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Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Holvey, Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Secretary of State's Elections Division is responsible for ensuring safe, fair, efficient, and accessible elections at all levels of the process. The proliferation and spread of misinformation about elections is one of the biggest threats to our democracy and this process. The system is further compromised by a lack of culturally and linguistically specific voter literature and education creating barriers to a fair and equitable elections process. We strongly support the values and intent driving House Bills 2323, 2745, and 3021 because they would discourage misinformation and make critical elections information more accessible and reliable for Oregonians.

- **HB 2323** would prohibit knowingly communicating false statements to voters about elections and voting, such as deliberately communicating the wrong deadline for voters to submit their ballots. This bill would help curb the spread of disinformation leading up to elections, ensuring Oregon voters have the accurate information they need to cast their ballot.
- **HB 2745** would require voter registration cards and Oregon's central electronic voter registration system (OCVR) to have an option for individuals to identify their race, ethnicity, and preferred language. This information will better serve our voters needs and ensure state and county elections have more comprehensive data to address disparities in voting.
- **HB 3021** would require the Secretary of State to create and make publicly available a list of the five most commonly spoken languages in the state. It would also require the Secretary of State and counties to translate voters' pamphlets into the top five languages, post them online, and provide notice in the printed voters' pamphlet.

When voters are empowered to make informed decisions with their ballot, they can elect leaders who will be responsive to their needs and best represent the communities they serve. Our agency's top priorities include encouraging voter participation, increasing accessibility for all Oregon voters, and ensuring election integrity. Our office is in active conversations with bill sponsors and advocates to work through some implementation questions, but these three concepts strengthen our democratic process. When we equip electors with accurate, reliable, and accessible information we are truly serving Oregonians. We encourage the committee to support these key bills once amendments are finalized.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Lapiz".

Tony Lapiz, Legislative Director

Point of Contact:

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