

# Senate Bill 500

Sponsored by Senator GOLDEN (Presession filed.)

## 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**.

Prohibits candidates for state office from accepting contributions in excess of amounts specified and from sources not specified.

Prohibits certain political committees from accepting contributions in excess of amounts specified and from sources not specified.

Defines "small donor committee."

Establishes Task Force on the Public Financing of Campaigns to conduct analysis and determine best method or methods to publicly finance campaigns in Oregon. Sunsets task force on December 31, 2024.

Repeals Ballot Measure 47 (2006), currently held in abeyance, which establishes limits on political campaign contributions and independent expenditures on candidate races and establishes certain campaign finance disclosure requirements.

Becomes operative November 6, 2024.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to campaign finance; creating new provisions; amending ORS 260.005, 260.041, 260.042,  
3 260.044, 260.083, 260.266 and 260.275; repealing chapter 3, Oregon Laws 2007; and declaring an  
4 emergency.

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

6 **SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2023 Act are added to and made a part of ORS**  
7 **chapter 260.**

8 **SECTION 2. (1) A candidate for state office or the principal campaign committee of the**  
9 **candidate for state office described in this section may accept contributions only from the**  
10 **sources and in the amounts described in this section.**

11 **(2)(a) A candidate or the principal campaign committee of the candidate for the office**  
12 **of state Senator, state Representative or judge may not accept aggregate contributions in**  
13 **excess of:**

14 **(A) \$750 per election from any individual, multilegislative candidate political committee**  
15 **or principal campaign committee.**

16 **(B) \$15,000 per election from any small donor committee.**

17 **(C) \$15,000 per election from a legislative caucus political committee.**

18 **(D) \$15,000 per election from a political party committee.**

19 **(b) A candidate or the principal campaign committee of the candidate for the office of**  
20 **Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General or Commissioner of the**  
21 **Bureau of Labor and Industries may not accept aggregate contributions in excess of:**

22 **(A) \$2,000 per election from any individual, multilegislative candidate political committee**  
23 **or principal campaign committee.**

24 **(B) \$40,000 per election from any small donor committee.**

25 **(C) \$40,000 per election from a legislative caucus political committee.**

**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 (D) \$40,000 per election from a political party committee.

2 (c) A candidate for state office or the principal campaign committee of the candidate for  
 3 state office described in this subsection may not accept contributions from more than one  
 4 legislative caucus political committee and from more than one political party committee.

5 (3)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, for purposes of this section,  
 6 each instance in which an individual is a candidate for nomination or election to a state of-  
 7 fice at a primary election or general election, or will appear on the ballot as an incumbent  
 8 holder of a state office at a recall election, constitutes a separate election.

9 (b) An instance in which an individual is a candidate for state office at a general election  
 10 does not constitute a separate election under this section if the individual received the  
 11 nomination of a major political party for the state office at a primary election at which no  
 12 other candidate for that state office was listed on the official ballot of the major political  
 13 party.

14 (4) Nothing in this section limits the amount a candidate may contribute from the  
 15 candidate's personal funds to the candidate's principal campaign committee.

16 (5) In addition to the contribution limits established by subsections (1) and (2) of this  
 17 section, a candidate may accept an unlimited amount of public campaign financing from a  
 18 public body.

19 (6) On January 1 of each odd-numbered year, the Secretary of State shall adjust the  
 20 dollar amounts set forth in this section by the cumulative change in the Consumer Price  
 21 Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region (All Items), as published by the Bureau of La-  
 22 bor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, or its successor index, since the  
 23 previous adjustment. The adjustments performed under this subsection shall be rounded to  
 24 the nearest \$20 increment.

25 (7) The Secretary of State may adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

26 **SECTION 3.** (1) A political committee described in this section may accept contributions  
 27 only from the sources and in the amounts described in this section.

28 (2) A legislative caucus political committee:

29 (a) May not accept aggregate contributions in excess of:

30 (A) \$2,000 per year from any individual, multilegislative candidate political committee or  
 31 principal campaign committee.

32 (B) \$40,000 per year from a political party committee.

33 (b) May not contribute to a candidate or the principal campaign committee of the candi-  
 34 date campaigning for an office that is not of the same house of the Legislative Assembly  
 35 from which the members of the legislative caucus political committee hold office.

36 (c) May not contribute to a candidate or the principal campaign committee of the candi-  
 37 date who is not affiliated with the same political party as the members of the legislative  
 38 caucus political committee.

39 (3) A multilegislative candidate political committee:

40 (a) May not accept aggregate contributions in excess of \$2,000 per election from any in-  
 41 dividual, multilegislative candidate political committee or principal campaign committee.

42 (b) May not make independent expenditures.

43 (c) May make expenditures for the purpose of influencing the outcome of an election only  
 44 in the form of contributions.

