

Don't Let Legislature Undue Campaign Finance Reform!

Talking points for testimony opposing -6 amendment to HB 4018 for House Comm on Rules meeting held on February 10, 2026

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Note: written testimony can be submitted until 8AM on Feb 12 using [this-link](#). A second public hearing is scheduled for Feb 12, ostensibly to give the public time to read and react to the amendment. Though unlikely, there is no guarantee this 2nd hearing won't be cancelled, so best to submit testimony before then to be sure the Committee sees it.

Assuming the meeting on the 12th isn't cancelled, you can register to give oral testimony here [oral-testimony](#) or written testimony here [written-testimony](#). That testimony can be submitted now, but as I say if you are going to submit before the 12th I would do so using the link in para 1.

I have provided written testimony on behalf of COIN (see attached Word file). Please feel free to adapt this as needed or write your own testimony. I provide below some historical background and talking points to assist with this.

Background

- During the short session held in 2024 the Legislature hurriedly rushed through HB 4024 in an effort to keep Initiative Petition 9 off of the ballot in Nov 2024. All Parties hailed HB 4024 as a major step towards campaign finance reform in Oregon.
- Everyone agreed the legislation needed some additional work, and the SoS agreed to work with Honest Elections Oregon (HEO) and its coalition partners, including COIN, to fill in the needed holes in the bill.
- HEO identified the needed technical fixes to HB 4024 as early as June 2024. However in repeated rule making proposals the SoS office has consistently ignored virtually all of these suggestions.
- During the 2025 legislative session the Legislature attempted to pass legislation that would have significantly delayed implementation of HB 4024, whose contribution limits are scheduled to go into effect in Jan of 2027 and disclosure requirements in 2028. This was defeated in part due to tremendous public opposition in which COIN was a key player.
- SOS now claims it needs an additional \$25 million to implement HB 4024 due to a need to completely overhaul the ORESTAR system. We challenge this assertion. Multnomah County and the City of Portland have implemented their campaign contribution limits since 2020 by relying upon information from the existing ORESTAR system. It's possible that some minor tweaks to ORESTAR might be needed to fully implement HB4024, but the cost to make such changes should be

modest.

- Using the gut and stuff process, the Legislature has now introduced its supposed fixes to HB 4024 as an amendment (the -6 amendment) to what was a one sentence bill directing the SoS office to study elections.

Talking Points Specific to the -6 amendment

1. The 84-page amendment to a one-sentence bill was first posted after close of business Feb 9, less than 15 hours before the scheduled 8 am on the 10th.
2. It was developed with complete exclusion of the campaign finance reform community, including Honest Elections Oregon, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Common Cause, the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN), Campaign Legal Center, the Independent Party of Oregon, Oregon Progressive Party, and Pacific Green Party, among others.
3. It massively changes the compromise campaign finance reform bill passed in 2024 (HB 4024) and comes very close to repealing the contribution limits and disclosure requirements that are in HB 4024.
4. It further delays full implementation of HB 4024 another 3 years
5. In the limited time it has had to review the -6 amendment, Honest Elections Oregon has identified 9 significant, substantive changes, with likely more to come. Rather than list them all here, just reference Dan Meek's testimony on behalf of Honest Elections Oregon. Dan is probably Oregon's leading expert on campaign finance law.