

**Legislative
Fiscal Office**

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, H-178
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1828

Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Officer
Paul Siebert, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer



**Joint Committee on
Ways and Means**

Sen. Betsy Johnson, Senate Co-Chair
Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Senate Co-Chair
Rep. Dan Rayfield, House Co-Chair

Sen. Jackie Winters, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Rep. David Gomberg, House Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

From: Haylee Morse-Miller, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: June 18, 2019

Subject: SB 861 – Relating to elections
Work Session Recommendations

SB 861 requires the state to pay postage costs for ballots returned by mail for all elections in Oregon. For each election, voters will be given a pre-addressed Business Reply Mail envelope with their ballot. When a voter submits their ballot by mail in a Business Reply Mail envelope, the voter pays no postage costs; instead, the U.S. Postal Service charges a fee to the state for each Business Reply Mail envelope received. Voters will also have the option to continue to return ballots to ballot drop sites, at no additional cost to the state.

The cost to the state of prepaid postage for ballots will vary. Factors influencing costs include voter turnout, how many voters return ballots by mail, and the size of the ballot.

Ballot return by Business Reply Mail is estimated to cost the state \$1,585,050 General Fund in 2019-21. There is an additional cost to Counties of \$83,733, to destroy obsolete ballot return envelopes. LFO recommends adoption of the - A2 amendment, which includes a General Fund appropriation of \$1.7 million to implement this measure. A special purpose appropriation of \$1.1 million will be included in the 2019 end of session budget bill, should the costs of prepaid postage for ballots exceed budgeted election expenditures.

Recommended Changes

LFO recommends adoption of the - A2 amendment.

MOTION: I move adoption of the - A2 amendment to SB 861. (VOTE)

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that SB 861, as amended by the - A2 amendment, to be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move SB 861, as amended, to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation. (VOTE)

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____