

March 28, 2025

Position on Bills at 2025 Session of Oregon Legislature:

SJR 30: Oppose



The Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) is a coalition of over 50 local Indivisible groups throughout Oregon that cooperate and amplify their joint efforts to advance important federal and state legislation and engage with elected officials to promote causes for the benefit of all Oregonians.

COIN opposes SJR 30, 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 require that 1/6 of that number be gathered in each of Oregon's 6 congressional districts (CDs).

SJR 30 is identical to HJR 11, which was heard by the House Rules Committee on March 10. 88 written testimonies were submitted in opposition, including from:

League of Women Voters of Oregon
Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Taxpayers Association of Oregon
Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network - COIN
Alliance for Democracy
Act for Democracy
Oregon Small Business Association
Independent Party of Oregon
Oregon Progressive Party
Honest Elections Action League

The Oregon Legislature has a distinct conflict of interest in restricting use of the initiative and referendum powers. Oregon has two co-equal legislative branches—the sitting Legislature and the people using the initiative or referendum. In the words of the Oregon Supreme Court:

We have recognized that the legislative power is a unitary authority that rests with two lawmaking bodies, the legislature and the people. Meyer v. Bradbury, 341 Or. at 299–300, 142 P.3d 1031. The exercise of that power is always “coequal and co-ordinate,” regardless of which of the two entities wields it. *Id.* at 300, 142 P.3d 1031.

Hazell v. Brown, 352 Or 455, 465, 287 P.3d 1079, 1084 (2012). By restricting use of the initiative and referendum powers, the sitting Legislature reserves power to itself in excess of the coequal balance.

The Geographic Distribution Requirement

The current signature requirement is 6% of the number of voters who voted in the last Governor election for a statutory measure and 8% of that number for a measure proposing to amend the Oregon Constitution. SJR 30 would increase those to 8% and 10%, a 33% increase for statutory measures and a 25% increase for measures proposing constitutional amendments.

SJR 30 requires that petitioners for every initiative must obtain those new percentage numbers in each of Oregon's 6 CDs separately. That would give the voters in each CD the power of veto over all statewide ballot measures by simply not signing enough petitions of voters registered within the CD. It would also greatly increase the cost of gathering the required signatures. Britney VanCitters of the Oregon League of Conservation Voters wrote in testimony against HJR 11:

Increasing the threshold amount of signatures in addition to requiring an equal number of qualified petition signatures in every Oregon congressional district would mean that only the ultra-wealthy would be able to run initiative campaigns. The changes proposed in HJR 11 would make requirements for citizen initiatives so unachievable that it would effectively serve as a ban on initiative petitions. OLCV urges the Committee to vote NO on HJR 11.

Oregon's lesser populated counties, mostly in CD 2, do not have mass gatherings where volunteers can gather signatures. It would basically require petitioners to go door-to-door in those counties, where they would encounter mean dogs and other obstacles.

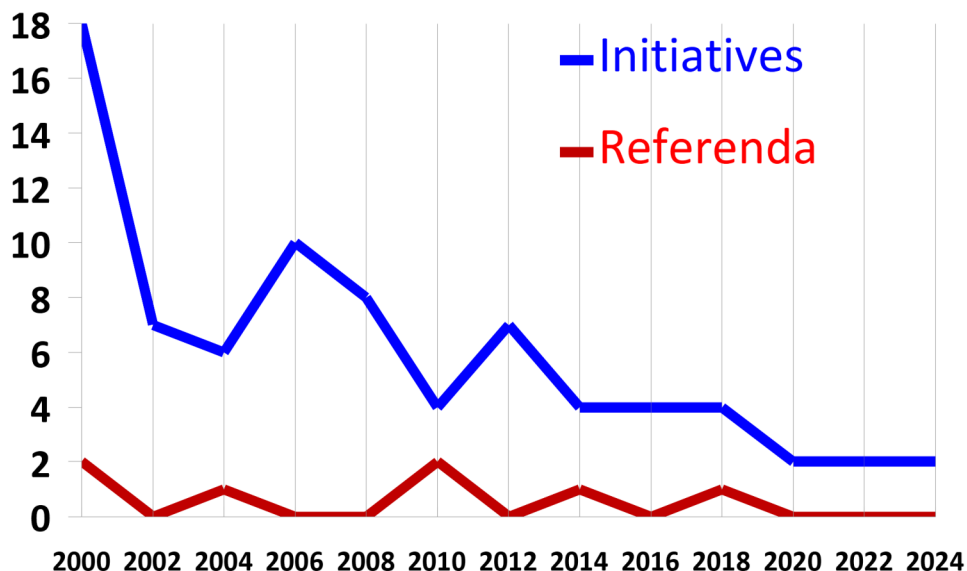
Oregon has 3.04 million registered voters. The number who voted in the most recent election for Governor was 1.953 million, so about 2/3 of registered voters. Each CD has between 477,610 and 540,735 registered voters, according to the Secretary of State. Let's say the average is 500,000. So the number who voted in the recent Governor election was about 333,000 per CD. That means petitioners would have to gather for a statutory measure 26,640 signatures in each of the 6 CDs and for a constitutional amendment 33,000 signatures in each of the 6 CDs.

