

HB 3392 -5 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 6/25, 6/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Secretary of State to study campaign finance.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Risks and tradeoffs between time and measure execution without a delay
- Secretary of State (SOS) commitment to making execution work and continuing the work if deadlines are delayed
- Information technology resource needs and challenges
- Interim process with legislators to resolve direction and ambiguity issues
- Ability of electronic campaign finance filing system (ORESTAR) to work for campaign finance requirements
- SOS not having enough resources to execute on the current timeline

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-5 The amendment replaces the measure. It changes the operative dates and deadlines of Chapter 9, Oregon Laws 2024 (House Bill 4024), including extending the operative dates for the campaign contributions limits, disclosure and reporting requirements for independent expenditures, complaint investigation requirements, civil penalties, and web-based campaign finance dashboard requirements, and extending the incumbent filing and Secretary of State rule development and reporting deadlines.

Detailed Summary

Operative Dates

Changes operative dates and deadlines for the:

- Political committee organization, contribution limits, and complaint and penalty sections from January 1, 2027, to January 1, 2031.
- Disclosure reporting and campaign finance dashboard provisions from January 1, 2028, to January 1, 2032.
- Secretary of State (SOS) to propose implementation rules (from September 15, 2025, to September 15, 2030) and report to the Legislative Assembly (from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2030).
- SOS to reorganize as a multicandidate political committee any active political committee that remains a miscellaneous political committee as of March 31, 2031, instead of March 31, 2027.

Political Committee Requirements

Changes deadline from March 31, 2027, to March 31, 2031, for allowing a political committee to reorganize as a small donor political committee, if 90 percent or more of the contributions received in the previous 24-month period were by individuals in amounts not exceeding \$250 per calendar year.

Campaign Finance Dashboard

Changes deadline for the SOS to create the campaign finance dashboard and update software related to campaign filings from January 1, 2028, to January 1, 2032, and makes the requirement to release certain information on the dashboard also apply to elections occurring after January 1, 2032.

Other Provisions

Changes the operative date from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2030, for the requirement that an incumbent holder of public who intends to seek reelection to file a nominating petition or declaration of candidacy at least seven days prior to filing deadline for that office.

Adds an emergency clause, making the measure effective upon passage.

Fiscal impact: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

There are three main methods employed by states for regulating campaign finance, which are commonly utilized in combination:

- requiring the disclosure and reporting of campaign contributions and expenditures;
- setting contribution limits to campaigns; and
- providing a system for public financing of elections.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, for the 2025-2026 election cycle, Oregon is one of five states (along with Alabama, Nebraska, Utah, and Virginia) with no limits on political campaign contributions and is one of 11 states that impose no limits on individual candidate contributions.

The passage of Ballot Measure 47 in 2006 technically put contribution limits in Oregon statute, but those limits were deemed not enforceable unless or until the Oregon Constitution was amended or interpreted to allow such limits. Ballot Measure 107, which was referred by Senate Joint Resolution 18 (2019) and approved by voters on November 3, 2020, amended section 8, Article II of the Oregon Constitution to permit the enactment of laws to regulate the use of money in political campaigns. The measure specifically authorizes laws or ordinances enacted on or after January 1, 2016, that require:

- limits on contributions if resources that are necessary for effective advocacy may be gathered
- the disclosure of contributions or expenditures made in connection with political campaigns or to influence the outcome of any election, and
- the identification of the persons or entities responsible for political advertisements.

House Bill 4024 (2024) set campaign contributions limits, defined and set requirements for specified political committees, set disclosure and reporting requirements for candidate campaign independent expenditures, established complaint investigation requirements and deadlines, and set civil penalties for violations of the contribution limits and disclosure requirements. The measure also repealed Ballot Measure 47 (2006) and called for the creation of a web-based campaign finance dashboard.