



Catherine McMullen County Clerk

Elections, Recording & Records Management

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Dear Chair Jama and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in my role as the independently elected Clackamas County Clerk. I am testifying on behalf of my constituents, in support of House Bill 3386 that would expand who in the county clerks' offices can perform civil weddings and solemnize marriages for Oregon residents.

I have served the people of Clackamas County since 2023 as County Clerk. In June 2023 I began offering civil marriage ceremonies and have officiated weddings for more than 200 happy couples to date. Currently I designate four hours a week as "Wedding Fridays" to provide this public service. I officiate for couples from many different backgrounds, cultures, and languages. Bilingual deputies assist with interpretation so that we can offer ceremonies in multiple languages. It is often a highlight of my work week, but the demand for affordable civil wedding services is greater than I and other county clerks can meet acting alone. I am often booked out 2-3 months in advance.

HB 3386 would amend ORS 106.120 and allow a county clerk to authorize a deputy to officiate civil wedding ceremonies under the clerk's authority. With support from my deputies, my office could better meet the public demand for affordable wedding officiation services. In addition, bilingual deputies on staff could officiate ceremonies directly in the couples' preferred language for wedding parties who speak languages other than English.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine McMullen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Clerk Catherine McMullen

Clackamas County