45 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a business entity, labor organ-

1   ization or entity that is tax-exempt under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code may  
2   establish or administer a separate, segregated fund that operates as a political committee,  
3   if:

4       (a) The fund operates and is registered as a multilegislative candidate political committee  
5   in the manner set forth in ORS 260.042;

6       (b) The fund consists solely of voluntary contributions from the individual employees,  
7   officers, shareholders or members of the entity, or from membership dues from a labor or-  
8   ganization organized under section 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code, with the aggregate  
9   amount contributed by each individual conforming to the limits set forth in subsection (3)(a)  
10   of this section; and

11       (c) Any solicitation for contributions that is directed to an employee of the entity states  
12   that there is no required contribution and that the employee's decision to contribute or not  
13   contribute will not affect the employee's employment and will not be disclosed to the  
14   employee's supervisors or managers.

15       (5) A political party committee may not accept aggregate contributions in excess of \$2,000  
16   per year from any individual, multilegislative candidate political committee or principal  
17   campaign committee.

18       (6) A small donor committee:

19       (a) May not accept aggregate contributions in excess of \$200 per election from any indi-  
20   vidual, multilegislative candidate political committee, principal campaign committee or poli-  
21   tical party committee.

22       (b) May not accept contributions from any individual, multilegislative candidate political  
23   committee, principal campaign committee or political party committee that, when combined  
24   with the aggregate amount the person has previously contributed for that election to small  
25   donor committees, would result in an aggregate contribution from that person in excess of  
26   \$1,000.

27       (c) May make expenditures for the purpose of influencing the outcome of an election only  
28   in the form of contributions to a single candidate for state office designated in the  
29   committee's statement of organization filed under ORS 260.042 at the time of formation.

30       (d) May operate only during the election cycle in which the committee is established and  
31   ceases to exist at the end of the election cycle or within 10 days of when the candidate des-  
32   ignated in the committee's statement of organization filed under ORS 260.042 at the time of  
33   formation ceases or suspends the candidate's campaign, whichever occurs first.

34       (7)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, for purposes of this section,  
35   each instance in which an individual is a candidate for nomination or election to a state of-  
36   fice at a primary election or general election, or will appear on the ballot as an incumbent  
37   holder of a state office at a recall election, constitutes a separate election.

38       (b) An instance in which an individual is a candidate for state office at a general election  
39   does not constitute a separate election under this section if the individual received the  
40   nomination of a major political party for the state office at a primary election at which no  
41   other candidate for that state office was listed on the official ballot of the major political  
42   party.

43       (8)(a) A person may not control more than one of each of the following types of com-  
44   mittee at one time:

45       (A) Legislative caucus political committee.

1 (B) Multilegislative candidate political committee.

2 (C) Political party committee.

3 (D) Principal campaign committee.

4 (E) Small donor committee.

5 (b) For the purposes of contribution limits established in this section, contributions made  
6 or received by multiple political committees are considered to be made or received by a single  
7 political committee if:

8 (A) The political committees have filed to operate as the same type of political committee  
9 under ORS 260.042; and

10 (B) The political committees are established, financed, maintained or controlled by the  
11 same person or substantially the same group of persons, including any parent, subsidiary,  
12 branch, division, department or local unit of such person or group of persons.

13 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this subsection, having the same individual acting  
14 as the treasurer of two or more political committees is not by itself sufficient to consider  
15 contributions made by the political committees to be contributions made or received by a  
16 single political committee.

17 (9) On January 1 of each odd-numbered year, the Secretary of State shall adjust the  
18 dollar amounts set forth in this section by the cumulative change in the Consumer Price  
19 Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region (All Items), as published by the Bureau of La-  
20 bor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, or its successor index, since the  
21 previous adjustment. The adjustments performed under this subsection shall be rounded to  
22 the nearest \$20 increment.

23 (10) The Secretary of State may adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

24 **SECTION 4.** ORS 260.005 is amended to read:

25 260.005. As used in this chapter:

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

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

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

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

39 (b) For purposes of this section and ORS 260.035 to 260.156, "candidate" does not include a  
40 candidate for the office of precinct committeeperson.

