

Kate Brown
SECRETARY OF STATE

BARRY PACK
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE



SECRETARY OF STATE
136 STATE CAPITOL
SALEM, OREGON 97310-0722
Phone 503-986-1523 & Fax 503-986-1616
www.sos@state.or.us

June 23, 2009
Contact: Don Hamilton
503/986-2368

Online Voter Registration Wins Final OK

Tuesday's vote sends the system to the governor's desk

SALEM -- Young people, the disabled and members of the military will be the winners under Oregon's online voter registration system, which won final approval from the Oregon Legislature Tuesday, Secretary of State Kate Brown said.

"The Legislature did an outstanding job in making this happen," said Brown, a proponent of the measure. "Not only will this make registering to vote easier, safer and more secure, but will bring voter registration to where so many young people live: the online world."

Under the bill, HB 2386, eligible voters with a valid Oregon driver's license, driver's permit or ID card may register on line. A digital copy of the signature on file with the Oregon Department of Transportation then would be used to validate their ballots at election time.

The bill, now on its way to the governor's desk, requires the Secretary of State, Oregon's chief elections officer, to have the online registration system operating by March 1, 2010.

Arizona and Washington have similar systems and have reported high customer satisfaction and no resulting problems. Utah initiated a similar program earlier this year.

Voters will have to swear that the information in the application is true, just like with a print application. And just like with a print application, lying online about residency, citizenship or any other qualifications is class C felony.

"The benefits are clear," Brown said. "If we increase registration, as other states have done, we will get more people voting and more people engaged in the public policy process. And that's a goal I think we all share."

END