

Submitter: Ann Littlewood
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4024

I have been an Oregon voter for over 50 years and have watched sensible ballot measures swamped by giant influxes of money. Oregon's situation in regard to campaign contributions is a hot mess and an embarrassment. Our elections are jerked around by any entity that has enough cash; and the voices of Oregonians are overwhelmed.

I understand that legislators are considering new campaign finance rules that were negotiated with major campaign donors. This is not a promising approach. It seems pretty obvious that pleasing big donors will not get the job done. In fact, I am skeptical that the winners under the current system are the right people to change that system.

What we need are tough, enforceable laws that put limits on campaign contributions without loopholes that let some contributors spend significantly more than others. We need to know whose money is behind every campaign ad. I also favor matching funds supporting small donors so that everyone's contribution has to be taken seriously.

If this cannot be accomplished by the legislature, please leave to the initiative process and let voters decide on the new rules.

Thank you for your consideration.