

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: SB 27 - A4

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Requires that the cover sheet of state, county, district and city initiatives list the city and state of residence of the chief petitioners, rather than the residence address of the chief petitioners.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), Secretary of State (SOS), Department of Justice (DOJ), Counties, Cities, School Districts, Special Districts

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are anticipated to be minimal - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

Senate Bill 27, as amended by the -A4 amendments, makes several technical changes to Oregon election laws. They include changes to the cover page of initiative or referendum petitions; election notice requirements; certificates of nomination following a change in the boundaries of an electoral district; the definition of "district" for purposes of special elections; procedures for the assessment of civil penalties by the Secretary of State; procedures for the county clerk to deliver and open ballots; and the personal information of chief petitioners required on recall petitions. The measure takes effect on passage and becomes operative on January 1, 2022.

The measure clarifies that for an election next following any change in the boundaries of an electoral district, a certificate of nomination made by individual electors must contain a number of signatures of electors equal to not less than one percent of the average number of votes cast in all of the same form of electoral districts in this state for all candidates for presidential electors at the most recent presidential election. Adds emergency clause. Makes all other provisions of bill operative on January 1, 2022.

State Agencies and Local Governments

The measure is anticipated to have no fiscal impact on the Secretary of State, Department of Justice and the Oregon Judicial Department, and cities, counties, special districts, and school districts.

County Clerks

The measure would not have a fiscal impact on counties but would generate savings to counties. The measure requires county clerks to mail a secrecy envelope/sleeve as an insertion, if the Secretary of State Elections Division approves a different procedure to maintain the secrecy of voters' ballots. If county clerks can dispense with this insertion, counties would realize some savings in conducting their elections. The measure would also permit county clerks to begin opening ballots upon receipt, instead of waiting seven days before the election. Currently, county clerks must submit ballots through their ballot sorters twice: the first time is for signature verification, after which they are held for storage until seven days before the election, at which time they are run through the ballot sorters again to open the envelopes. The measure would eliminate the need for ballots to pass through ballot sorters twice, which would allow counties to begin the ballot sorting process all at once, instead of waiting seven days before the election. Allowing county clerks to process and sort ballots upon receipt would arguably save counties time and money in sorting and processing ballots.