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

- 1 (3) Except as provided in ORS 260.007, “contribute” or “contribution” includes:
- 2 (a) The payment, loan, gift, forgiving of indebtedness, or furnishing without equivalent compen-
- 3 sation or consideration, of money, services other than personal services for which no compensation
- 4 is asked or given, supplies, equipment or any other thing of value:
- 5 (A) For the purpose of influencing an election for public office or an election on a measure, or
- 6 of reducing the debt of a candidate for nomination or election to public office or the debt of a pol-
- 7 itical committee; or
- 8 (B) To or on behalf of a candidate, political committee or measure; and
- 9 (b) The excess value of a contribution made for compensation or consideration of less than
- 10 equivalent value.
- 11 (4) “Controlled committee” means a political committee that, in connection with the making of
- 12 contributions or expenditures:
- 13 (a) Is controlled directly or indirectly by a candidate or a controlled committee; or
- 14 (b) Acts jointly with a candidate or controlled committee.
- 15 (5) “Controlled directly or indirectly by a candidate” means:
- 16 (a) The candidate, the candidate’s agent, a member of the candidate’s immediate family or any
- 17 other political committee that the candidate controls has a significant influence on the actions or
- 18 decisions of the political committee; or
- 19 (b) The candidate’s principal campaign committee and the political committee both have the
- 20 candidate or a member of the candidate’s immediate family as a treasurer or director.
- 21 (6) “County clerk” means the county clerk or the county official in charge of elections.
- 22 (7) **“Election cycle” means the period starting on the day after the date of a general**
- 23 **election and ending on the date of the next general election.**
- 24 [(7)] (8) “Elector” means an individual qualified to vote under Article II, section 2, of the Oregon
- 25 Constitution.
- 26 [(8)] (9) Except as provided in ORS 260.007, “expend” or “expenditure” includes the payment or
- 27 furnishing of money or anything of value or the incurring or repayment of indebtedness or obligation
- 28 by or on behalf of a candidate, political committee or person in consideration for any services,
- 29 supplies, equipment or other thing of value performed or furnished for any reason, including support
- 30 of or opposition to a candidate, political committee or measure, or for reducing the debt of a candi-
- 31 date for nomination or election to public office. “Expenditure” also includes contributions made
- 32 by a candidate or political committee to or on behalf of any other candidate or political committee.
- 33 [(9)] (10) “Filing officer” means:
- 34 (a) The Secretary of State:
- 35 (A) Regarding a candidate for public office;
- 36 (B) Regarding a statement required to be filed under ORS 260.118;
- 37 (C) Regarding any measure; or
- 38 (D) Regarding any political committee.
- 39 (b) In the case of an irrigation district formed under ORS chapter 545, “filing officer” means:
- 40 (A) The county clerk, regarding any candidate for office or any measure at an irrigation district
- 41 formation election where the proposed district is situated wholly in one county;
- 42 (B) The county clerk of the county in which the office of the secretary of the proposed irrigation
- 43 district will be located, regarding any candidate for office or any measure at an irrigation district
- 44 formation election where the proposed district is situated in more than one county; or
- 45 (C) The secretary of the irrigation district for any election other than an irrigation district

1 formation election.

2 [(10)] (11) "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure by a person for a communication in  
 3 support of or in opposition to a clearly identified candidate or measure that is not made with the  
 4 cooperation or with the prior consent of, or in consultation with, or at the request or suggestion  
 5 of, a candidate or any agent or authorized committee of the candidate, or any political committee  
 6 or agent of a political committee supporting or opposing a measure. For purposes of this subsection:

7 (a) "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 (b)(A) "Clearly identified" means, with respect to candidates:

15 (i) The name of the candidate involved appears;

16 (ii) A photograph or drawing of the candidate appears; or

17 (iii) The identity of the candidate is apparent by unambiguous reference.

18 (B) "Clearly identified" means, with respect to measures:

19 (i) The ballot number of the measure appears;

20 (ii) A description of the measure's subject or effect appears; or

21 (iii) The identity of the measure is apparent by unambiguous reference.

22 (c) "Communication in support of or in opposition to a clearly identified candidate or measure"  
 23 means:

24 (A)(i) The communication, when taken as a whole and with limited reference to external events,  
 25 such as the proximity to the election, could only be interpreted by a reasonable person as containing  
 26 advocacy for the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for nomination or election to  
 27 public office, or the passage or defeat of a clearly identified measure; and

28 (ii) The electoral portion of the communication is unmistakable, unambiguous and suggestive of  
 29 only one meaning; or

30 (B)(i) The communication involves aggregate expenditures of more than \$250 by a person;

31 (ii) The communication refers to a clearly identified candidate or measure that will appear on  
 32 the ballot or to a political party; and

33 (iii) The communication is published and disseminated to the relevant electorate within 60 cal-  
 34 endar days before a primary election, 120 calendar days before a general election or 90 calendar  
 35 days before an election other than a primary election or a general election.

36 (d) "Made with the cooperation or with the prior consent of, or in consultation with, or at the  
 37 request or suggestion of, a candidate or any agent or authorized committee of the candidate, or any  
 38 political committee or agent of a political committee supporting or opposing a measure":

39 (A) Means any arrangement, coordination or direction by the candidate or the candidate's agent,  
 40 or by any political committee or agent of a political committee supporting or opposing a measure,  
 41 prior to the publication, distribution, display or broadcast of the communication. An expenditure  
 42 shall be presumed to be so made when it is:

43 (i) Based on information about the plans, projects or needs of the candidate, or of the political  
 44 committee supporting or opposing a measure, and provided to the expending person by the candidate  
 45 or by the candidate's agent, or by any political committee or agent of a political committee sup-

1 porting or opposing a measure, with a view toward having an expenditure made; or

2 (ii) Made by or through any person who is or has been authorized to raise or expend funds, who  
3 is or has been an officer of a political committee authorized by the candidate or by a political  
4 committee or agent of a political committee supporting or opposing a measure, or who is or has been  
5 receiving any form of compensation or reimbursement from the candidate, the candidate's principal  
6 campaign committee or agent or from any political committee or agent of a political committee  
7 supporting or opposing a measure.

8 (B) Does not mean providing to the expending person upon request a copy of this chapter or any  
9 rules adopted by the Secretary of State relating to independent expenditures.

10 [(11)] (12) "Initiative petition" means a petition to initiate a measure for which a prospective  
11 petition has been filed but that is not yet a measure.

