

To: [House Committee on Rules](#)

[Representative Paul Holvey, Chair](#)

From: Mary Sinclair
cksinclair@gmail.com

Re: [HB 2234](#) Relating to candidate filing. **Support**

I am not speaking for the League of Women Voters of Oregon but I have managed their Vote411 undertaking since 2012. The incentive to address this was the "There Ought Be a Law" project of Representative Pam Marsh. I believe that democratic government depends on informed and active participation in government. This requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by (among other things) making public records accessible, reliable, timely and transparent and the process efficient. Right now it is not efficient, timely, accessible or transparent because every county manages elections in a different way. It is very difficult to get candidate information on local candidates: information is not on some websites, difficult to find on others. It is difficult to interpret handwriting and contact information is missing or redacted. There are delays in posting information, and we need to contact cities separately when counties don't post those city candidates....

Please see some of my examples at the end of the submission.

Process: SELs are collected as paper, fax, email or scanned. This then requires an elections official to interpret handwriting, enter the information in a database to be used for pamphlet and ballot printing etc., enter the information on their website or post the SELs on the website and personally respond to inquiries from the public.

This could all be solved by adding county, city and special district candidates to ORESTAR (or other designated system). With the ORESTAR system compatible with Excel, the information is easily available to the public. It is online and candidates are responsible for their entries. I encourage your support of HB 2234.

I understand the interest in making this process opt-in. This would make the process more expensive because again, elections would be dealing with multiple systems. Why not just have election officials retain the capacity to enter candidate information (for those candidates who have filed locally) into the statewide system. With local filings, the local election official would still have to interpret and enter the information into a database of some type to process for printing and reporting. If the election officials entered the information into the statewide system it would be a "one stop shop" for the entire state.

It is time to act to be prepared for 2020. Please support HB 2234 and consider the suggestion.

Regards,

Mary Sinclair



100 Littrell Dr
Medford, OR 97504
PO Box 8713
Medford OR, 97501
cksinclair@gmail.com

My experiences:

This is the response from a City Recorder:

Ms. Sinclair,

Also, I am not at liberty to disclose contact information for the candidates. If you would like me to contact them to contact you, I would be happy to do that.

Thank you!

██████████

City Recorder/Administrator

City of ██████ City

Request for Public records application:

Hi,

I received your request for the SEL 101 for the candidates for the November Election. Please see this [link](#) for our Public Records Request process and application. You may return it to me at jfisher@sweethomeor.gov. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you, ██████████
Administrative Assistant
City Manager's Office
City of ██████████

Email provided from ██████████ to me (Note, there is no additional information and it had to be created by the recorder for me.

Candidates for Mayor:
Connie Briese
Dan Richer

Candidates for City Council (2 positions available):
Scott Henderson
Michael Shields
Michael Harper

Individual email from City Recorder

Recorder sent me copy of letter they sent to [REDACTED] Co Clerk (attached was the pdf)

Hi Mary,

I'm attaching a copy of the letter I sent the clerk (because that's fast and I have someone else waiting for me.) If you need anything else, please let me know.

Thanks!

[REDACTED]

Errors hand corrected

PDF from [REDACTED] with errors: Jackson County

<http://jacksoncountyor.org/clerk/Elections/Upcoming-Current-Elections/General-Primary-Elections>

Redacted information

[REDACTED] County,

Redacted information on candidate's request. Not a judge or DA.

[REDACTED] County

- Redact, hand written notes

Example of redacted candidate filing information, City of [REDACTED], office of Mayor:

[http://www.ci.\[REDACTED\].or.us/clerk/documents/\[REDACTED\]Filings.pdf](http://www.ci.[REDACTED].or.us/clerk/documents/[REDACTED]Filings.pdf)

Election official needed to produce an additional PDF and it was hand produced

[REDACTED]

Additional pdf for website had to be prepared by election official

[https://www.ci.\[REDACTED\].or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/city_council/page/16251/skm_c45818090614290.pdf](https://www.ci.[REDACTED].or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/city_council/page/16251/skm_c45818090614290.pdf)