

SHEMIA FAGAN
SECRETARY OF STATE
CHERYL MYERS
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE
TRIBAL LIAISON



State of Oregon
900 Court Street NE #136
Salem, Oregon 97301
503-986-1500

<http://sos.oregon.gov>

February 16, 2023

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice-Chair Kropf and members of the House Committee on Rules:

I am Jessica Ventura, Legislative Director for Secretary of State Shemia Fagan. I am submitting the following written testimony to provide information on [House Bill 3073](#). We do not have a position on the bill.

Current Law

Existing law says that all elected officials and candidates for election will be included in all public record lists which includes the residence address of the elector who holds elected office or a candidate the same as any other registered voter not otherwise designated as protected under ORS 192.311 to 194.478 or ORS 247.965-247.969.

House Bill 3073

House Bill 3073 does the following:

- Prohibits SOS from disclosing residential addresses of candidates and office holders from publicly supplied voter registration lists.
- Implies that the SOS will need to create administrative functionality to ensure this law is applied uniformly.

To implement the bill, significant work would be required of State and local election officials. This work would include:

- Extensive and ongoing coordination between local election officials, State Elections Division, and all filing officers to share information regarding candidate filings.
- Ensuring the proper designation of new candidate records in the centralized voter registration system, and the removal of that designation when people are no longer candidates.
- Ensuring the proper designation of current officeholder records in the centralized voter registration system, and the removal of former officeholders.
- Address questions regarding the timeline for nondisclosure and the mechanisms to prevent improper release of this data, via administrative rule and potentially software development.

We believe this may have some fiscal impact.

Point of Contact:

Jessica Ventura, Legislative Director
Jessica.Ventura@sos.oregon.gov

In addition, the committee should be aware of several practical impacts of this bill.

First, the bill would automatically provide candidates and officeholders with a degree of privacy that average voters cannot obtain. Providing this heightened level of privacy protection to a limited pool of people may cause voter confusion, which in turn would require state and local elections officials to use scarce resources providing clarifying information to voters.

Second, maintaining addresses of candidates as public records in the voter registration database allows voters to independently verify that a candidate for office has a residence address within the district. Voters can then challenge the candidacy of people who they believe do not meet residency requirements for the office. Keeping candidate addresses confidential stops voters from verifying them.

Suggestions to Improve House Bill 3073

We believe the following changes and additions would help our Elections Division during implementation:

- Define “candidate” and the time period to which a “candidate” designation applies. Does it begin at the time of filing, through the election date, certification or is it after being a candidate once, their information is exempt from disclosure permanently.

Define “holder of elected office” - preferably 'Public Office' as “elected office,” this could apply to Homeowner Association boards. Clarify whether this designation applies to those appointed to fill the remainder of a term after an elected officeholder vacates the seat. Additionally, the bill could be improved upon with the following additions:

Current language: “The residence address of an elector who is either a candidate for elected office or a holder of elected office.”

- Add: Candidate eligibility for address exemption will begin when a candidate files their candidacy and end when results are certified.
- Add: Holder of Elected office eligibility for address exemption will begin from the time of election certification or appointment to office and end on the last day elected office is held.
- Add: Secretary of State shall establish administrative rules establishing a uniform process by which this information is kept and processed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Ventura
Legislative Director

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Jessica.Ventura@sos.oregon.gov