

SB 578 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 3/31, 4/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes the dates by which a portrait and statement are to be submitted to be included in voters' pamphlets for primary and general elections, and removes the Secretary of State's (SOS) discretion to set the dates in rule. It allows the SOS to establish, by rule, a date by which a portrait and statement are to be submitted to be included in the voters' pamphlet for an election to fill a vacancy, or an election other than the primary or general. It establishes an effective date of the 91st day after adjournment sine die of the 2025 regular session of 83rd Legislative Assembly.

Fiscal impact: Minal impact

Revenue impact: No impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon voters' pamphlet is a publication produced and distributed by the Secretary of State (SOS) Elections Division. It is produced for each primary and general election, as well as for any special statewide election. One copy of the voters' pamphlet is mailed to every household in the state and includes information about candidates—including a photo, if one is submitted, measures, recognized political parties, and any assembly of electors. It also includes instructions for marking the ballot, a complete list of federal and state candidates, and other information on the voting process.

A county may publish a county voters' pamphlet and distribute it themselves; publish a county voters' pamphlet and have it inserted into the state voters' pamphlet for elections that the SOS is required to publish a pamphlet; or not publish a county voters' pamphlet and have certain local candidates and measures be eligible for inclusion in the state voters' pamphlet (OAR 165-007-0030).

Current law allows the SOS to specify the date by which a candidate must submit a photo to be included in the voters' pamphlet for any election.