



## Oregon Association of County Clerks

oacclerks.org

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### **Written Testimony before the House Rules Committee regarding opportunities and concerns in relation to House Bill 2107**

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and  
Representatives Nosse, Scharf, Valderrama, and Wallan,

The Oregon Association of County Clerks (OACC) appreciates the opportunity work with Secretary of State Shemia Fagan on House Bill 2107, which would extend Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) to the Oregon Health Authority. OACC would like to note the following:

- 1. Currently, the Secretary of State (SOS) Elections Division sends opt-out/party selection notifications to voters. For consistency, OACC feels this should remain the responsibility of the SOS Elections Division with regard to any additional agencies to be added to AVR, so we would suggest changing “Secretary of State or County Clerk” to just “Secretary of State” in all sections regarding notifications to prospective new voters about their right to not be registered and/or party affiliation.
- 2. There have been challenges with regard to maintaining stable data transfers between the SOS and DMV. We are hoping this issue is resolved with “Oregon Votes” and will allow for better connection with state agencies. The June 1, 2026, implementation date will hopefully allow enough time for the new connections to be tested thoroughly, as the Oregon centralized voter registration database replacement project is estimated to be in phase one completion in the Summer of 2023.
- 3. Capturing viable signatures from DMV has been problematic, resulting in many rejected signatures. Signature verification ensures that only the eligible voter who was issued a ballot may vote that ballot, and a high rate of rejected signatures increases workload for County Clerks.
- 4. Allowing voters to provide a signature after they have registered to vote would create another category that Clerks would have to follow up on. It would also create another category of challenged ballot if the voter returned a ballot but did not have a registration signature on file. This can be problematic at busy times like the voter registration deadline or the rush to get challenged ballot letters out after a high turnout election day.

This bill will most likely create a need for funding at the County Clerk level. OACC will not know a more determinate estimate of this fiscal impact until the rules are written. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 2107. As usual, the OACC stands ready to assist as needed.