12 [(12)] (13) "Judge" means judge of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, circuit court or the  
13 Oregon Tax Court.

14 (14) **"Legislative caucus political committee" means a political committee:**

15 (a) **Established by a caucus of a major political party or a minor political party in the**  
16 **Senate or House of Representatives;**

17 (b) **Established under rules or bylaws created by the caucus by which it was established;**  
18 **and**

19 (c) **Controlled by an elected leader of the caucus by which it was established.**

20 (15) **"Major political party" means a political party that has qualified as a major political**  
21 **party under ORS 248.006.**

22 [(13)] (16) "Mass mailing" means more than 200 substantially similar pieces of mail, but does  
23 not include a form letter or other mail that is sent in response to an unsolicited request, letter or  
24 other inquiry.

25 [(14)] (17) "Measure" includes any of the following submitted to the people for their approval  
26 or rejection at an election:

27 (a) A proposed law.

28 (b) An Act or part of an Act of the Legislative Assembly.

29 (c) A revision of or amendment to the Oregon Constitution.

30 (d) Local, special or municipal legislation.

31 (e) A proposition or question.

32 (18) **"Minor political party" means a political party that has qualified as a minor political**  
33 **party under ORS 248.008.**

34 (19) **"Multilegislative candidate political committee" means a political committee that**  
35 **supports or opposes one or more candidates through the use of direct contributions to the**  
36 **candidates or the principal campaign committee of the candidates.**

37 [(15)] (20) "Occupation" means:

38 (a) The nature of an individual's principal business; and

39 (b) If the individual is employed by another person, the business name and address, by city and  
40 state, of the employer.

41 [(16)] (21) "Person" means an individual, corporation, limited liability company, labor organiza-  
42 tion, association, firm, partnership, joint stock company, club, organization or other combination of  
43 individuals having collective capacity.

44 [(17)] (22) "Petition committee" means an initiative, referendum or recall petition committee  
45 organized under ORS 260.118.

1        [(18)] **(23)** “Political committee” means a combination of two or more individuals, or a person  
 2 other than an individual, that has:

3        (a) Received a contribution for the purpose of supporting or opposing a candidate, measure or  
 4 political party; or

5        (b) Made an expenditure for the purpose of supporting or opposing a candidate, measure or  
 6 political party. For purposes of this paragraph, an expenditure does not include:

7        (A) A contribution to a candidate or political committee that is required to report the contri-  
 8 bution on a statement filed under ORS 260.057 or 260.076 or a certificate filed under ORS 260.112;  
 9 or

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

12        **(24) “Political party committee” means a political committee that, on a statewide or local**  
 13 **basis:**

14        **(a) Supports or opposes one or more candidates; and**

15        **(b)(A) Represents a major political party or a minor political party; or**

16        **(B) Is established under the bylaws of a major political party or a minor political party.**

17        [(19)] **(25)** “Public office” means any national, state, county, district, city office or position, ex-  
 18 cept a political party office, that is filled by the electors.

19        [(20)] **(26)** “Recall petition” means a petition to recall a public officer for which a prospective  
 20 petition has been filed but that is not yet a measure.

21        [(21)] **(27)** “Referendum petition” means a petition to refer a measure for which a prospective  
 22 petition has been filed but that is not yet a measure.

23        [(22)] **(28)** “Regular district election” means the regular district election described in ORS  
 24 255.335.

25        **(29) “Small donor committee” means a political committee that supports or opposes one**  
 26 **candidate designated at the time that the statement of organization is filed.**

27        [(23)] **(30)** “State office” means the office of Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, At-  
 28 torney General, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, state Senator, state Repre-  
 29 sentative, judge or district attorney.

30        **SECTION 5.** ORS 260.042 is amended to read:

31        260.042. (1) The treasurer of a political committee shall file a statement of organization with the  
 32 filing officer. The statement must include:

33        (a) The name, address and nature of the committee. The address must be the address of a resi-  
 34 dence, office, headquarters or similar location where the political committee or a responsible officer  
 35 of the political committee may be conveniently located.

36        (b) The name, address and occupation of the committee director or directors.

37        (c) The name and address of the committee treasurer.

38        (d) The name and address of any other political committee of which two or more committee di-  
 39 rectors are also directors of the committee filing the statement.

40        **(e) Whether the political committee will operate as one of the following:**

41        **(A) Legislative caucus political committee.**

42        **(B) Multilegislative candidate political committee.**

43        **(C) Political party committee.**

44        **(D) Principal campaign committee.**

45        **(E) Small donor committee.**



1        [(e)] (f) The name, office sought, and party affiliation of each candidate whom the committee is  
 2 supporting or specifically opposing or intends to support or specifically oppose, when known, or, if  
 3 the committee is supporting or specifically opposing all the candidates of a given party, the name  
 4 of that party.

5        [(f)] (g) A designation of any measure that the committee is opposing or supporting, or intends  
 6 to support or oppose.

7        [(g)] (h) A statement of whether the committee is a controlled committee.

