

House Committee on Rules
Re: HJR 3 and HJR11
3/11/25

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham, Members of the Committee,

I am Theodora Tsongas and I live in Portland. I strongly oppose HJR3 and HJR11. I have only lived in Oregon for 25 years and have not had the opportunity previous to living here to vote on citizen sponsored initiatives. I think Oregon can be very proud to have developed such a wonderful way for ordinary citizens to participate in the governing of the state. Many people have great ideas for improvements but have no way to get them heard through the legislative process. However, House Joint Resolutions 3 and 11 would make it much more difficult for ordinary citizens to contribute good ideas and participate in their government.

Since most initiatives get on the ballot due to the efforts of paid signature gathers, the expense of fulfilling the requirements of both of HJR3 and HJR11 would increase many fold, making it impossible for all except the most wealthy to qualify measures for the ballot. The League of Women Voters estimates that the cost would increase 5 fold. The initiative process would be lost to ordinary people, destroying the citizen sponsored initiative process. Voters need to have the power to decide for themselves, especially when the legislature fails to act in the first place, possibly because they are too busy listening to monied interests and lobbyists. These two bills have only one purpose: kill the initiative process in the state of Oregon by making it impossible for people with good ideas and little money to be heard.

Please don't ruin a good thing that works for the betterment of Oregon. Please DO NOT PASS HJR 3 and HJR11. Thank you for your attention to these concerns.