

March 12, 2025

**Position on Bills at 2025  
Session of Oregon Legislature:**

**HJR 11: Oppose**



The Oregon Progressive Party still opposes HJR 11, which would refer to voters an amendment to the Oregon Constitution to increase the number of signatures that must be gathered to qualify an initiative for the Oregon ballot and to require that the required signature threshold be gathered in every congressional district (CD) in Oregon.

I submitted testimony on March 9, 2025. This is additional testimony.

The Oregon Legislature has in the recent past referred to voters measures that collectively are essentially identical to HJR 11. Voters decisively defeated both of those measures, despite strong support from the business community. HJR 11 combines those two rejected ideas, so it is reasonable to assume that voters would reject it even more vehemently.

The Oregon Legislature in 1996 referred to voters this same concept of requiring the threshold percentage of initiative signatures be gathered in every CD. Measure 4 (1996) was defeated by 13 percentage points. Opponents included democracy-focused groups, labor unions, and others, such as:

- Ralph Nader
- Oregon Citizens Alliance
- Oregon Common Cause
- Oregon Consumer League
- Oregon League of Conservation Voters
- Oregon Natural Resources Council Action
- Oregon Peaceworks
- Oregon Taxpayers United PAC
- Oregonians for Equal Rights
- OSPIRG Citizen Lobby
- Citizens Utility Board of Oregon
- Physicians For Social Responsibility
- Portland Gray Panthers
- Portland Rainbow Coalition
- Democracy Now
- Don't Waste Oregon Caucus
- Douglas County Christian Schools, Inc.
- East Side Democratic Club

Friends of Barton Park & the Scenic Clackamas River  
No Sales Tax League  
Pacific Green Party  
Parents for Academic Excellence  
Socialist Party of Oregon  
United Steelworkers of America, District 11  
Barristers Information Service  
Center for Environmental Equity  
Citizens for Academic Excellence PAC  
Citizens for Clean Water

I have attached the arguments against it from the Voters' Pamphlet.

The Oregon Legislature in 2000 referred to voters the other concept of increasing the number of signatures required to qualify for the ballot a proposed amendment to the Oregon Constitution. Measure 79 (2000) was defeated by 17 percentage points. Opposition included many conservative organizations, including Oregonians in Action, Oregon Taxpayers United, Libertarian Party of Oregon, and the precursor to the Taxpayer Association of Oregon, as well as progressive groups and people.

I have attached the arguments against it from the Voters' Pamphlet.

Combining the two ideas would probably consolidate the oppositions to both of those earlier referrals. This is presaged by the overwhelmingly negative testimony filed against HJR 11 from representatives of a wide political spectrum, from progressive groups to neutral good government groups (League of Women Voters) to conservative groups (Taxpayers' Association of Oregon).

## **Oregon Progressive Party**

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