

The use of vote-by-mail was first approved on a limited basis by the Legislature in 1981 and was made a permanent feature of some elections in 1987. On November 7, 2000, Oregon became the first all vote-by-mail state after being adopted by nearly 70% of the voters in 1998.

A Brief History of vote by mail

1981 The Oregon Legislature approves a test of vote by mail (VBM) for local elections.

1987 VBM made permanent; majority of counties use it for local/special elections.

June 1993 First special statewide election by mail - 39 percent turnout.
May 1995 Second special statewide election by mail - 44 percent turnout.

Spring/Summer 1995 The Oregon Legislature approves a proposal to expand VBM to primary and general elections. The Governor vetoes the bill.

December 1995 Oregon becomes the first state to conduct a primary election totally by mail to nominate candidates to fill a vacancy in a federal office - 58 percent turnout.

January 1996 Oregon becomes the first state to conduct a general election totally by mail to fill a vacancy in a federal office when it selects Senator Ron Wyden to replace Bob Packwood - 66 percent turnout.

March 1996 Oregon holds the country's second VBM presidential primary. (The first VBM presidential primary was held by North Dakota, just weeks prior to Oregon's election.) - 58 percent turnout.

May 1997 Sixth special statewide election by mail - 42 percent turnout.
Spring/Summer 1997 The Oregon House of Representatives approves a proposal to expand VBM to primary and general elections. The bill dies in a Senate committee. The Governor would have signed the bill into law.

November 1997 Seventh special statewide election by mail - 60 percent turnout.

May 1998 Primary election at the polls. Forty-one percent of registered voters in Oregon are permanent absentee voters. Overall, the state posts a record low turnout at 35 percent. Absentee ballots represent nearly two-thirds of all ballots cast; Oregon becomes the first state to have more ballots cast by mail than at the polls during a polling place election. Absentee voter turnout was 53 percent, compared to a turnout at the polls of 22 percent.

June 1998 Supporters of expanding VBM to primary and general elections use the initiative to put the issue on the November general election ballot. No paid signature gatherers were used to put the measure on the ballot - a first since 1994.

November 3, 1998 Oregon voters decide to expand VBM to primary and general elections by a vote of 757,204 to 334,021.

November 2, 1999 Eighth special statewide election by mail - 38 percent turnout.

May 2000 Presidential Primary election VBM - 51 percent turnout.
November

2000 First VBM Presidential General election - 79 percent turnout.
May 2002 Primary election VBM - 46 percent turnout.

September 2002 Special election for two statewide measures VBM - 44 percent turnout.

November 2002 General election VBM - 69 percent turnout.

January 2003 Special election for a statewide measure VBM - 66 percent turnout.

September 2003 Special election for a statewide measure VBM - 35 percent turnout.

February 2004 Special election for a statewide measure VBM - 63 percent turnout.

May 2004 Presidential Primary election VBM - 46 percent turnout.

November 2004 Presidential General election VBM. Voter registration exceeds 2 million - 86 percent turnout.

May 2006 Primary election VBM - 38 percent turnout.

November 2006 General election VBM - 70 percent turnout.

LOG OF PROSECUTED CRIMINAL ELECTION LAW COMPLAINT CASES - RELATED TO VOTING ONLY (updated 4/30/13)						
Date of prosecution	Case number	Complaint name	ORS violation	Allegation description	Penalty	
4/25/2013	12-143	Clackamas County	260.715	Marking ballots other than her own.	Ms. Swenson, a temporary elections worker, had marked two partially empty ballots in the November 2012 election. She plead guilty to two misdemeanors and a felony, and was sentenced to spending 90 days in prison as well as paying over \$13,000 in fines.	
1/23/2013	10-635	State v. Aaron Hirschman	260.715(9)	Offered to buy vote on craigslist.	Convicted at bench trial of Class A Misdemeanor. 1 year of probation, 40 hours of community service and a \$200 fine	
9/15/2010	2009-2358	Cascade Policy Institute v. Lafayette Keaton	260.715(1)	Used names of deceased son and brother to vote.	Pled guilty, sentenced to three months in jail, fined \$5,000 and placed on a one-year post prison supervision	

