



## 2019 Issue Summaries

### Ensuring Government is Responsible and Effective

Oregon House Democrats are keeping Oregon's state government fiscally responsible, efficient, transparent, and as effective as possible. And we are working to build a revenue system that is fair, stable, and adequate to fund our state's priorities.

#### Transparency in Elections

##### Dark Money Reform

Before the passage of HB 2983, non-profit organizations, typically structured as a 501(c)(4) or 501(c)(6), could contribute virtually unlimited amounts of money to campaigns, allowing organizations to take partisan political actions while maintaining their tax-exempt status and concealing who is paying for these actions. HB 2983 provides transparency into these independent expenditures by requiring organizations that make political communications in excess of specified amounts (e.g., \$25,000 per legislative race) to disclose information related to donations that exceed \$10,000.

##### Public Records Transparency

HB 2353 allows the Attorney General, a district attorney, or a court to require a public body to pay a penalty of \$200 for failing to respond to a public records request in a timely manner.

##### Ending the Lobby "Revolving Door"

HB 2595 updates Oregon's "revolving door" statute to prohibit former legislators from receiving compensation for lobbying for a fixed period of one year from the date the member ceases to hold office.

##### Public Records Advisory Council

HB 2430 removes the sunset date of the current Public Records Advisory Council (PRAC) and establishes two-year terms for PRAC members. PRAC provides public records training and dispute resolution services for disputes arising from a request to inspect or receive copies of public records. The measure allows existing PRAC members to complete three- and four-year terms that began January 1, 2018.

##### Ballot Measure Financial Impact Transparency

HB 3348 provides that, if the financial estimate committee determines that a measure will have a financial effect in excess of \$100,000, the committee is required to include a statement in the Oregon Voters' Pamphlet indicating that the measure spends money without identifying a funding source.

#### Ensuring Fair Elections

##### Oregon Voting Rights Act

HB 3310 A creates a state law similar to Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which prohibits the denial or abridgment of the right to vote on account of certain immutable characteristics. The prohibition applies to school districts, education service districts, and community college districts, providing both a cause of action and a mechanism by which district boards may modify their election systems.

##### National Popular Vote

SB 870 enacts the Interstate Compact for Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote. The Compact does not become effective until it is enacted by states that cumulatively possess a majority of all 270 electoral votes.

### Paid Postage

SB 861 requires the state to provide every Oregon voter with a postage paid return envelope for their ballot beginning in 2020.

## **Good Government**

### Prohibition on Campaign Hush Money Agreements

SB 478 prohibits the use of contributions to a campaign, political committee, or petition committee from being used as payment in connection with a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) related to workplace harassment. The measure also prohibits the use of any public funds, or money received from a third party, to make payments in connection with an NDA related to workplace harassment.

### Gigabit Repeal

HB 2684 repeals property tax exemptions for companies that build, maintain and operate projects constituting gigabit communication services infrastructure.

### Tribal Access to Emergency Preparedness Grants

HB 3376 adds federally recognized Indian tribes to the list of entities that may apply for grants to purchase emergency preparedness equipment. The State Preparedness and Incident Response Equipment grant program, created in 2017, assists local governments, special government bodies, and private tax-exempt organizations with the purchase of emergency preparedness equipment.

### Qualification Based Selection in Public Contracting

HB 2769 allows a local government to seek both quality and value in its procurement process for architectural, engineering, photogrammetric mapping, transportation planning or land surveying services. Before the passage of HB 2769, contracting agencies were required to select these consultants based only on qualifications. HB 2769 lays out a two-step process to give local agencies the option of considering general pricing information as well.