

5/20/2019

Chair Burdick, Vice Chair Baertschiger, and members of the committee,

My name is Kevin Cronin and I am writing to express my support for SB 761 with the -3 amendment language. My support for this legislation is based on the concerns I have about e-sheets from personal experiences that highlighted the ways in which this form of signature-gathering compromises the integrity of Oregon's elections and creates unnecessary duplication of a clearer, more sound signature-gathering mechanism (10-signature petition sheets).

In 2015, I was working as a campaign organizer in Lane County and Douglas County for a consulting firm. During my time in this position, there was an effort to recall Senator Prozanski. E-sheets were a tool used by proponents of the recall effort. At gun stores in Junction City and on River Road, I witnessed e-sheets being used in place of 10-signature petition sheets. When I purchased some shot gun and 22 shells and asked about the sheets, I was invited by the staff at the counter to sign it and place it in a box if I wanted to. Based on this experience, I had—and continue to have—great concerns about the gray areas surrounding e-sheets. I was concerned that those who encouraged me to sign an e-sheet would not have to attest to or witness my signature the way that they would have to if they were using the 10-signature collection sheet. I declined to sign.

I also have concerns about e-sheets because of my experience monitoring signature verification for this same petition. At the time when the Secretary of State was verifying signatures, myself and some other volunteers were observing the process. I noticed that some of the signed e-sheets being considered were an old version of the e-sheet proponents of the recall measure had been using; this version was not certified. I pointed this out and those signatures were not counted. Not only was this concerning for the sake of the people who signed the e-sheets thinking they were signing something that was a legitimate way to add their signature to the petition; it was also disconcerting because I am not convinced that this issue would have been identified if I had not been in the room monitoring the verification process that day.

Finally, I learned during my time in Douglas and Lane Counties that proponents of the recall effort at one point sent out e-sheets in a direct mail piece. As you know, e-sheets' original intent was to be able to be downloaded and printed, then signed and submitted, by individuals. If any campaign—progressive, conservative, or otherwise—wants to send a mailer to collect signatures, they have an option to do so that does not require the use of e-sheets; they can use 10-signature collection sheets. In this case, e-sheets were simply used as signature-collection mechanism with less clear guidelines to ensure those collecting/signing petition sheets would have to attest to those signatures. This is something anyone who cares about the integrity of our elections and our democracy should be concerned about.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kevin Cronin