

Submitter: Sen. Floyd Prozanski
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3383
Chair Bowman, Vice-chairs Drazan and Pham, and Members of the House
Committee on Rules:

Please accept this written testimony in support of HB 3383, which would authorize document recording fees to fund County Clerks' Offices statewide and make small increases to current fees set in statute, raising the minimum document fee to \$5 (from \$3.75), raising the first page fee to \$10 (from \$5) and raising the marriage license fee to \$35 (from \$25).

Couples getting married in 1982 were paying the same fee that couples pay today – \$25. Milk was \$1.17 in 1982 and gas was around \$1.22 per gallon. Today, those items cost about triple that. Costs have increased since the eighties and the county clerks cannot raise their fees without help from the Legislature.

We know the state is facing many budgetary issues and counties are facing funding challenges. Instead of asking for sparse general fund dollars, county clerks are asking to increase the fees they collect. HB 3383 is a funding solution that does not require any impact on the state's general fund.

Over the years, the Legislature has continued to demand more from the clerks' offices around elections and collecting documents/fees on the state's behalf. However, counties bear the brunt of funding these offices, with document fees supplementing the costs. Many county clerk offices are underfunded and utilize dollars from the document recordings fees to administer their elections for candidates up and down the ballot. These fees are critical for helping keep our county clerk offices function properly and securely.

Please join me in supporting these reasonable document fee increases and pass HB 3383. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Floyd Prozanski
State Senator, District 4
Springfield/Eugene