LOG OF PROSECUTED CRIMINAL ELECTION LAW COMPLAINT CASES - RELATED TO VOTING ONLY (updated 4/30/13)					
Date of prosecution 6/6/2008	Case number 2006-151	Complaint name Washington County vs. Marilyn Dougall	ORS violation ORS 260.715(1)	Allegation description ballot signature verification problem for May 16, 2006, Primary Election. Someone else signed ballot for Sherilyn Dougall. Found to have been her mother, Marilyn J. Dougall.	Penalty On 6/6/2008, she was arraigned and entered guilty plea in Multnomah Cnty Circuit Court - one count of False Statement under the Election Laws - a Deferred Sentencing Agreement of 6 months - 80 hours of community service, fine of \$250 - as a contribution to an approved charity, if in compliance with agreement at conclusion of deferral period, she will be allowed to withdraw her plea and case will be dismissed. If she violates the agreement, she will be sentenced for the Class C Felony, sentencing hearing is scheduled December 8, 2008 at 8:30. On Dec. 8, 2008, she & attorney offered evidence she'd satisfied all terms of agreement, then allowed to withdraw guilty plea and criminal charge dismissed. Prosecution based on 1 ballot.

LOG OF PROSECUTED CRIMINAL ELECTION LAW COMPLAINT CASES - RELATED TO VOTING ONLY (updated 4/30/13)					
Date of prosecution 9/28/2006	Case number 2005-106	Complaint name Columbia County vs. Leanne S. Lewis	ORS violation 260.715(3)	Allegation description Registered in Columbia County 7/14/00, listed Washington Cnty for mailing address, voted in Columbia Cnty 9/16/03, 2/3/04, 5/18/04, 11/2/04, 5/17/05. Registered in Washington Cnty 4/17/03, same mailing address and residence address in Hillsboro. Voted in Washington Cnty same elections as Columbia.	Penalty On 9-28-2006, pled guilty to voting more than once in an election, Class C felony, but determined to be treated as a Class A Misdemeanor after 1 year of probation if all conditions of probation are met. 36 months probation, abide by standard conditions of probation, 40 hours community service, some fines of \$857.00. Prosecution based on 5 ballots.

	LOG OF PROSECUTED CRIMINAL ELECTION LAW COMPLAINT CASES - RELATED TO VOTING ONLY (updated 4/30/13)				
Date of prosecution 6/26/2006	Case number 2004-492	Complaint name Jefferson County vs. Ricky Graybael	ORS violation 260.715(3)	Allegation description 260.715 (3), come to county's attention that he was a registered voter in Jefferson County and Wasco County and appeared to have voted in 4 different elections in both counties: January 28,	Penalty He pled guilty in Jefferson County to one count of double-voting in return for misdemeanor treatment and dismissal of the other two charges. He was sentenced to 24 months court probation, \$67 court fee, 80 hours of community service. Prosecution based on 1 ballot.

LOG OF PROSECUTED CRIMINAL ELECTION LAW COMPLAINT CASES - RELATED TO VOTING ONLY (updated 4/30/13)					
Date of prosecution 7/21/2005	Case number 2005-068/CEL0017-05	Complaint name Josephine County vs. Jorge Jesus Hosier	ORS violation 260.715(1)	Allegation description 247, 260.715(1), 260.6954), ballot signature verification problem and voter registration problem. Josephine County received information that Salvador Oros, with birthdate of 9/05/86, was not true - they received information from the Court Jury Clerk that they had sent a jury summons to this registered voter. The Jury Clerk was subsequently informed by a relative that Salvador A. Oros was actually a 14 year old and his older brother was using Salvador's identification except for birthdate. In addition, real last name is DeOros. Also, the "Salvador A. ⁵ Oros" voted	Penalty Assigned to AAG Daina Vitolins & Inves. Todd Gray; Grand Jury, June 2, Josephine County a guilty plea, on July 21, 2005, by Mr. Jorge Jesus Hosier. He was the person who, in Josephine County, filled out a voter registration card using his younger brother's name (but misspelled it – DeOros/Oros). Mr. Hosier pled guilty to three counts of False Statement under the Election Laws, and one count of Forgery in the First Degree. They enclosed a copy of a final judgement - he is sentenced to Supervised Probation for 3 years, 180 sanction units and 90 jail units. Also, Special Conditions of Probation, regarding actions he must refrain from, and he must pay court fines and restitution of \$1,854.00. Prosecution based on 1 ballot.

