

Submitter: Sarah Chaney
Committee: House Committee on Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4018

Please honor the will of the voters of Oregon and DO NOT move HB 4018 forward.

This bill is such a betrayal to all of us who have hoped to stem the onslaught of money into elections and the influence it buys in policy making in Oregon. And it is so disrespectful to Oregon voters, who have been demanding meaningful campaign finance reform since 2020 when we passed Ballot Measure 107 with 78% of the vote. When HB 4024 passed by the legislature in 2024, it was informed by many experts in campaign finance reform, including Honest Elections Oregon. The promise was to agree to work on technical fixes without policy changes.

Finally, there was hope for potential candidates to be able to run for office without having to have a personal fortune and a massive campaign fund. Oregon would in the near future not have to endure millions of dollars of campaign ads from out-of-state billionaires. And Oregonians would finally benefit from transparency at the state legislative level as well.

In good faith, Honest Elections Oregon identified the necessary technical fixes as early as June 2024, **yet not one substantive recommendation was ever adopted**. Last year the betrayal began as the Secretary of State confessed he had not been able to figure out how to implement the law even though he has been given plenty of time and money and technical know-how from experts on how to implement the bill.

And now, the -6 amendment - developed with zero involvement from any member of the Honest Elections coalition - has been introduced. Supporters claim that nothing substantive in HB 4024 has changed. However, Dan Meek in his written testimony of Feb 10, says that this amendment comes **“very close to repealing the contribution limits and disclosure requirements”** that were initially part of HB 4024. Two key elements possibly eliminated. Two more promises broken.

As noted in the League of Women Voters written testimony of Feb 12, “...the amendment allows large special interest organizations to largely continue dominating campaign finance in Oregon, contrary to voters’ will and interests, while still limiting individual contributors. It also delays for three years and substantially erodes the financial disclosure requirements.”

Oregon voters want big money out of elections. The manner in which this bill was introduced, and the obfuscation that seems to be happening indicates that HB 4018 is not in the best interest of voters. It is in the interest of expanding the influence of money on elections while delaying the implementation of HB 4024.

I urge you to compel the Secretary of State to finally work seriously with Honest Elections Oregon to get HB 4024 implemented on time.

I also urge you to vote NO and not move this bill out of committee.

Thank you.