Even if petitioners on a statutory initiative were to gather 2.9 million signatures (from Oregon's 3.04 million registered voters), the statutory measure would not qualify for the ballot--unless 26,400 of those signatures were gathered in each CD. Same for a constitutional amendment initiative, except that would need 33,000 signatures in each CD. In essence, CD 2 would have veto power over progressive proposed initiatives, and CD 3 would have veto power over conservative proposed initiatives.

It is already hard enough to qualify statewide measures for the ballot. The chart below shows that the number of statewide initiatives has collapsed since 2000. This drop has resulted from the Oregon Legislature and Secretary of State adding onerous and hypertechnical requirements to the signature gathering rules and long delays in obtaining official ballot titles from Oregon Supreme Court review. It also reflects

changes in society, with more online time and less personal interaction. In-person meetings are replaced with Zooms. Some office workers do their jobs from home. Shopping at stores is replaced by online shopping. The Oregon Legislature has adapted to these changes by enabling online meetings and testimony. But it has not modernized the signature gathering requirements, which still insist on ink on paper personally witnessed by a circulator. Adding the “per CD” requirement and the 2% kickers on top of these changes would essentially terminate the initiative and referendum powers of the people.

Oregon Statewide Measures 2000 - 2024



Requiring the same percentage of signatures in every CD also contradicts the principle of one-person-one-vote. CD 6 has 477,610 registered voters, while CD 5 has 540,735. SJR 30 also gives the voters of the least populated CD veto power over the wishes of the vast majority of other voters.

But that does not recognize the true impact of SJR 30’s “divide and conquer” strategy. It will be far more difficult to gather sufficient signatures in all the CDs instead of gathering those signatures statewide. Imagine that this geographic distribution requirement were adopted per Oregon House district (60 of them), and the added difficulty becomes more apparent. The more separately-counted subdivisions of voters, the more difficult to complete the task. This is obvious.

SJR 30 would also require petitioners to use different signature sheets for each CD. This will certainly decrease the validity rate, as some volunteers will no doubt gather signatures from persons who live in CD 5 or 6 on the CD 3 sheet, particularly at public events in or near Portland attended by persons from the 4 CDs that share some part of the Portland metropolitan area. Validity will further decline, because some voters, particularly in that area, will not know their CD and will sign the wrong signature sheet. My address, for example, has not changed but since 2010 has been moved from CD 1

to CD 3 to CD 5.

Without SJR 30, voters throughout Oregon have equal power in deciding whether to enact an initiative or to reject by referendum a law passed by the Oregon Legislature. If that is not sufficient, then we should change how Oregon elects its statewide officers. In order to win statewide office, the candidate must win in every CD.

If SJR 30 is a good idea, then let's apply it to votes in the Oregon Legislature: In order to pass, a bill must be approved by members of the Legislature representing every CD. If the 10 state representatives and 5 state senators who represent districts within any of the 6 CDs do not provide majority votes in favor of a bill, then the bill fails. Thus, representatives and senators within each CD get to veto every bill. That is equivalent to the system proposed by SJR 30.

Putting an initiative on the ballot is like introducing a bill in the Legislature. The people have to vote on the initiative. The legislators have to vote on the bill. If proposing an initiative should require very substantial support in all 6 CDs, then so should the introduction of bills in the Oregon Legislature. A rule at the Legislature, corresponding to the principle of SJR 30, would require that a bill may not be introduced, unless Senators and Representatives representing districts in all 6 CDs must sign on as sponsors. The undemocratic nature of that requirement is the same as the undemocratic nature of SJR 30.