8        (2) In addition to the information listed in subsection (1) of this section, the statement of or-  
 9 ganization must include, or be amended within five business days to include, the name of the finan-  
 10 cial institution in which the campaign account required under ORS 260.054 is established, the name  
 11 of the account, the name of the account holder and the names of all individuals who have signature  
 12 authority for the account. The Secretary of State may not disclose information received by the sec-  
 13 retary under this subsection except as necessary for purposes of enforcing the provisions of ORS  
 14 chapters 246 to 260.

15        (3) A treasurer may designate an individual to receive any notice provided by a filing officer  
 16 under ORS chapters 246 to 260. The treasurer shall include the name and address of the individual  
 17 in a statement of organization filed under this section. A filing officer who provides any notice under  
 18 ORS chapters 246 to 260 to the treasurer of the political committee shall also provide the notice to  
 19 the individual designated by the treasurer under this subsection.

20        (4) A treasurer may designate an elector of this state to be liable for any civil penalty imposed  
 21 under ORS 260.232. The treasurer shall include the name and address of any elector designated un-  
 22 der this subsection in a statement of organization filed under this section.

23        (5) The statement of organization must be filed not later than the date specified in ORS 260.035.

24        (6) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, any change in information submitted in  
 25 a statement of organization under subsections (1) and (2) of this section must be indicated in an  
 26 amended statement of organization filed not later than the 10th day after the change in information.

27        **(7) A major political party or minor political party may not establish more than one leg-**  
 28 **islative caucus political committee in the Senate and one legislative caucus political com-**  
 29 **mittee in the House of Representatives.**

30        [(7)] (8) This section does not apply to a political committee that is a principal campaign com-  
 31 mittee or to a political committee exclusively supporting or opposing one or more candidates for  
 32 federal or political party office.

33        **SECTION 6.** ORS 260.041 is amended to read:

34        260.041. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 260.005 [(18)] (23) and except as provided in ORS 260.043, a  
 35 candidate shall designate a political committee as the candidate's principal campaign committee. A  
 36 candidate may designate only one political committee as the candidate's principal campaign com-  
 37 mittee.

38        (2) A political committee may not be designated as the principal campaign committee of more  
 39 than one candidate.

40        **SECTION 7.** ORS 260.044 is amended to read:

41        260.044. (1) If a person makes independent expenditures in a total amount of more than \$250 in  
 42 a calendar year, the person shall use the electronic filing system adopted under ORS 260.057 to file  
 43 with the Secretary of State a statement of independent expenditures not later than seven calendar  
 44 days after the total amount of independent expenditures exceeds \$250 in a calendar year.

45        (2) A person who files a statement of independent expenditures under subsection (1) of this

1 section shall use the electronic filing system adopted under ORS 260.057 to file with the secretary  
2 additional statements of independent expenditures made by the person, as described in ORS 260.083.

3 (3) Except as provided in subsections (4) and (5) of this section, a person shall file a statement  
4 described in subsection (2) of this section not later than 30 calendar days after an independent ex-  
5 penditure is made.

6 (4)(a) A person shall file a statement described in subsection (2) of this section not later than  
7 seven calendar days after an independent expenditure is made. This paragraph applies to independ-  
8 ent expenditures made:

9 (A) During the period beginning on the 42nd calendar day before the date of any primary  
10 election and ending on the date of the primary election; and

11 (B) During the period beginning on the 42nd calendar day before the date of any general  
12 election and ending on the date of the general election.

13 (b) If the person makes an independent expenditure prior to the 42nd calendar day before the  
14 date of the primary or general election and the person has not filed a statement under subsection  
15 (3) of this section by the 43rd calendar day before the date of the primary or general election, the  
16 person shall file a statement described in subsection (2) of this section not later than whichever of  
17 the following dates occurs first:

18 (A) The date required under subsection (3) of this section; or

19 (B) The 35th calendar day before the date of the primary or general election.

20 (5) For any special election, the secretary by rule may establish a period during which a person  
21 must file a statement described in subsection (2) of this section. The period may not extend beyond  
22 seven calendar days after an independent expenditure is made.

23 (6) Notwithstanding ORS 260.005 [(18)] (23), a person who solicits and receives a contribution  
24 or contributions is a political committee and shall file a statement of organization under ORS  
25 260.042 and the statements required by ORS 260.057, 260.076 or 260.078.

26 (7) For purposes of this section:

27 (a) An independent expenditure does not include a contribution to a candidate or political  
28 committee that is required to report the contribution on a statement filed under ORS 260.057,  
29 260.076 or 260.078 or a certificate filed under ORS 260.112;

30 (b) An independent expenditure does not include a contribution to a candidate who is not re-  
31 quired to file a statement of organization under ORS 260.043; and

32 (c) A person is not a political committee under subsection (6) of this section if all contributions  
33 received by the person are:

34 (A) Designated to an identified candidate or political committee;

35 (B) Delivered by the person to the designated candidate or political committee not later than  
36 seven business days after the contribution is received; and

37 (C) Required to be reported as contributions by a candidate or political committee on a state-  
38 ment filed under ORS 260.057, 260.076 or 260.078 or a certificate filed under ORS 260.112.

