



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate Passes Bills to Improve Government Accountability and Transparency

SALEM, OR – Today, the Oregon Senate passed bipartisan bills to improve the transparency and accountability of state government. [Senate Bill 1533](#) and [House Bill 4117](#) will increase language access for voting materials and improve the transparency of meetings through a greater understanding of public meeting laws.

SB 1533 will increase the number of languages that voter materials must be translated into from the top five languages to the top ten languages spoken in Oregon. At the same time, it raises the minimum number of people who must speak a language for it to qualify as a top ten language, from 100 Oregonians to 300 Oregonians.

“Our democracy is stronger when more Oregonians can make informed decisions at the ballot box,” said **Senator Kayse Jama (D-East Portland)**, chief sponsor of SB 1533. “Translating resources like our voter pamphlet into more languages will allow more Oregonians to participate in our elections and be heard by our state government.”

HB 4117 will allow the Oregon Government Ethics Commission to provide advice and opinions about Oregon Public Meeting Laws, helping state and local governments comply with public meeting laws.

“Oregon has strong policies in place to protect transparency and promote open meetings,” said **Senator James Manning (D-Eugene)**, chief sponsor of HB 4117. “HB 4117 will help public officials protect open access to their government by allowing them to get accurate and up to date advice from the Oregon Government Ethics Commission.”

Keeping our government accountable, stable, and transparent is a key pillar of Senate Democrats' [Uniting Oregon Agenda](#). SB 1533 now goes to the Oregon House of Representatives for consideration. HB 4117 now goes to the Governor for her signature.

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