Increasing the Number of Signatures Required

The current signature requirement is 6% of the number of voters who voted in the last Governor election for statutory measure and 8% of that number for a measure proposing to amend the Oregon Constitution. SJR 30 would increase those to 8% and 10%, a 33% increase for statutory measures and a 25% increase for measures proposing constitutional amendments.

Oregon already has higher signature requirements, as a percentage of population, than Arkansas, California, Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, and South Dakota. SJR 30 would put Oregon close to the highest signature requirements in the United States.

Recent History of Similar Referrals to Oregon Voters by the Legislature

The Oregon Legislature has recently referred to voters two measures that together are essentially identical to SJR 30. Voters decisively defeated both of those measures, despite strong support from the business community. SJR 30 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:

- 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
- Ralph Nader
- 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 (Taxpayer Association of Oregon).

Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)

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Measure No. 24

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4—Referred to the Electorate of Oregon by the 1995 Legislature, to be voted on at the Biennial Primary Election, May 21, 1996.

BALLOT TITLE

24 AMENDS CONSTITUTION: INITIATIVE PETITION SIGNATURES MUST BE COLLECTED FROM EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

RESULT OF "YES" VOTE: "Yes" vote requires specified portion of necessary initiative petition signatures collected from each congressional district.

RESULT OF "NO" VOTE: "No" vote retains system not requiring collection of initiative petition signatures from each congressional district.

SUMMARY: Measure would amend Oregon Constitution. The constitution does not now require collection of signatures for state initiative petitions from each congressional district. Measure requires collection in each congressional district of at least the total number of necessary signatures divided by the number of districts. Because Oregon currently has five congressional districts, at least 1/5 of necessary signatures would be needed from each congressional district. Measure applies to initiative petitions submitted to voters after November 1996 election. Measure would not change total number of signatures required.

ESTIMATE OF FINANCIAL IMPACT: Passage of this measure would result in a direct state government expenditure increase of \$110,600 per year and a direct local government expenditure increase of \$28,000 per year. These expenditures are based on the average number of state initiative petitions filed for signature verification the past five general elections.

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

PARAGRAPH 1. Section 1, Article IV of the Constitution of the State of Oregon, is amended, and the Constitution of the State of Oregon is amended by creating new sections 1b and 1c to be added to and made a part of Article IV, such sections to read:

Sec. 1. (1) The legislative power of the state, except for the initiative and referendum powers reserved to the people, is vested in a Legislative Assembly, consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

(2)(a) The people reserve to themselves the initiative power, which is to propose laws and amendments to the Constitution and enact or reject them at an election independently of the Legislative Assembly.

(b) An initiative law may be proposed only by a petition signed by a number of qualified voters equal to six percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for Governor at the election at which a Governor was elected for a term of four years next preceding the filing of the petition. **A number of the signatures of qualified voters required under this paragraph shall be collected in each congressional district in this state. The number of signatures of qualified voters required to be collected in each congressional district shall be equal to not less than 1/X of the total number of signatures of qualified voters required under this paragraph. As used in this paragraph, "X" is equal to the number of congressional districts in this state.**

(c) An initiative amendment to the Constitution may be proposed only by a petition signed by a number of qualified voters

Measure No. 24

equal to eight percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for Governor at the election at which a Governor was elected for a term of four years next preceding the filing of the petition. **A number of the signatures of qualified voters required under this paragraph shall be collected in each congressional district in this state. The number of signatures of qualified voters required to be collected in each congressional district shall be equal to not less than 1/X of the total number of signatures of qualified voters required under this paragraph. As used in this paragraph, "X" is equal to the number of congressional districts in this state.**

(d) An initiative petition shall include the full text of the proposed law or amendment to the Constitution. A proposed law or amendment to the Constitution shall embrace one subject only and matters properly connected therewith.

(e) An initiative petition shall be filed not less than four months before the election at which the proposed law or amendment to the Constitution is to be voted upon.

(3)(a) The people reserve to themselves the referendum power, which is to approve or reject at an election any Act, or part thereof, of the Legislative Assembly that does not become effective earlier than 90 days after the end of the session at which the Act is passed.

