

Ref 401: Impeachment

We may disagree on some things, but Oregonians are united in their belief that government should be transparent, efficient, and accountable. Currently, Oregon is the only state in the nation that doesn't have an impeachment process in place for executive officials, making us an outlier among other states. Ballot Measure 115 will add this common sense safeguard to the Oregon Constitution as a tool that can be used by legislators when necessary. We strongly encourage voters to support this measure.

The Oregon Legislature unanimously referred this Constitutional Amendment to the ballot because we believe that Oregonians deserve to know that their elected leaders can be held accountable for egregious misbehavior. This measure would institute an impeachment provision for statewide elected officials of the Executive Branch, including the Governor, Treasurer, and Secretary of State.

However, we also wanted to ensure that the impeachment tool won't be misused or abused for partisan political purposes, so we built in some safeguards that are in line with successful policies in other states. First, a two-thirds majority in the House is required to begin impeachment proceedings. A two-thirds vote in the Senate is required for a conviction. The Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court would oversee the Senate trial, further removing partisan bias.

It's well past time for Oregon to join every other state in the nation and encode an impeachment provision to the state's constitution. Please join us in voting yes.