

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

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September 13, 2017

Governor Kate Brown
Senate President Peter Courtney
House Speaker Tina Kotek
Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick
Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli
House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson
House Republican Leader Mike McLane
Democratic Party of Oregon Chair Jeanne Atkins
Oregon Republican Party Chair Bill Currier
Independent Party of Oregon Secretary Sal Peralta

Re: Oregon's 2020 Presidential Primary

Dear Oregon Leaders,

As Oregon's chief elections officer, my mission is to maximize voter participation and protect ballot security in order to promote accessible, transparent and fair elections. I invite you to consider working together to make Oregon relevant during presidential primaries by moving Oregon's 2020 presidential primary to an earlier date.

Oregonians should have a meaningful opportunity to pick their president. Currently, only a handful of states vote for president after Oregon's May primary. With our late primary date, both math and momentum usually prevent Oregonians from having a meaningful say in selecting presidential nominees. An election date change could elevate Oregon's priorities in the national discussion and give Oregonians more access to presidential candidates.

Several western Secretaries of State have discussed a possible PAC-12 or western regional primary early in 2020 that would bring more attention and influence to our states' voters, while also increasing voter engagement. Both California and Washington are considering legislation to move their presidential primaries to March. I believe that Oregon should do the same in the 2018 session. Candidates for all non-presidential offices could continue to be nominated in the May election, so there would be no interference with the 2020 legislative session.

Will you join me in this endeavor?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Dennis Richardson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dennis Richardson