(b) A referendum on an Act or part thereof may be ordered by a petition signed by a number of qualified voters equal to four percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for Governor at the election at which a Governor was elected for a term of four years next preceding the filing of the petition. A referendum petition shall be filed not more than 90 days after the end of the session at which the Act is passed.

(c) A referendum on an Act may be ordered by the Legislative Assembly by law. Notwithstanding section 15b, Article V of this Constitution, bills ordering a referendum and bills on which a referendum is ordered are not subject to veto by the Governor.

(4)(a) Petitions or orders for the initiative or referendum shall be filed with the Secretary of State. The Legislative Assembly shall provide by law for the manner in which the Secretary of State shall determine whether a petition contains the required number of signatures of qualified voters. The Secretary of State shall complete the verification process within the 15-day period after the last day on which the petition may be filed as provided in paragraph (e) of subsection (2) or paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of this section.

(b) Initiative and referendum measures shall be submitted to the people as provided in this section and by law not inconsistent therewith.

(c) All elections on initiative and referendum measures shall be held at the regular general elections, unless otherwise ordered by the Legislative Assembly.

(d) Notwithstanding section 1, Article XVII of this Constitution, an initiative or referendum measure becomes effective 30 days after the day on which it is enacted or approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon. A referendum ordered by petition on a part of an Act does not delay the remainder of the Act from becoming effective.

(5) The initiative and referendum powers reserved to the people by subsections (2) and (3) of this section are further reserved to the qualified voters of each municipality and district as to all local, special and municipal legislation of every character in or for their municipality or district. The manner of exercising those powers shall be provided by general laws, but cities may provide the manner of exercising those powers as to their municipal legislation. In a city, not more than 15 percent of the qualified voters may be required to propose legislation by the initiative, and not more than 10 percent of the qualified voters may be required to order a referendum on legislation.

SECTION 1b. (1) The amendment to section 1 of this Article by Senate Joint Resolution 4 (1995) does not apply to any initiative petition that, if filed with the Secretary of State with the required number of signatures of qualified

Measure No. 24

voters, will be submitted to the people at the general election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 1996.

(2) The amendment to section 1 of this Article by Senate Joint Resolution 4 (1995) does apply to any initiative petition that, if filed with the Secretary of State with the required number of signatures of qualified voters, will be submitted to the people at a general election occurring after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 1996, regardless of when the prospective petition for the initiative petition is filed.

(3) This section is repealed December 31, 1998.

SECTION 1c. Nothing in the amendment to section 1 of this Article by Senate Joint Resolution 4 (1995) is intended to affect the initiative powers granted under subsection (5) of section 1 of this Article, section 10, Article VI, and sections 2 and 14, Article XI of this Constitution, prior to the effective date of the amendment to section 1 of this Article by Senate Joint Resolution 4 (1995).

PARAGRAPH 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution shall be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection at a special election held throughout this state on the same date as the next regular primary election.

NOTE: **Boldfaced** type indicates new language; *[brackets and italic]* type indicates deletions or comments.

Measure No. 24

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Measure 24 amends Article IV of the Oregon Constitution to change the requirements for collecting signatures on state initiative petitions. The Oregon Constitution now allows signatures on state initiative petitions to be collected from anywhere in the state. Oregon now has five Congressional districts. Measure 24 applies to initiative petitions proposing changes to and new state laws and to initiative petitions proposing amendments to the Oregon Constitution.

If Measure 24 passes, failure to obtain at least one-fifth of the required number of signatures from each congressional district would result in the measure not being placed on the ballot.

Under the Oregon Constitution, an initiative petition proposing a state law must contain a number of signatures equal to at least six percent of the votes cast for Governor at the last election, currently 73,261 valid signatures. An initiative petition proposing an amendment to the Oregon Constitution must contain a number of signatures equal to at least eight percent of the votes cast for Governor at the last election, currently 97,681 valid signatures. The Oregon Constitution currently allows signatures for a state initiative petition to be collected from anywhere in the state and does not require that signatures on state initiative petitions be collected from geographic regions.

By law, Congressional districts must contain a substantially equal number of people. The number of signatures that must be collected from a Congressional district will always be the same for all Congressional districts.

