

My name is Gary Lietke, an election integrity activist in both the state and Multnomah County Democratic Parties.

Thank you to Chair Fahey and the members of the Rules Committee for this opportunity to testify. I am grateful to Oregon's citizen legislators who step up for this so important role and dedicated effort in making our state work.

As a very hard-working Democrat, I am embarrassed that legislative leaders in my own Party feel legitimized to undermine election integrity by how they are handling HB 4024. Of all bills this session, this one is the only one that addresses implementation of the Oregon **Measure 107**, a constitutional amendment passed by almost 4/5th of voters 3¼ years ago. Therefore, because of its profound effects and long-term impact, *HB 4024-5 deserves much more respectful and serious **public debate*** than afforded by its rushed first hearing with only 1 day public notice, and now this second hearing with only 5-minutes in business day's notice of lengthy, complex gut-and-stuff amendments.

Even worse, legislative leaders by this proposed amendment are attempting to sabotage the true election integrity supported by IP 9 which has already gathered more than 100 thousand signatures for fall 2024 voter consideration.

*It is critically important that this HB 4024-5 legislative implementation bill does not fudge or disempower the intent of Measure 107 voters. **Any language that provides exceptions to any voice empowered by money, that does not provide for full transparency of contributions and expenditures—undermines the intent of Measure 107.***

Most egregiously, HB 4024-5 intentionally gives favor and special standing to 3 groups, when election integrity demands favor to NO groups. It allows and encourages business interests, organized labor interests, and the two major political parties, all who already hold disproportionate political power, to wield monetary power that distorts fairness in elections.

Personally, as a Democrat, I do believe my Party most often represents the best ideas, which I do want to triumph. I feel similarly about ideas represented by organized labor.

But I also believe election integrity demands that **the contest of ideas should be based solely on the quality of the ideas themselves, not by the unfair extra advantage of campaign money.** There is good reason that the ballots themselves are scrupulously required to treat the presentation of all competing candidates and measures in benign objectivity and equally, and in the identical manner. *Voters can then trust the election process to offer exactly the same opportunity to all parties, no matter their party registration size or wealth.*

*When election law enables campaign money an additional role and ability to influence election outcomes, such law destroys voter trust in election fairness. **When you authorize special advantage for business and labor and party interests to exert financial influence, you disadvantage the fair competition of ideas offered by those with less financial resources.*** And when campaign finance laws promote moneyed organizations *gifting* less moneyed organizations, the less moneyed may well be manipulated (consciously or unconsciously) to compromise their values to receive donations.

In contrast, IP 9, carefully developed over many years by this nation's and state's acknowledged campaign finance reform best experts, far better emphasizes transparency and disclosure and denies loopholes to any special interest.

I believe **our electoral system must do everything possible to equalize the fairest, equal competition of ideas.** I believe in true democracy, that the best ideas will earn voter choice **based on their merit alone.** *The more money involved in campaigns, the worse its impact on distorting elections from being determined fairly on the merit of only the competing ideas.*

Please, do not create or authorize unnecessary and unfair campaign finance inequity in our electoral system, such as HB 4024-5. Voters will recognize a politically, deliberately rigged system. **Election integrity** means a system that **comprehensively avoids giving advantage to any interest**, that **motivates unquestionable voter confidence in equal access from all competing voices and points of view**, that **affords truly equal opportunity for all competing candidates and measures to earn the vote.**

Thank you for this opportunity to share my views on these matters that are foundational to fairness in our election system.