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Date of prosecution	Case number	Complaint name	ORS violation	Allegation description	Penalty	
6/29/2005	2003-342	Clackamas County vs. David P. Holmes (voted ballot of Michelle Lynn Holmes.	260.715(1).	Ballot signature verification problem for March 12, 2002 Special Election. This case was sent to AG because Mr. Holmes voted her ballot without her knowledge or permission.	Guilty plea to one count of Making a false statement under the Election Laws as a Class A misdemeanor. Pursuant to the terms of the Diversion Agreement agreed upon by the parties, Mr. Holmes must pay a \$750 fine, a \$67 unitary assessment and perform 40 hours of community service work within six months. If Mr. Holmes successfully completes those conditions, the underlying charge will be dismissed. Case continued to Dec. 29, 2005, for Mr. Holmes to provide proof of completion. Prosecution based on 1 ballot.	
1/30/2004	2002-022	Multnomah County Elections vs. Ronald Wayne Fischer, who voted ballots for Harry Price Todd III, Rochelle Lee Fischer, Edna Faye Fischer	260.715(1) 260.715(3)	Ballot signature verification problem for March 12, 2002 special election.	Guilty plea. Ronald Wayne Fischer voted ballots of three family members for March 12, 2002, Special Election. Guilty to one count of voting another persons ballot - False Statement Under the Election Laws, in Multnomah County Circuit Court. Five days in Jail. He will pay \$750 fine, 40 hours of community service, court assessments as	

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Date of prosecution 12/7/2003	Case number 2003-432	Complaint name Secretary of State vs. Terry (Terence) John Finch	ORS violation 247, 260.695(4)	Allegation description Alleges he is illegally voting in Oregon, has admitted to many people that his is not a U. S. citizen. Claims he sat on at least one jury trial in Linn County, while living in Lebanon and has been voting by mail from Monmouth for several years.	Penalty Guilty plea, 1 cnt false info, Class C, 1 voting when not qualified, Class A misdemeanor, probation, \$1,000 fine, 80 hrs. community service. Prosecution based on at least 1 ballot.

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Date of prosecution	Case number	Complaint name	ORS violation	Allegation description	Penalty	
7/22/2002	2001-002	Marion County vs. Alex Sasha Cam – actually guilty party is Marfa Scheratski	260.715(3)	Voted two ballots for November 7, 2000 general election ballot. Same county.	Marfa Scheratski, Alex Cam's sister, signed Alex Cam's ballot and her own, may have also submitted ballots for her sisters Pana (now in Russia since 98) and Arina (deceased Feb. 2000). 7/22/2002. Pled guilty, single count of Voting More Than Once in an Election. 24 mo. Probation, 240 hrs community service, compensatory fine to SoFS of \$500. Fines have been paid. Prosecution based on at least 1 ballot.	
5/15/2002	2000-346	Lane County Unknown person signing ballot for Phillip D. Larsen - appears to be Teri Louise Kobiaika	260.715(1)	Signature verification problem for November 7, 2000 general election ballot. Phillip D. Larsen told county he did not live there anymore yet someone else signed ballot addressed to him at old address.	Found guilty to False Statement Under the Election Laws. Has to perform 120 hrs. community service work, pay \$500 compensatory fine to S of S, 2 years informal probation. After successful completion of probation, conviction to be treated as misdemeanor. Paid as of 5/15/03. Prosecution based on at least 1 ballot.	

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8/17/2001	1999-133	Wasco County and Hood River County vs. Asa Steven Large	260.715(3)	Vote twice, also Chap. 247, registered twice in two counties, voted in both counties for at least three elections; 3-9-99, 11-3-98, and 11-4/97. Registered in Hood River 8-10-95, Wasco in 94.	Found guilty of 2 counts of double voting - 2 class felonies; 36 mo. Probation, 250 hrs. community svce in Wasco Cnty, comp. Fine, must take a civics class and send apology ltr to editor Dallas Chronicle. Prosecution based on at least 2 ballots.	
10/14/1999	1998-216	Marion County vs. John and Joy Hall, Jonah and Jeremiah Korkow	260.715(1) and 260.715(3).	Alleges that one of grandparent's may have signed son's ballot(s), possibly a voting twice circumstance. For November 3, 1998 general election.	Prosecuted, found guilty. 2 year probation, 240 hrs. community service, \$1,100 fines. Prosecution based on at least 1 ballot.	