Measure 24 does not apply to state initiative petitions to be submitted to the people at the November 1996 general election. Measure 24 does apply to any state initiative petition submitted for an election held after November 1996.

Committee Members:

Senator Rod Johnson
Representative Jim Welsh
Ruth Bendl
Phil Dreyer
Sid Lezak

Appointed by:

President of the Senate
Speaker of the House
Secretary of State
Secretary of State
Members of the Committee

(This committee was appointed to provide an impartial explanation of the ballot measure pursuant to ORS 251.215.)

Measure No. 24

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

YOUR SIGNATURE WON'T COUNT!

Imagine there's an important initiative petition circulating in Oregon; one you feel strongly about and want very much to sign. Imagine being told by a petition circulator, **"Don't bother to sign this petition. Your signature won't count."**

Your signature not count? Could such a thing happen? It can happen, and will if Measure 24 passes, because that's exactly what Measure 24 does. You see, Measure 24 is about quotas. **Some Oregonians' signatures will count; others won't.** It will all depend on where you live.

Under Measure 24, once the signature quota has been reached for your part of the state, your signature won't count. The signatures of other Oregonians will count, but not yours.

Instead of the long-standing American system of "One man; One vote," your ability to sign petitions suddenly will depend on your address. **In fact, under Measure 24, signatures from Eastern Oregon will be much more valuable than signatures of registered voters from other parts of the state.** That's wrong!

A century ago, Oregonians wisely reserved for themselves in the state constitution the right to protect themselves from politicians who place big money special interest groups above the will of the people. **Today, many powerful special interest groups see the initiative process as a threat to their control.** They can control politicians, but they can't seem to control everyday citizens like yourself.

Don't be fooled. Measure 24 is a blatant attempt to limit the right of Oregonians to self-government. **It has one purpose: Make it much more difficult for citizens to overrule the legislature.**

Maybe you're concerned about drunk driving, civil rights, crime, protecting the environment, limiting property taxes, preserving school funding, or fishing, hunting and gun laws. **Whatever the cause, liberal, conservative or otherwise, your ability to affect the laws you live under is seriously threatened by Measure 24.**

Don't let the legislature tell you your signature doesn't count.

PLEASE, VOTE "NO" ON MEASURE 24

(This information furnished by Bill Sizemore, Oregon Taxpayers United P.A.C.)

(This space purchased for \$500 in accordance with 1993 Or. Laws 811 §11.)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by the State of Oregon, nor does the state warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the argument.

Measure No. 24

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Statement in Opposition to the Passage of Measure 24 by
Vern Cook, Lawyer and Former State Senator.

On June 2, 1902, the people of Oregon, frustrated by the refusal of their elected senators and representatives to represent the interests of all of the people instead of a few greedy special interests, adopted Oregon's first in the nation Initiative and Referendum, known nationwide as the 'Oregon System'.

Scarcely a session of the legislature has passed since then that legislators, newspapers and anti democratic organizations have not tried to cripple the peoples' rights to use these great reforms as legislators in their own right.

Senate Joint Resolution 4, the parent of Measure 24, is just the latest effort of those who distrust the people to restrict and destroy our rights to initiate legislation.

During the 1995 session of the Oregon Legislature 19 of 30 senators and 54 of 60 state representatives supported this measure. It reminds me of the old country song about the sinking of the Great Titanic where the words include the line, 'there were husbands and wives, little children lost their lives, but I didn't hear nobody pray!' There were very few legislators representing the sacred rights of the people of Oregon.

For 94 years every Oregonian has had an equal right to sponsor legislation by the initiative. That right would now be taken away by this measure! A registered voter in Portland, The Dalles, Medford, Eugene or Beaverton could sign an initiative petition and under the formula of this constitutional amendment his or her signature could count for nothing.

Worse yet, this measure would favor those initiative sponsors with great amounts of money and make it virtually impossible for average citizens to get a measure on the ballot!

This is a very bad measure and it should be defeated.

(This information furnished by Vern Cook.)

(This space purchased for \$500 in accordance with 1993 Or. Laws 811 §11.)

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Measure No. 24

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

VOTE NO ON MEASURE 24

We are the Coalition for Initiative Rights. We are left, right, and center. While we disagree more often than not, we stand together against Measure 24.

