



March 11, 2013

House Rules Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97310

RE: Support for -1 amendment to HB 2739

Chair Garrett and Members of the Committee,

The -1 amendment to HB 2739 makes several technical housekeeping changes to County election procedures, changes that would save counties resources while neither impeding voter access nor interfering with election administration procedures. Two of the issues addressed by the -1 amendment simply adjust statutes related to office hours to either allow additional flexibility for smaller counties or to conform the law to match current practice. The third issue is a more substantial efficiency measure and would no longer mandate an expensive process no longer necessary since the implementation of Vote-By-Mail.

The changes related to office hours address two unrelated issues: The first, addressed in Section 1 of the bill, simply gives counties the option to open the elections office at 8:00 a.m. on election day. It is **NOT** intended to preclude counties from opening earlier; in fact, many counties have indicated they will continue to open at 7:00 a.m. However, more sparsely populated counties report nobody coming into the office between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. on election day for many years and would prefer not to have the staffing and overhead costs associated with the extra hour on what is already a long election day. The second issue changes statutes requiring "5:00 p.m." to be the closing deadlines for many election filings, registrations and petitions, and instead makes the deadline the "close of business." This is needed because some counties, due to budget challenges and other issues, actually close at 4:00 or 4:30 p.m. Each county elections office publicizes their office hours and voters in those counties receive ample notice stating such.

The third change would no longer mandate that county clerks send voters new memorandums (here renamed "Voter Notification Cards") when boundary changes are made as a result of redistricting. The reason for the change is that with Vote-By-Mail there is no longer a need for voters to receive information on "where" they vote. The voter simply gets the ballot for the races that they are eligible to vote on delivered to their house. Of course, Voter Notification Cards (VNC's) would still be sent when a voter initially registers or updates their registration. Not sending new VNC's for precinct changes would save a minimum of over \$300,000 after each redistricting.

OACC urges the committee's support of HB 2739 -1.

Sincerely,

Oregon Association of County Clerks