39 **SECTION 8.** ORS 260.083 is amended to read:

40 260.083. (1)(a) For a contribution, except as provided in ORS 260.085, a statement filed under  
41 ORS 260.044, 260.057, 260.076, 260.078 or 260.118 shall list:

42 (A) The name, occupation and address of each person, and the name and address of each poli-  
43 tical committee or petition committee, that contributed an aggregate amount of more than \$100 in  
44 a calendar year on behalf of a candidate or to a political committee or petition committee and the  
45 total amount contributed by that person or committee; and

1 (B) The total amount of other contributions as a single item, but shall specify how those con-  
 2 tributions were obtained.

3 (b) For an expenditure, including an independent expenditure, a statement filed under ORS  
 4 260.044, 260.057, 260.076, 260.078 or 260.118 shall list:

5 (A) The amount and purpose of each expenditure made in an aggregate amount of more than  
 6 \$100 to a payee, the name or, if applicable, the business name of the payee of the expenditure, and  
 7 the city, or county if the payee is not located in a city, and state in which the payee is located; and

8 (B) The total amount of other expenditures as a single item.

9 (c) For each loan, whether repaid or not, made by or to a candidate, political committee or pe-  
 10 tition committee, a statement filed under ORS 260.044, 260.057, 260.076, 260.078 or 260.118 shall list:

11 (A) The name and address of each person shown as a cosigner or guarantor on a loan and the  
 12 amount of the obligation undertaken by each cosigner or guarantor;

13 (B) The name of the lender holding the loan; and

14 (C) The terms of the loan, including the interest rate and repayment schedule.

15 (2) An expenditure shall be reported as an account payable only if the expenditure is not paid  
 16 within the time specified in ORS 260.057, 260.076 or 260.118.

17 (3) Anything of value paid for or contributed by any person shall be listed as both an in-kind  
 18 contribution and an expenditure by the candidate or committee for whose benefit the payment or  
 19 contribution was made.

20 (4) If a candidate, political committee or petition committee under ORS 260.057 or 260.118 makes  
 21 an expenditure that must be reported as an in-kind contribution and an expenditure as provided in  
 22 subsection (3) of this section, the candidate, political committee or petition committee making the  
 23 original expenditure shall, in any statement filed under ORS 260.057, 260.078 or 260.118, identify the  
 24 expenditure as an in-kind contribution and identify the candidate, political committee or petition  
 25 committee for whose benefit the expenditure was made.

26 (5) If a political committee makes an expenditure that qualifies as an independent expenditure  
 27 under ORS 260.005 [(10)] (11), the listing of the expenditure under this section shall identify any  
 28 candidates or measures that are the subject of the independent expenditure and state whether the  
 29 independent expenditure was used to advocate the election, passage or defeat of the candidates or  
 30 measures.

31 (6) As used in this section:

32 (a) "Address" has the meaning given that term in rules adopted by the Secretary of State.

33 (b) "Contribution" and "expenditure" include a contribution or expenditure to or on behalf of  
 34 an initiative, referendum or recall petition.

35 **SECTION 9.** ORS 260.266 is amended to read:

36 260.266. (1) Except as otherwise provided by a local provision, a communication in support of  
 37 or in opposition to a clearly identified candidate must state the name of the persons that paid for  
 38 the communication.

39 (2) For the purpose of complying with subsection (1) of this section:

40 (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, a communication in support of or in  
 41 opposition to a clearly identified candidate by a political committee or petition committee must  
 42 state:

43 (A) The name of the political committee or petition committee; and

44 (B) The names of the five persons that have made the largest aggregate contributions of \$10,000  
 45 or more to the committee in the election cycle in which the communication is made.

1 (b) A communication in support of or in opposition to a clearly identified candidate by an indi-  
2 vidual, a for-profit business entity or a candidate or the principal campaign committee of a candidate  
3 must state the name of the individual, for-profit business entity or candidate.

4 (c)(A) A communication in support of or in opposition to a clearly identified candidate by a  
5 person not described in paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection must state:

6 (i) The name of the person; and

7 (ii) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, the names of the five persons that  
8 have made the largest aggregate donations of \$10,000 or more to the person in the election cycle in  
9 which the communication is made.

10 (B) In identifying persons that have made aggregate donations of \$10,000 or more, a person de-  
11 scribed in this paragraph may exclude:

12 (i) Donations received from an affiliated charitable organization that is tax exempt under section  
13 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

14 (ii) Donations and grants received from foundations and other persons that may not be used to  
15 make a communication in support of or in opposition to a clearly identified candidate.

16 (d) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) to (c) of this subsection, a digital communication may state  
17 only the name of the person that made the communication if the digital communication includes an  
18 active link to a website that prominently displays the additional information required by this sub-  
19 section.

20 (3) A person that makes communications in support of or in opposition to a clearly identified  
21 candidate must consider an anonymous donation of \$1,000 or more from a single person to be a do-  
22 nation that may not be used to make a communication in support of or in opposition to a clearly  
23 identified candidate.

