

Submitter: Deborah Lee  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB417

Dear Senate Rules Committee members,  
For over 2 years now, members of the Oregon Republican Party Election Integrity committee have been making public records requests.

The results have been outrageous! Ridiculously high fees for a copy of ballot images at \$59,000 was the most I heard of. Another county the fee was \$18,000, but this was reduced when the Sheriff spoke to his niece the Clerk to \$1,800, which is still out of reach to the average elector working to ensure the public trust in Oregon elections. These huge fees do not ensure the public trusts their elections! They create suspicion.

We were told they had to redact the ballot images and remove personal voter information, which is crazy. If the voter puts personal information on their ballot... it's their own fault. If I discovered such information, I would simply ignore it. Redacting these images is an undue burden on the Clerk's staff AND the elector researching our elections. As an IT professional, I know it would take a "Select All", a "Copy" and a "Paste" onto a USB drive, I grand total of 5 minutes at most for the clerk's staff, if the redaction requirement was removed. Again, the requirement for redaction creates suspicion, not transparency.

I have asked my Clerk LOTS of questions, which he has been most helpful in answering. However, I am not allowed to see or learn about OCVR, the Oregon Centralized Voter Registration database. I am not allowed to watch my Clerk upload the election results at 2 am or 4 am. to the SOS website. Why is there no transparency in these areas?

Please pass this bill to make our public records request system reasonable and help ensure the public trust.

Most Sincerely,  
Deborah Lee  
Bend, Oregon