



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

April 9, 2026

The Honorable Tobias Read
Secretary of State
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 4018

Dear Secretary Read,

Today, I am signing House Bill 4018 because, despite its flaws, this legislation is necessary to ensure that Oregon's overdue effort to have campaign contribution limits can begin effectively by next year. At a time when elections and democratic institutions are facing unprecedented pressure from the Trump Administration, it is more important than ever that states do the work to strengthen public trust in our electoral systems.

Oregonians have long been clear in their desire for campaign finance reform, and thus it is essential that the Secretary of State be given the statutory clarity and financial resources needed to implement a functional program. The bill I signed into law in 2024 to implement campaign contribution limits must stay on track. Without House Bill 4018, the entire program is at risk of setbacks that would undermine our collective goal of a better system.

I also acknowledge and share some of the concerns raised by long-time advocates about the bill and the process to draft and pass needed technical fixes. Their commitment to strengthening Oregon's democratic systems shaped the initial law, and their continued engagement remains essential.

House Bill 4018 is necessary to implement contribution limits quickly while deferring complex transparency systems due to cost and administrative constraints. That said, the bill appears to go beyond sequencing changes and instead could weaken enforcement standards, narrow disclosure requirements, and introduce new ambiguities.

Accordingly, I request that the 2027 legislation required by Senate Bill 1502, which I also sign today, resolve these issues. It has to be clear that coordinated expenditures are contributions. It has to be clear who is funding independent expenditures. It will be important to strengthen the "sole purpose" test.

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As many legislators made clear during the session, House Bill 4018 is not the final word on campaign finance reform. Both the House and Senate recognize that additional statutory adjustments and potentially additional resources will be necessary to build a fully functional, durable program.

By signing House Bill 4018 today, I am affirming the direction we need to go, which is getting started on ending the unlimited campaign contributions that Oregonians strongly dislike. I am also asking you and legislators to work to safeguard the accountability and transparency required in this new system. There is more work to be done.

Sincerely,



Governor Tina Kotek