24 (4)(a) If a person is required to disclose the names of five persons under subsection (2)(a)(B) or  
25 (c)(A)(ii) of this section and more than five persons qualify as having made the largest aggregate  
26 contributions or donations, the person shall disclose the five applicable persons whose contributions  
27 or donations were made closest to the date of initial printing or transmission of the communication.

28 (b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection, the five persons required to be named  
29 under subsection (2)(a)(B) or (c)(A)(ii) of this section must be accurate as of 10 days before the most  
30 recent payment to print or transmit the communication.

31 (c) A person that both makes multiple digital communications in support of or in opposition to  
32 a clearly identified candidate and uses the method described in subsection (2)(d) of this section to  
33 meet the identification requirements of subsection (2)(a)(B) or (c)(A)(ii) of this section, may use one  
34 active link to the same website for all digital communications made by the person, provided that the  
35 information on the website is accurate as of 10 days before the most recent payment to print or  
36 transmit a communication.

37 (5) This section does not apply to:

38 (a) Candidates for federal office.

39 (b) Candidates other than those described in paragraph (a) of this subsection who are not re-  
40 quired to use the electronic filing system adopted under ORS 260.057 to file statements of contribu-  
41 tions received or expenditures made.

42 (c) Petition committees that are not required to use the electronic filing system adopted under  
43 ORS 260.057 to file statements of contributions received or expenditures made.

44 (d) Political committees that are not required to use the electronic filing system adopted under  
45 ORS 260.057 to file statements of contributions received or expenditures made.

1 (e) A person that makes independent expenditures and that is exempt under ORS 260.044 from  
2 being required to file statements of independent expenditures using the electronic filing system  
3 adopted under ORS 260.057.

4 (f) A communication that is excluded from the definition of “expenditure” under ORS 260.007.

5 (g) Items of de minimis value relating to a candidate, including but not limited to:

6 (A) Lawn signs, pins, pens and other similar items;

7 (B) Skywriting; or

8 (C) Wearable merchandise.

9 (h) Any other item that the Secretary of State by rule determines is too small to feasibly include  
10 the identifying information required by this section.

11 (6) The Secretary of State by rule shall prescribe the form of statements required on communi-  
12 cations described in this section. Rules adopted under this subsection must ensure that the infor-  
13 mation required to be included in communications under this section is:

14 (a) In a font, size and color that are easy for an average person to read, if the communication  
15 appears in a print or digital format; and

16 (b) Clearly audible to the average person, if the communication appears in an audio format.

17 (7) As used in this section:

18 (a) “Clearly identified” has the meaning given that term in ORS 260.005 [(10)(b)] **(11)(b)**.

19 (b)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, “communication in support of  
20 or in opposition to a clearly identified candidate” means:

21 (i)(I) The communication, when taken as a whole and with limited reference to external events,  
22 such as the proximity to the election, could only be interpreted by a reasonable person as containing  
23 advocacy for the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for nomination or election to  
24 public office; and

25 (II) The electoral portion of the communication is unmistakable, unambiguous and suggestive  
26 of only one meaning; or

27 (ii)(I) The communication involves aggregate expenditures by a person of more than the amount  
28 provided in ORS 260.044 (1);

29 (II) The communication refers to a clearly identified candidate who will appear on the ballot;  
30 and

31 (III) The communication is printed or transmitted to the relevant electorate within the time  
32 frame provided in ORS 260.005 [(10)(c)(B)(iii)] **(11)(c)(B)(iii)**.

33 (B)(i) “Communication in support of or in opposition to a clearly identified candidate” includes  
34 but is not limited to communications distributed via print, telephone, radio, television or the Inter-  
35 net.

36 (ii) “Communication in support of or in opposition to a clearly identified candidate” does not  
37 include newspaper editorials, printed advertisements with a fair market value of less than \$500 or  
38 communications made via telephone that have a fair market value of less than \$500.

39 (c)(A) “Donation” means the gift or transfer of moneys or any other item of value to a person  
40 subject to subsection (2)(c)(A) of this section, including any membership fees, dues or assessments.

41 (B) “Donation” does not include moneys or any other item of value received by a person subject  
42 to subsection (2)(c)(A) of this section in the ordinary course of a trade or business conducted by the  
43 person.

44 (d) “Election cycle” means the period of time starting on the day after the date of a general  
45 election and ending on the date of the next general election.

1 (e) "Local provision" means a charter provision, ordinance, resolution or other provision  
2 adopted by a city, county or other local government.

3 **SECTION 10.** ORS 260.275 is amended to read:

4 260.275. As used in ORS 260.275 to 260.285:

5 (1) "Anonymous donation" means a donation for which the covered organization does not pos-  
6 sess the donor name or address that is required under ORS 260.281.

7 (2) "Communication in support of or in opposition to a clearly identified candidate or measure"  
8 has the meaning given that phrase in ORS 260.005 [(10)(c)] (11)(c).

9 (3) "Covered organization" means a combination of two or more individuals, or a person other  
10 than an individual, political committee, petition committee or a not-for-profit corporation that is tax  
11 exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, that both accepts donations and makes  
12 political communications.

13 (4)(a) "Donation" means the gift or transfer of moneys or any other item of value to a covered  
14 organization, including any membership fees, dues or assessments.

