

June 24, 2025

The Honorable Ben Bowman Chair, House Committee on Rules Oregon House of Representatives

The Honorable Christine Drazan Vice-Chair, House Committee on Rules Oregon House of Representatives

The Honorable Hai Pham Vice-Chair, House Committee on Rules Oregon House of Representatives

## RE: Testimony in Opposition to HB 3392-5

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Pham, and Members of the Committee,

Campaign Legal Center ("CLC") respectfully submits this statement in opposition to HB 3392-5, a proposal that would delay the implementation dates of critical campaign finance reforms in Oregon for four years. CLC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and strengthening democracy across all levels of government. Since the organization's founding in 2002, CLC has participated in every major campaign finance case before the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as in numerous other federal and state court cases. Our work promotes every American's right to participate in the democratic process.

Last year, the Oregon Legislature passed groundbreaking campaign finance reforms for the state that, among other things, established contribution limits to candidates for elected office in the state and required transparency for the original sources of big money spent on state elections. These reforms are strongly supported across the political spectrum: In 2020, Oregonians resoundingly passed Measure 107—with over 78% voting in favor—amending the Oregon constitution to explicitly permit political contribution limits and transparency for political spending in the state.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> November 3, 2020 General Election Abstract of Votes, Measure 107, Or. Sec'y of State, <u>https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/results/november-general-2020.pdf</u> (last visited June 24, 2025).

Indeed, across the country, Americans—both Democrats and Republicans—identify "the role of money in politics" as one of the biggest problems in our country.<sup>2</sup>

Unfortunately, HB 3392-5 would functionally repeal these critical reforms by delaying their implementation into the next decade. Of course, providing sufficient time for government agencies to implement these requirements and for the regulated community to ensure compliance is essential to a well-functioning campaign finance system. But it is simply unnecessary to delay these requirements—passed in 2024—until the 2030s, and we are not aware of other jurisdictions providing such a protracted implementation period for similar reforms. While a limited delay of the deadline for the Secretary of State to adopt implementing regulations beyond the current September 2025 deadline may be reasonable, a wholesale four-year delay of the law is not.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this statement and urge the Committee to oppose HB 3392-5.

Respectfully submitted,

<u>/s/ Patrick Llewellyn</u> Patrick Llewellyn Director, State Campaign Finance Campaign Legal Center 1101 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20005

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Pew Research Center, Americans Continue to View Several Economic Issues as Top National Problems (Feb. 20, 2025),

<sup>&</sup>lt;u>https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2025/02/20/americans-continue-to-view-several-</u> <u>economic-issues-as-top-national-problems/</u> (finding that 72% of Americans, including 78% of Democrats and 66% of Republicans, believe "the role of money in politics" is a "very big problem in the country today").