

June 20, 2019

Chair Holvey and Members of the House Committee on Rules,

I am writing in support of SB 761A. Open, transparent, and accessible elections are an Oregon value. Our state has been a leader in expanding voter engagement through automatic voter registration and vote-by-mail. While we work to continue to grow voter engagement, we must also be vigilant and safeguard our electoral, referendum, and initiative petition processes from fraud, misuse, and manipulation by special interest groups. By trying to closely align the standards for e-sheets with the rigorous procedures and regulations governing multiple-signature petition sheets, SB 761A aims to protect the integrity of Oregon's initiative and referendum process.

SB 761A clarifies that only an elector who has either personally printed a copy of an e-sheet or requested that someone else print it for them can sign the sheet. This is a return to the original intent of e-sheets, which was to provide individuals with the ability to add their name to a petition by downloading, printing, and signing a single-signer petition sheet. SB761A also requires the e-sheet template prepared by the Secretary of State to include a full copy of the measure. To combat the misuse of e-sheets in mass mailings and passive gathering stations, SB761A prevents paid or volunteer circulators from providing printed e-sheets to people to sign unless someone has requested them based on the criteria outlined above. It also requires signers of e-sheets to sign twice: once to show their support for the measure, and once to certify that they obtained the e-sheet themselves or by asking someone for it.

Oregon voters should have access to the initiative and referendum process and be able to readily access the information they need to engage in that process. SB 761A allows voters to utilize e-sheets, in the manner that was originally intended, to participate in the initiative and referendum process while also putting into place necessary and important procedures to mitigate fraud and misuse. I urge the committee to support SB 761A.

Sincerely,

Meagan Morrow
Portland, Oregon