

June 24, 2025

## **Testimony on HB 3392 Amendment (which has not been filed)**



HB 3392 has been scheduled for hearing on June 25, 8:00 am. It consists of a mere study bill; no amendments have been posted or have been made publicly available. It is not possible to state whether we support or oppose the undisclosed amendments.

Honest Elections Oregon (HEO) is a coalition of democracy-focused groups, including the League of Women Voters of Oregon, Oregon Common Cause, and others. HEO was responsible for drafting and gathering signatures on Initiative Petition 9 of 2024, which led to the enactment of HB 4024 in the 2024 session of the Oregon Legislature.

The 2024 short session adopted HB 4024 on a very truncated time schedule. Leaders of the Legislature at that time stated that technical problems in the bill would be corrected in the 2025 regular session. HEO for the past full year has suggested technical corrections to HB 4024. The latest version of those recommendations is attached.

Honest Elections Oregon opposes any changes to HB 4024 that impair its campaign contribution limits, disclosure requirements, or enforcement provisions. We also oppose any further delay in implementation. Its contribution limits do not take effect until January 1, 2027, with its disclosure requirements taking effect January 1, 2028. That afford ample time for preparing the necessary rules and processes.

## **Honest Elections Oregon**

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**PROPOSED TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO HB 4024( 2024)  
HONEST ELECTIONS OREGON**

**June 16, 2025**

**1. DO NOT JEOPARDIZE LOCAL PUBLIC FUNDING PROGRAMS.**

Add to the list of definitions in HB 4024:

"Contribute," "contribution," "expend" and "expenditure," notwithstanding ORS 260.005 and 260.007, do not include funds provided to a candidate committee by a public body as defined in ORS 174.109 pursuant to a system of public funding of campaigns in which the candidate participates.

Delete HB 4024 Section 4(1)(d)(C).

**2. RATIONALIZE THE DENOMINATORS FOR CONTRIBUTION LIMITS.**

Adopt definition of "election period" to separate the primary election period from the general election period.

(1) "Election period" means:

(a) Generally:

(A) The primary election period is the part of the election cycle that ends at midnight of the date of the next regular primary election for state offices, disregarding any intervening recall or special election for that office; and

(B) The general election period is the part of the election cycle that begins on the first date after the date of a primary election for an office and ends at midnight on the December 31st after the next general election for state offices, disregarding any intervening recall or special election for that office.

(b) For any recall election: the period beginning the date that the recall

election is called or declared and ending at midnight of the date of the recall election; and

(c) For any special election called to fill a vacancy: the period beginning the date that the special election is called or declared and ending at midnight of the date of the election.

Most Limits on Contributions to Candidates:

Change from "per election" to "per election period".

Contributions to Candidates by Multicandidate Committees:

Change all to "per election period," with numeric adjustments to avoid substantive changes to the contribution limit levels.

Contributions to Multicandidate Committees:

Correct scrivener's error ("per election . . . per year") to "per year".

Change all to "per year."

### **3. DEFINE "DONATION."**

HB 4024 uses the term "donation" but does not define it. We suggest:

"Donation" means the gift or transfer of moneys or any other item of value to a person, including any membership fees, dues or assessments, but not including moneys or any other item of value received by a person in the ordinary course of a commercial trade or business conducted by the person.

**4. RECONCILE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEFINITION OF "ELECTION CYCLE."**

Specify that all local government limits and other requirements that apply per 2-year "election cycle" must use the definition of "election cycle" in HB 4024. This will avoid unnecessary confusion among local candidates and contributors.

**5. SIMPLIFY LIMITS ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO SMALL DONOR COMMITTEES.**

Change to:

(8)(a) A small donor political committee:

(A) May accept contributions only from individuals and in an amount not exceeding \$250 in a calendar year from any individual.

**6. SIMPLIFY LIMITS ON IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.**

HB 4024 Section 5(2) expresses a limit on some in-kind contributions as applying "as determined over a 12-month period." The SoS folks agree that this would be very difficult to implement. Which 12-month period? A rolling one that is different for each contributor? We suggest changing that to "per calendar year".

**7. CLARIFY DEFINITION OF "MULTICANDIDATE COMMITTEE".**

HB 4024 defines it:

"Multicandidate political committee" means a political committee that supports or opposes:

- (a) One or more candidates; or
- (b) All candidates affiliated with a major political party or a minor political party.

The intent is that this definition includes a committee that supports, say, all Democrats or all Republicans running for state office. Technically, that would not qualify under the above definition, because there would be other Republicans running for federal and local offices. Thus, the committee would not be supporting "All candidates affiliated with a major political party . . ."  
So "All" should be replaced with "All or some."