

The logo for the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) features a stylized 'COIN' acronym on the left, composed of four colored squares (blue, red, blue, red) arranged in a 2x2 grid. To the right of the acronym, the words 'CONSOLIDATED OREGON' and 'INDIVISIBLE NETWORK' are stacked in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

CONSOLIDATED OREGON INDIVISIBLE NETWORK

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To: Members of Oregon Legislature
From: William Vollmer (on behalf of Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network – COIN)
Re: Testimony in opposition to HB 4018-6
Date: February 12, 2026

My name is Bill Vollmer and I am presenting testimony today on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN), a coalition of over 75 grassroots groups throughout the State that work together to advance progressive legislation. COIN is proud to work with Honest Elections Oregon (HEO) and its partner organizations to promote good campaign finance reform in Oregon. The coalition, which includes HEO, the League of Women Voters of Oregon, Common Cause, Campaign Legal Center, the Independent Party of Oregon, the Oregon Progressive Party, and the Pacific Green Party among others, contains some of the State's leading experts on campaign finance law and also works closely with national experts on CFR. They also have been the prime mover behind much of the CFR that has occurred in Oregon over the last 20 years.

The -6 amendment to HB 4018, and the process by which it was developed and introduced, feels very much like a slap in the face to the voters of Oregon. The Honest Elections coalition was well on its way to getting Initiative Petition 9 on the ballot for the fall of 2024, and it was that fact that prompted the Legislature to adopt HB 4024 in the first place. We agreed to pull IP 9 and support HB 4024 based on the explicit understanding that the Secretary of State's office would work with us to address the needed technical edits. We trusted the Legislature and the Secretary of State, and they have betrayed that trust.

1. Although HEO identified and communicated the necessary technical fixes to HB 4024 as early as June 2024, the Oregon Legislature has ignored virtually all of these suggestions.
2. During the 2025 legislative session the Legislature attempted to pass a bill that would have significantly delayed implementation of HB 4024, whose contribution limits are set to go into effect in January 2027 and whose disclosure requirements would take effect in January 2028. This effort was defeated after a huge public outcry against it.
3. We have been shut out of all discussions at the Legislature regarding HB 4024 since March of 2025. The -6 amendment, which according to the testimony of its supporters was worked out over the past year with input from Labor and Big Business, had zero involvement from any member of the Honest Elections coalition. Ditto for the just released -8 amendment.
4. Finally, this 84-page amendment was introduced as a gut-and-stuff amendment to what was an innocuous one-sentence bill directing the SoS to study elections. It was also posted after close of business Feb 9, less than 15 hours before a scheduled 8 am public hearing on the 10th. And now, two days later, the Committee has scheduled a work session to presumably vote on the measure. The only reasonable explanation for this is that the Legislature knew it would be unpopular with us and wished to sneak it through Committee before strong opposition could be mounted.

Oral testimony in support of this amendment claimed that most of the changes were “silent form” changes intended merely to make the law easier to read and understand; that it addressed all of the needed technical fixes; and that nothing substantive in HB 4024 has really changed. However, the analysis by Dan Meek and other campaign finance law experts suggest otherwise. As Mr. Meek noted in his written testimony of Feb 10, this amendment comes **“very close to repealing the contribution limits and disclosure requirements”** that were initially part of HB 4024. In addition, the Campaign Legal Center, a nonpartisan legal organization that, since its founding in 2002, 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, notes in its testimony opposing HB 4018 that **“while HB 4018-6 has been described as a bill to implement technical fixes to improve and strengthen HB 4024, several of the proposed policies would undermine those historic reforms, fail to accomplish the bill’s stated goal, or introduce new ambiguities in the law”**.

For shame, ladies and gentlemen. The voters of Oregon who elected you and who have repeatedly, and by overwhelming majorities, voted for real, effective campaign finance reform, deserve better. On behalf of COIN, I urge you to not approve this Bill and instead to compel the Secretary of State to finally work seriously with Honest Elections Oregon to get HB 4024 implemented on time.