

## **SJR 30 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Rules**

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**Prepared By:** Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/2

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure proposes a two-part constitutional amendment. The first part increases the percentage of initiative petition (IP) signatures required for new laws, from six percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for Governor during the election the Governor was elected, to not less than eight percent. The second part increases the percentage of IP signatures for constitutional amendments from eight percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for Governor during the election the Governor was elected, to not less than 10 percent. For both parts, it requires that the votes be divided equally from among Oregon's congressional districts. This proposed amendment is referred to the people for their approval or rejection at the next statewide regular general election.

Fiscal impact: The measure may have a fiscal impact, but a statement has not yet been issued.

Revenue impact: The measure may have a revenue impact, but a statement has not yet been issued.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon Constitution provides voters with three methods to directly change Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) and the Oregon Constitution: the initiative, the referendum, and the referral. In 1902, 91 percent of voters approved an amendment to the Oregon Constitution to allow for the initiative and referendum processes.

The initiative process gives direct legislative power to the voters to enact new laws, change existing laws, or amend the Oregon Constitution, and all initiatives begin as an idea from one or more citizens. Any person may be a chief petitioner of an initiative petition and act as the primary sponsor, and an initiative may have up to three chief petitioners.

The process begins with the collection of 1,000 sponsorship signatures by the chief petitioner(s) and the submission of the idea to the Secretary of State's office for verification of signatures. If the prospective petition contains the appropriate signatures, it is forwarded to the Attorney General for drafting of the ballot title. In addition, the Secretary of State's office seeks public input and then determines whether the text of the prospective initiative complies with constitutional requirements. All initiative petitions must contain a single subject or closely related subject, include the full text, and be legislative rather than administrative in nature. For constitutional initiative petitions, multiple subjects that are not closely related must be voted on separately, and proposals must amend rather than revise the constitution.

Once a ballot title and summary have been finalized, the Secretary of State notifies the chief petitioner(s) in writing that they may begin circulating signature sheets to collect signatures from registered voters. The Elections Division provides chief petitioners the official templates used to prepare cover and signature sheets for circulation.

The chief petitioner(s) must monitor the collection of signatures and their submission to the Secretary of State. All signatures must be submitted no later than four months prior to the date of the next regularly scheduled General

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*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*

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Election (the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November in even-numbered years).

Article IV, Section 1 of the Oregon Constitution establishes the number of signatures that must be gathered for a statutory or constitutional initiative to qualify for the ballot. The number of signatures required is a percentage of the number of votes cast for Governor during the most recent gubernatorial election; six percent for statutory amendments and eight percent for constitutional amendments.

PRELIMINARY