

House Bill 3012

Sponsored by Representative NERON; Representatives CHAICHI, GRAYBER, SOSA, TRAN, Senators CAMPOS, PHAM K, SOLLMAN (at the request of Next Up Action Fund, Next Up, Unite Oregon, Unite Oregon Action) (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act lets someone who is 16 or 17 years old and registered to vote to cast a ballot in school district elections. (Flesch Readability Score: 62.1).

Permits an individual who is 16 or 17 years of age and registered to vote to cast a ballot in school district elections.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to voting in school district elections; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 247.016
3 and 332.118.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 332.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 247.016 (2) or 255.005 (6), an individual may vote in**
7 **all school district elections, including the nomination and election of school directors, if the**
8 **individual:**

9 (a) **Is 16 or 17 years of age;**

10 (b) **Has registered to vote in the manner described in ORS 247.012;**

11 (c) **Resides at an address that is within the geographic boundaries of the area eligible to**
12 **cast ballots in the school district election; and**

13 (d) **Is registered to vote in the school district election not less than 20 calendar days**
14 **immediately preceding the election.**

15 (2) **The Secretary of State by rule shall establish a process to allow individuals described**
16 **in subsection (1) of this section to cast ballots in school district elections. The process must**
17 **ensure that:**

18 (a) **An individual who votes under the process established in this subsection receives a**
19 **ballot that permits the individual to cast a vote only in school district elections; and**

20 (b) **To the extent practicable, the ballot style that is used to create ballots for individuals**
21 **described in subsection (1) of this section is the same as the ballot style used in other ballots**
22 **for the same school district elections.**

23 (3) **Nothing in this section permits an individual who may vote in all school district**
24 **elections under this section to vote for or be eligible to serve as a director of an education**
25 **service district under ORS chapter 334.**

26 (4) **Nothing in this section permits an individual who may vote in all school district**
27 **elections under this section to be eligible to serve as a director of a district school board.**

28 **SECTION 3. ORS 332.118 is amended to read:**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 332.118. Except as provided in ORS 255.400 to 255.424:

2 (1) [Unless specifically] **Except as provided under section 2 of this 2025 Act** or otherwise, ORS
3 chapter 255 governs the following:

4 (a) The nomination and election of school directors.

5 (b) The conduct of all school district elections.

6 (2) ORS 249.865 to 249.877 govern the recall of school board members.

7 (3) The Secretary of State has supervising authority over all elections conducted by school dis-
8 tricts and over elections conducted by a district boundary board.

9 (4) A petition for a proposed change or merger under ORS 330.095, a remonstrance petition un-
10 der ORS 330.101, a petition for zoning under ORS 332.128 or a petition to lengthen the course of
11 study under ORS 335.495 may not be circulated for signatures until the prospective petition has been
12 filed with the county clerk. The prospective petition must designate the names and residence ad-
13 dresses of not more than three persons as chief petitioner. The authority of the Secretary of State
14 and the application of the election laws commence when the prospective petition is filed with the
15 county clerk. The filing of the prospective petition is to be treated like a prospective petition for
16 an initiative, referendum or recall. Except as otherwise provided in ORS 330.080 to 330.113, ORS
17 chapter 255 applies to the procedures applicable to petitions described in this subsection and the
18 elections held on the petitions.

19 **SECTION 4.** ORS 247.016 is amended to read:

20 247.016. (1) Subject to this section, an otherwise qualified person who is at least 16 years of age
21 may register to vote.

22 (2) **Except as provided under section 2 of this 2025 Act**, a person who registers to vote under
23 subsection (1) of this section may not vote in an election until the person attains the age of 18 years.

24 (3) If a person who registers to vote under subsection (1) of this section will be under 18 years
25 of age on the date of the next election held on a date listed in ORS 171.185 or the next special
26 election, the person's voter registration information, including but not limited to the person's name
27 and any identifying information, may not be disclosed as a public record under ORS 192.311 to
28 192.478.

29 **SECTION 5. Section 2 of this 2025 Act and the amendments to ORS 247.016 and 332.118**
30 **by sections 3 and 4 of this 2025 Act apply to school district elections that occur on or after**
31 **January 1, 2027.**

32