a measure for which a prospective petition
- 42 has been filed but that is not yet a measure.
- 43 (11) “Judge” means judge of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, circuit court or the Oregon
- 44 Tax Court.
- 45 (12) “Mass mailing” means more than 200 substantially similar pieces of mail, but does not in-

1 clude a form letter or other mail that is sent in response to an unsolicited request, letter or other
 2 inquiry.

3 (13) "Measure" includes any of the following submitted to the people for their approval or re-
 4 jection at an election:

- 5 (a) A proposed law.
- 6 (b) An Act or part of an Act of the Legislative Assembly.
- 7 (c) A revision of or amendment to the Oregon Constitution.
- 8 (d) Local, special or municipal legislation.
- 9 (e) A proposition or question.

10 (14) "Occupation" means:

- 11 (a) The nature of an individual's principal business; and
- 12 (b) If the individual is employed by another person, the business name and address, by city and
 13 state, of the employer.

14 (15) "Person" means an individual, corporation, limited liability company, labor organization,
 15 association, firm, partnership, joint stock company, club, organization or other combination of indi-
 16 viduals having collective capacity.

17 (16)(a) "Political committee" means a combination of two or more individuals, or a person other
 18 than an individual, that has:

19 (A) Received a contribution for the purpose of supporting or opposing a candidate, measure or
 20 political party; or

21 (B) Made an expenditure for the purpose of supporting or opposing a candidate, measure or
 22 political party.

23 (b) For purposes of paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection, an expenditure does not include:

24 (A) A contribution to a candidate or political committee that is required to report the contri-
 25 bution on a statement filed under ORS 260.057, 260.076 or 260.102 or a certificate filed under ORS
 26 260.112; or

27 (B) An independent expenditure for which a statement is required to be filed by a person under
 28 ORS 260.044 (1).

29 **(17) "Political party committee" means a political committee established by a major or**
 30 **minor political party as described in ORS 248.006 and 248.008.**

31 [(17)] (18) "Public office" means any national, state, county, district, city office or position, ex-
 32 cept a political party office, that is filled by the electors.

33 [(18)] (19) "Recall petition" means a petition to recall a public officer for which a prospective
 34 petition has been filed but that is not yet a measure.

35 [(19)] (20) "Referendum petition" means a petition to refer a measure for which a prospective
 36 petition has been filed but that is not yet a measure.

37 [(20)] (21) "Regular district election" means the regular district election described in ORS
 38 255.335.

39 **(22) "Small donor committee" means a political committee that:**

- 40 **(a) Accepts contributions only from individuals;**
- 41 **(b) Does not accept contributions from individuals that exceed an aggregate amount of**
 42 **\$100 per calendar year;**
- 43 **(c) Has received contributions from at least 50 individuals;**
- 44 **(d) Has made a contribution to at least three candidates or the principal campaign com-**
 45 **mittees of at least three candidates;**

1 (e) **Makes contributions directly to candidates or the principal campaign committees of**
2 **candidates and not through an intermediary;**

3 (f) **Does not make independent expenditures or expenditures for electioneering commu-**
4 **nications;**

5 (g) **Does not make expenditures to support or oppose measures; and**

6 (h) **Does not make contributions to political committees organized exclusively to support**
7 **or oppose a measure.**

8 [(21)] (23) "Slate mailer" means a mass mailing that supports or opposes a total of three or more
9 candidates or measures.

10 [(22)(a)] (24)(a) "Slate mailer organization" means, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this
11 subsection, any person who directly or indirectly:

12 (A) Is involved in the production of one or more slate mailers and exercises control over the
13 selection of the candidates and measures to be supported or opposed in the slate mailers; and

14 (B) Receives or is promised payment for producing one or more slate mailers or for endorsing
15 or opposing, or refraining from endorsing or opposing, a candidate or measure in one or more slate
16 mailers.

17 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, "slate mailer organization" does not in-
18 clude:

19 (A) A political committee organized by a political party; or

20 (B) A political committee organized by the caucus of either the Senate or the House of Repre-
21 sentatives of the Legislative Assembly.

22 [(23)] (25) "State office" means the office of Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, At-
23 torney General, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, Superintendent of Public In-
24 struction, state Senator, state Representative, judge or district attorney.

25 (26) **"With respect to an election cycle" means the time beginning one day after the date**
26 **of a general election and ending on the date of the next general election.**

27 (27) **"With respect to an election period" means, with respect to a contribution to a**
28 **candidate for public office, the time beginning on the date of an election for a public office**
29 **and ending on the date of the next nominating, general, special or recall election for nomi-**
30 **nation or election to that public office.**

31 **SECTION 5.** ORS 260.737, as amended by section 48, chapter 809, Oregon Laws 2005, is
32 amended to read:

33 260.737. (1) A slate mailer organization may not send a slate mailer unless all of the following
34 are satisfied:

35 (a) The name and address of the slate mailer organization shall be shown on the outside of each
36 piece of the slate mailer in a legible size and type.

37 (b) The following notice shall appear in a legible size and type at the top or bottom of the front
38 side of the slate mailer:

39 _____
40
41 **NOTICE TO VOTERS**

42 THIS DOCUMENT WAS NOT PREPARED BY A POLITICAL PARTY COMMITTEE OR PARTY CAUCUS COM-
43 MITTEE.

44 CANDIDATES AND MEASURES MARKED WITH AN * PAID FOR APPEARANCE IN THIS DOCUMENT.
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(c) Each candidate that has paid to appear in the slate mailer and each measure on whose behalf payment has been received to appear in the slate mailer shall be designated by an asterisk of legible size immediately following the name of the candidate or the name or number of the measure in each instance where the name of the candidate or the name or number of the measure appears in the slate mailer.

(2) The Secretary of State by rule shall define “legible size” and “legible size and type” as used in this section.

(3) For purposes of ORS 260.735 and this section, “address” means the address of a residence, office, headquarters or similar location where the slate mailer organization or a responsible officer of the slate mailer organization may be conveniently located. If the slate mailer organization is a political committee, the address shall be the address of the political committee included in the statement of organization under ORS 260.039 or 260.042.

(4) The Secretary of State by rule may define the term “payment” as used in this section and ORS 260.005 [(22)] (24) and 260.735.

SECTION 6. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2007 Act and the amendments to ORS 260.005 and 260.737 by sections 4 and 5 of this 2007 Act apply to contributions and expenditures made on or after the effective date of this 2007 Act.

SECTION 7. This 2007 Act does not take effect unless the amendment to Article II of the Oregon Constitution proposed by _____ Joint Resolution _____ (2007) (LC 2273) is approved by the people at the next regular general election held throughout this state. This 2007 Act takes effect on the effective date of that constitutional amendment.