The following organizations endorse our campaign against Measure 24:

No Sales Tax League
Oregon Taxpayers United PAC
Citizens Utility Board of Oregon
Douglas County Christian Schools, Inc.
United Steelworkers of America, District 11
Parents for Academic Excellence
East Side Democratic Club
Physicians For Social Responsibility
Oregon Common Cause
Oregon Citizens Alliance
Portland Gray Panthers
OSPIRG Citizen Lobby
Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Oregon Natural Resources Council Action
Friends of Barton Park & the Scenic Clackamas River
Portland Rainbow Coalition
Citizens for Academic Excellence PAC
Socialist Party of Oregon
Barristers Information Service
Don't Waste Oregon Caucus
Citizens for Clean Water
Center for Environmental Equity
Oregon Peaceworks
Oregonians for Equal Rights
Pacific Party
Democracy Now
Oregon Consumer League

(This information furnished by Lloyd K. Marbet, Coalition For Initiative Rights.)

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Measure No. 24

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

RALPH NADER'S STATEMENT OPPOSING MEASURE 24

In 1902, the people of Oregon rose up against the domination of their state by the railroads, banks, and big corporations. The people created for themselves the power of initiative in order to bypass a legislature corrupted by special interests.

Measure 24 is an historic attempt by commercial interests - the utilities, banks, and some unions - to turn back the clock by making it far more difficult for people to exercise democratic control over their own lives and communities. Measure 24 would transform the initiative process from an instrument of citizen and community power into an easier instrument of corporate power. Those with big bankrolls could employ paid petitioners throughout the state in order to put their own proposals on the ballot, while grassroots groups and people organized around regional or community concerns, but without the means to pay petitioners, would encounter greater barriers in placing their own proposals on the ballot.

Measure 24 is particularly insidious because it seems plausible at first glance. Do not be taken in. This measure will not increase the power of any region in the state, but is instead designed to weaken and divide the regions of Eastern Oregon, Southern Oregon, the Coast and the Valley. If Measure 24 should pass, there will be no effective check on the power of the legislature, and those with the resources to buy legislative power will reign supreme.

Oregonians nearly one hundred years ago reclaimed political power for themselves. The real agenda of those promoting Measure 24 is to deceive the people into restricting those political rights that their grandparents struggled so hard to secure for them.

Vote "no." Shut the door on 24!

(This information furnished by Ralph Nader.)

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Measure No. 24

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

A Committee of distinguished judges, civil leaders, and educators discussed the effects of Measure 24 and ways to improve the initiative process. They concluded:

"The committee believes these objectives are **not** best addressed by changes simply making it harder to get enough signatures to qualify a measure for the ballot whether by increasing the number of signatures required or by requiring them to be obtained proportionately from congressional districts. **Such changes would simply increase the power and advantage of individuals or interests with money compared with individuals or interests with less or no resources.**"

City Club of Portland
The Initiative and Referendum in Oregon
 February 16, 1996
 page 37 (emphasis added)

Members of City Club Committee on the Initiative and Referendum in Oregon:

Judge John C. Beatty, chair (circuit judge, 4th Judicial District, retired)

Hardy Myers, vice chair (attorney and former speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives)

Randall Kester, secretary (attorney and former Oregon Supreme Court justice)

Paul Bragdon (president, Oregon Graduate Institute of Science and Technology; past president, Reed College)

Susan Ward (president (1994-95), League of Women Voters of Portland)

Kristine Olson (U.S. Attorney for Oregon)

Kenneth Lewis (president, LASCO Shipping, retired)

Les Swanson (president, Oregon State Board of Higher Education)

Delna Jones (former assistant majority leader, Oregon House of Representatives)

Cory Streisinger (general counsel, Port of Portland)

Frank Mungeam (senior producer, KATU Television)

Michael Chappie Grice (administrator, Portland Public Schools)

Caroline P. Stoel (adjunct professor, Portland State University)

Jan Thenell (public relations director, Multnomah County Library)

Leslie Sack (market researcher)

(This information furnished by Phil Dreyer, George Starr, Oregon Common Cause, Oregon Consumer League.)

