

Date:	April 9th, 2025
To:	Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules
From:	Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Justin Low
Subject:	Oppose – SB 1054

The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) respectfully submits opposition to SB 1054, as it is currently written, which would require each county clerk to provide a live video feed of ballot tally rooms and official ballot drop sites.

AOC values and shares the intent to foster transparency in elections, as this bill aims to do. However, we believe this measure, as written, could pose significant fiscal and operational challenges for counties, and we request consideration of the following concerns below:

1. Substantial Fiscal Impact

- o This proposal would entail a substantial initial and ongoing cost to counties: installing cameras, maintaining video feeds, and storing large volumes of footage. Ongoing support for equipment maintenance, particularly at multiple drop box locations, could be cost-prohibitive without a dedicated funding stream.
- o Many counties have already learned firsthand, through a pilot camera program, that these expenses can quickly become unsustainable.

2. Security and Authenticity Concerns

- o Mandating live-streaming of ballot drop sites could compromise the safety of ballot pickup teams and elections staff, who might feel concerned if their movements are publicly broadcast in real time.
- o The rise of AI-driven media manipulation adds another layer of concern: publicly available election footage could be altered to support unfounded election-fraud narratives.

3. Limited Rural Connectivity

- o Many rural and remote areas lack reliable broadband connectivity. Live-streaming from these areas would be prohibitively difficult, if not impossible, and would impose additional financial strain on counties that would need to upgrade broadband infrastructure simply to comply.

Counties remain committed to the integrity and transparency of the electoral process. With thoughtful refinement and robust financial support, the goals of increased transparency can be accomplished. AOC appreciates the opportunity to share our concerns and supports the Oregon Association of County Clerks' interest in working with the proponents to shape this measure in a way that responsibly addresses both transparency and fiscal concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Low
Legislative Affairs Manager for Governance and Revenue