



Oregon Association of County Clerks

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Written Testimony before the House Rules Committee in Support of House Bill 5035 - Secretary of State Budget

Dear Co-Chairs Patterson and Smith, Senators Bonham and Campos, and
Representatives Chaichi, Gomberg, Reschke, and Walters,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Secretary of State (SOS) budget on behalf of the Oregon Association of County Clerks (OACC).

OACC encourages your support of the SOS budget request for 2023-25 in three main areas. The SOS budget touches on these three areas in packages 107 (Information Technology Security), 117 (Election Oversight), and 118 (Elections Security and Public Education). These are key to the successful administration of fair and accurate elections by Oregon's 36 county clerks and election administrators. These key areas are:

- 1. Election and voter registration systems:** Support targeted internal solutions that service as adequate rebuilds, or replacements, that can also integrate various external systems. The SOS Elections Information Services Division must have adequate funding to recruit, train and retain professional and highly qualified staff. Especially as SOS undertakes the replacement of OCVR with Oregon Votes, the new election and voter registration system.
- 2. Security and Investigations/Compliance:** Support conducting investigations into Election Law violations and educating and engaging Oregonians on misinformation and combating false information.
- 3. Related Staffing:** Support positions needed to implement, train and retain needed staffing to support Election Systems, Security and Compliance. This will allow SOS to build more effective and transparent communications and systems to combat misinformation and disinformation.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 5035 and the three key areas of importance to the county officials that conduct elections in Oregon.