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Measure No. 24

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

TO MY FELLOW CITIZENS

The "Committee" behind Measure 24 claims says that the reason we have this measure is because "Oregon's business community played a major role in encouraging the state's decision makers to pursue this concept and place it before the people." This is absolutely true, for big utilities and large corporations like **Boise Cascade, First Interstate Bank, Georgia Pacific Corporation, Northwest Natural Gas, Portland General Electric, U.S. Bank, and US West Communications** are behind Measure 24.

The Campaign Treasurer for the "Committee" supporting Measure 24 is Vice President of Public Affairs for Portland General Electric, the same utility that broke the spending record in all three ballot measure campaigns to close Trojan. PGE misled Oregon voters into believing that Trojan was safe and economical, and that by closing Trojan the lights would go out. None of this was true! Now they are telling us that they support Measure 24 to curb "special interest abuse of this sacred citizen process" and stop people like me "who have demonstrated a willingness to use the initiative process for their own purposes." **This is coming from corporations who have always used Oregon's Legislature for their own purposes.**

WHOM ARE THEY TRYING TO FOOL?

It was corruption in Oregon's Legislature that led to the creation of the initiative process and similar concerns drive Oregon citizens to use it now. Do you really believe that PGE has brought us Measure 24 because it cares about the right of "all Oregonians to decide which initiatives qualify for the statewide ballot." **All Oregonians already decide whether a ballot measure becomes law!** The City Club of Portland Report said it best: **"Such changes would simply increase the power and advantage of individuals or interests with money compared with individuals or interests with less or no resources."** (*The Initiative and Referendum in Oregon*, Page 37, February 16, 1996)

STOP BIG MONEY FROM TAKING OVER THE INITIATIVE PROCESS!

VOTE NO ON MEASURE 24!

(This information furnished by Lloyd Marbet.)

(This space purchased for \$500 in accordance with 1993 Or. Laws 811 §11.)

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Measure No. 24

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA, LOCAL 8378 URGES A NO VOTE ON MEASURE 24.

Working men and women in Oregon need an initiative process that works for them. Measure 24 is designed to prevent social, civic, and labor groups - those without large bankrolls - from placing any proposals on the ballot. Requiring labor and grass-roots organizations to collect 20% of the required number of signatures in each of the 5 Congressional districts will require big bucks.

Big utilities, huge corporations, and certain large labor unions support Measure 24 because they have the big money to buy signatures anywhere in Oregon. Only those organizations with fat cat backers will be able to afford paid signature gatherers. Organizations dependent upon volunteers will be crippled. Working men and women, social and civic organizations, and common citizens will be shut out of the process of initiating petitions. Laws that give rights only to rich people have no place in Oregon.

Big utilities, giant corporations, and large labor unions want to shut down the initiative process. They support Measure 24 because they do not want to spend huge sums of money trying to defeat ballot measures that oppose their interests. They would rather buy the Legislature. Their motto is "only the rich need apply."

Let's not destroy a fundamental tenet of democracy "one person - one vote." Today all signatures count. Under Measure 24 many signatures will not count, particularly in areas where most people are affected.

Some ballot measures and issues are regional. Examples include "Close Trojan"; Willamette Valley field burning; access to Oregon beaches; and many others. We do not want one district to have veto power over other districts, especially when an issue is regional. The passage of Measure 24 will destroy the purest form of democracy - majority rule.

Do not destroy the initiative process. Shut the door on 24. **Vote no !!**

(This information furnished by Mike Sullivan, Douglas Heuer, United Steelworkers of America, Local 8378.)

(This space purchased for \$500 in accordance with 1993 Or. Laws 811 §11.)

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Measure No. 24

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

MEASURE 24: DIVIDE AND CONQUER THE VOTERS

Measure 24 is the scheme of the big money utilities and corporations to gut the Oregon Constitution and take over the voter initiative process, just as they have taken over the Oregon Legislature.

Politics is corrupted by big money. Legislators get huge campaign contributions and "gifts" from the big utilities and corporations who want special treatment.

Now the big money boys want to destroy the only control on the Legislature: the power of voter initiative to enact laws that people want.