15 (b) "Donation" does not include moneys or any other item of value received by a covered or-  
16 ganization in the ordinary course of a trade or business conducted by the covered organization.

17 (5) "Donor" means a person that makes a donation to a covered organization.

18 (6) "Election cycle" means the period of time starting on the day after the date of a general  
19 election and ending on the date of the next general election.

20 (7) "Electioneering threshold for a legislative race" means political communications made by a  
21 covered organization of less than \$25,000 for a particular seat of the Legislative Assembly.

22 (8)(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection, "electioneering threshold  
23 for a measure" means political communications made by a covered organization of less than \$100,000  
24 for a particular measure.

25 (b) For a city measure in a city with a population of less than 60,000, "electioneering threshold  
26 for a measure" means political communications made by a covered organization of less than \$25,000  
27 for a particular city measure.

28 (c) For a county measure in a county with a population of less than 60,000, "electioneering  
29 threshold for a measure" means political communications made by a covered organization of less  
30 than \$25,000 for a particular county measure.

31 (9) "Electioneering threshold for a political committee" means political communications made  
32 by a covered organization of less than \$100,000 for a particular political committee.

33 (10) "Electioneering threshold for a statewide race" means political communications made by a  
34 covered organization of less than \$100,000 for a particular state office as defined in ORS 249.215.

35 (11)(a) "Political communication" means a communication in support of or in opposition to a  
36 clearly identified candidate or measure.

37 (b) "Political communication" does not include:

38 (A) A communication by a covered organization to its current members, stockholders or execu-  
39 tive or administrative personnel;

40 (B) A communication that constitutes lobbying as defined in ORS 171.725; or

41 (C) A communication excluded from the definition of "expenditure" under ORS 260.007.

42 **SECTION 11. (1) The Task Force on the Public Financing of Campaigns is established.**

43 **(2) The task force consists of eight members appointed as follows:**

44 **(a) The President of the Senate shall:**

45 **(A) Appoint two members from among members of the Senate, with each appointed**

1 member affiliated with a different political party;

2 (B) Appoint one person with expertise or a demonstrated interest in the public financing  
3 of campaigns; and

4 (C) Designate one of the members appointed under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph  
5 as cochairperson of the task force.

6 (b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall:

7 (A) Appoint two members from among members of the House of Representatives, with  
8 each appointed member affiliated with a different political party;

9 (B) Appoint one person with expertise or a demonstrated interest in the public financing  
10 of campaigns; and

11 (C) Designate one of the members appointed under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph  
12 as cochairperson of the task force.

13 (c) The Governor shall appoint one member with expertise or a demonstrated interest in  
14 the public financing of campaigns.

15 (d) The Secretary of State shall appoint one member with expertise or a demonstrated  
16 interest in the public financing of campaigns.

17 (3) The task force shall conduct an analysis and determine the best method or methods  
18 to publicly finance campaigns in this state.

19 (4) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the  
20 transaction of business.

21 (5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting  
22 members of the task force.

23 (6) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-  
24 ment to become immediately effective.

25 (7) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the  
26 cochairpersons or of a majority of the voting members of the task force.

27 (8) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

28 (9) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may  
29 include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative As-  
30 sembly related to rules no later than December 1, 2023.

31 (10) The Legislative Policy and Research Director shall provide staff support to the task  
32 force.

33 (11) Members of the task force appointed to the task force by the Governor or the Sec-  
34 retary of State are nonvoting members of the task force and may act in an advisory capacity  
35 only.

36 (12) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not  
37 entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task  
38 force.

39 (13) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist  
40 the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted  
41 by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task  
42 force consider necessary to perform their duties.

43 **SECTION 12.** (1) The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Represen-  
44 tatives, the Governor and the Secretary of State shall make the appointments to the Task  
45 Force on the Public Financing of Campaigns no later than July 15, 2023.

1           **(2) The Task Force on the Public Financing of Campaigns shall hold its first meeting no**  
2 **later than August 8, 2023.**

3           **SECTION 13.** Sections 11 and 12 of this 2023 Act are repealed on December 31, 2024.

4           **SECTION 14.** Chapter 3, Oregon Laws 2007, is repealed.

5           **SECTION 15.** Sections 2 and 3 of this 2023 Act and the amendments to ORS 260.005,  
6 260.041, 260.042, 260.044, 260.083, 260.266 and 260.275 by sections 4 to 10 of this 2023 Act become  
7 operative on November 6, 2024.

8           **SECTION 16.** The Secretary of State may take any action before the operative date  
9 specified in section 15 of this 2023 Act that is necessary for the Secretary of State to exer-  
10 cise, on and after the operative date specified in section 15 of this 2023 Act, all of the duties,  
11 functions and powers conferred on the Secretary of State by sections 2 and 3 of this 2023  
12 Act and the amendments to ORS 260.005, 260.041, 260.042, 260.044, 260.083, 260.266 and 260.275  
13 by sections 4 to 10 of this 2023 Act.

14           **SECTION 17.** This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
15 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect  
16 on its passage.

17 \_\_\_\_\_