

May 6, 2025

**Position on Bills at 2025
Session of Oregon Legislature:**

HB 2870: Oppose



The Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) is a coalition of over 50 local Indivisible groups throughout Oregon that cooperate and amplify their joint efforts to advance important federal and state legislation and engage with elected officials to promote causes for the benefit of all Oregonians.

COIN opposes HB 2870, which would create an 8-member Oregon Campaign Review Commission to review, investigate, hold hearings, and issue final decisions, including sanctions, on complaints filed by a candidate or political committee alleging a publication containing a false statement of material fact relating to any candidate, political committee, or measure.

This bill has many problems:

- The bill requires that the Commission consist of 4 Democrats and 4 Republicans, disregarding the 43% of Oregon registered voters who are not members of those parties. The Commission would rule on the statements made about candidates or measures or political committees. Appointing commissioners on a partisan basis is not defensible.
- The timelines for the Commission to investigate complaints and make decisions are too short.
- The only penalties for publishing false statements are declarations by the Commission and being excluded from the Voters' Pamphlet. Many offenders may not want to be in the Voters' Pamphlet in the first place.
- The bill allows the Commission to render final decisions without conducting a hearing, thus lacking basic due process of law.
- The bill allows a sanctioned person to "appeal for review with the Secretary of State." But the Secretary of State is not an appellate body. The bill provides no process for the Secretary of State to "review" the decision of the Commission. Would the Secretary of State conduct a contested case hearing or hear evidence in some other manner?

Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)

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