

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES, ELECTIONS, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

January 21, 1999 Hearing Room D

3:30 P.M. Tapes 1 - 2

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Mark Simmons, Chair

Rep. Richard Devlin, Vice-Chair

Rep. Bruce Starr, Vice-Chair

Rep. Jason Atkinson

Rep. Chris Beck

Rep. Roger Beyer

Rep. Randall Edwards

Rep. Dan Gardener

Rep. Kevin Mannix

Rep. Kitty Piercy

Rep. Max Williams

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: Cletus B. Moore, Jr., Administrator

Kevin E. Wells, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: Organizational Meeting

Election Laws

Initiative Process

Campaign Finance

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.



TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 1, A		
003	Chair Simmons	Calls meeting to order at 3:36 p.m. Welcomes committee members and mentions what broad issues the committee will deal with this session.
<u>ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING</u>		
021	Chair Simmons	Opens organizational meeting.
025	Rep. Mannix	MOTION: Moves PROPOSED COMMITTEE RULES to the full committee with a BE ADOPTED recommendation (EXHIBIT A).
		VOTE: 12-0
027	Chair Simmons	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
029	Chair Simmons	Introduces committee staff. Asks members to make opening remarks.
112	Chair Simmons	Concludes opening remarks. Reminds members of his expectations.
<u>INFORMATIONAL MEETING</u>		
130	Chair Simmons	Opens Informational meeting. Asks Secretary of State Phil Keisling to present an overview of Oregon State election law.
135	Phil Keisling	Secretary of State, Oregon. Introduces Colleen Sealock, Director of Elections, and Vicki Ervin, Multnomah County Clerk. Explains elections demographics, procedures and policies of Oregon State.
168	Keisling	Speaks about voter registration policy while continuing with demographic data.
183	Keisling	Explains election cycle and dates. Mentions special elections and their potential causes.
201	Keisling	Comments on vote by mail elections and the work of county clerks.
215	Keisling	Lists other duties of election administration (e.g. overseeing special districts or

		certifying minor political parties).
226	Keisling	Explains the initiative process, history and procedures. Comments that the initiative process is basic to the Oregon political process. Emphasizes constitutional problems encountered in the past. Lays out legislative and judicial issues around the initiative process.
266	Keisling	Explains office's campaign regulation responsibilities. Mentions Measure 9 (1994) and campaign contribution limitation. Remind the committee that the Supreme Court has rules that any limit on contributions.
305	Keisling	States publishing duties of his office, primarily the Voters' Pamphlet (VP). Gives a brief history of the VP. States that the VP is the single biggest budget item for his office.
336	Keisling	Reports this information is now available or will be available on-line (on the Internet) and through other means. States desire to make the political process and accessing information easier for the citizens and candidates.
371	Keisling	Praises his staff in the Elections Division and tells the committee members to use that staff. Thanks the members for having him and offers to answer questions.
388	Rep. Mannix	Remarks that the Elections Division staff is highly professional and dedicated. States his confidence in the staff.
399	Rep. Williams	Asks if the Buckley Ruling (Supreme Court ruling 1/99) will effect Oregon.
TAPE 2,B		
005	Keisling	Replies that the Attorney General's Lynn Rossick is an excellent resource for such matters. Tells the members that certain statutes will need to be reworked per the Buckley Ruling and other rulings.
016	Colleen Sealock	Director of Elections. Remarks that her staff is already looking at how the Buckley decision will effect Oregon and what changes are needed. Explains more details about the decision. Covers differences between Colorado and Oregon initiative laws. Tells the committee that she and her staff will be back before the members with a specific bill to redress the issues.
050	Keisling	States that his staff's responsibility is to advise them on Constitutional issues and not decide policy issues. Remarks that a greater issue is the lower number now needed to get an initiative on the ballot.
065	Rep. Mannix	Emphasizes that the Supreme Court has definitively ruled on First Amendment aspects of the case and warns that Oregon needs to steer clear of such issues (as Oregon has stricter Free Speech laws than are at the Federal level).

088	Vice-Chair Starr	Asks about possibility of publishing campaign finance information on- line.
094	Keisling	Comments briefly on changes in progress in reporting laws. Defers to Colleen.
104	Sealock	Explains the many changes regarding campaign finance and the problems rapid changes have caused her staff. Details how they are now trying to deal with problems of writing software for campaign finance and when it will be available. Comments on the reluctance of some candidates to fill electronically. Suggests that electronic filing may be mandated to address their concerns.
143	Rep. Beck	Asks Keisling to speak more on the initiative system, specifically why there has been an increase of initiatives on the ballot.
153	Keisling	Emphasizes that the initiative is both an important voice for the citizens and has a destructive side. Emphasizes he does not support merely reducing the number of initiatives. Argues for better legislation to address what concerns the citizens. Comments that an annual session would help legislators work with citizens.
220	Keisling	Raises issue of the types of initiatives that are filed. Mentions ways to influence the type of initiatives filed. Urges the members to be careful how they frame questions of the initiative process.
255	Chair Simmons	Asks for further discuss. Thanks and excuses Keisling and Sealock.
260	Sealock	States her excitement about the session and her support for the committee's work.
279	Chair Simmons	Tells the members about the agenda for the following meeting (1-26-99).
288	Rep. Mannix	Tells the members that Chet Orloff will testify before the committee, in reference to HB 2269, at the next meeting.
299	Chair Simmons	Closes the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Kevin E. Wells, Cletus B. Moore, Jr.,
Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

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A ñ Proposed committee rules, Chair Simmons, 2 pp