Measure 24 violates the basis of democracy:

ONE PERSON = ONE VOTE

**It would throw out hundreds of thousands
of valid voter signatures.**

By requiring at least 15,000 signatures in every single Congressional district in Oregon, regardless of the total number of signatures gathered, Measure 24 would destroy grass-roots ballot measures. Supporters could obtain signatures from 81% of all voters in Oregon and still be kicked off the ballot for not having enough signatures in any single district. **But the big money boys can run their paid signature collectors everywhere in Oregon and buy their way onto the ballot anyway.**

If the big money boys win on Measure 24, they will have more power than ever before:

- power to raise your phone bills
- power to increase your electricity and gas rates
- power to pollute the air and water
- power to devastate the forests
- power to raise your taxes, while cutting their own

Measure 24 will ruin the initiative process for grass-roots causes and let the big money boys use the Legislature and paid signature gatherers to take over Oregon.

Vote NO on Measure 24.

(This information furnished by Daniel Meek.)

(This space purchased for \$500 in accordance with 1993 Or. Laws 811 §11.)

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Measure No. 24

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

BALLOT MEASURE 24 IS RIDICULOUS!

< VOTE NO! >

Measure 24 is a deliberate attempt by Oregon legislators to restrict the rights of citizens to make their own laws. **The very act of restricting any peaceful participation in the political process is tyranny.**

Measure 24 requires that equal numbers of signatures be gathered in each of Oregon's congressional districts before an initiative petition could be put to a vote. Not all issues affecting Oregonians are statewide in nature. The further away people live from a particular issue, they are less likely to be concerned about it or act on it. Measure 24 makes it harder to collect signatures. **It allows one congressional district to hold the rest of the state hostage merely by having enough constituents (within that district) refuse to sign a petition.**

Ironically, Measure 24 will increase paid petitioning at a time when many citizens have concerns about the use of paid petitioners. **Big money has no problem hiring petitioners in each congressional district while we citizens are effectively frozen out.** Petitioning is already difficult enough for citizen sponsored initiatives without adding another burdensome requirement.

Ballot Measure 24 betrays the principles of democracy. It is a deliberate assault on the people's initiative rights! The purpose of the initiative process is to guarantee democracy by recognizing the right of Oregon citizens to raise issues of concern and propose remedies in law without depending on the Legislature to act. **Measure 24 eliminates our inalienable right to majority rule and obliterates the single purpose of democracy: government of, for, and "BY" the people - one person <> one vote.** The Legislature seeks to remove what has long been established for the people as a whole, undivided by congressional districts.

Arthur Honeyman

(This information furnished by Arthur Honeyman, Coalition For Initiative Rights.)

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Measure No. 24

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Measure 24 is an assault on the people's right to the initiative process. The initiative process has been around for a long time and has been used successfully by Oregonians to make changes that the legislature has been unable or unwilling to do.

Measure 24 requires that at least 20% of the required signatures be gathered in each of Oregon's five congressional districts for a measure to qualify for the ballot. This means that voters in one district could block an initiative from being on the ballot by not signing an initiative petition even if a vast number of signatures were gathered statewide.

Here's an example: Assume a proposed ballot measure needs 100,000 signatures to qualify for the ballot. Under Measure 24 at least 20,000 of the required signatures would have to come from each of the five congressional districts. If 30,000 signatures were gathered in each of districts A, B, C and D, but only 19,000 in district E, the measure would fail. Even though 139,000 signatures were collected, Measure 24 would deny all voters in the state an opportunity to vote on the issue. A popular measure could fail by falling a few signatures short in any one district.

Measure 24 would drastically increase the use of paid petitioners. Measure 24 would allow individuals and corporate interests with ample financial resources to spend vast sums of money to hire paid petitioners in all districts, while volunteers and others with limited resources would not be able to overcome this burdensome requirement.

The purpose of the initiative process is to enable Oregon citizens to raise issues of concern, propose remedies and give voters the opportunity to approve or reject them. That's something the legislature seldom does.

Measure 24 seeks to restrict this initiative process and must be defeated!

VOTE 'NO' on MEASURE 24

(This information furnished by George Starr.)

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Measure No. 24

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

MEASURE 24 WILL COST YOU MONEY!

Measure 24 is a trap that was carefully designed by lawmakers who want to destroy the initiative process!

While it may sound reasonable on the surface to require 20% of signatures from each of the five congressional districts, in practice this would be a restriction that would make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for any grassroots organization to get an issue on the ballot.

Measure 24 imposes signature quotas on each of the five Congressional districts. Once that quota has been met the signatures of every other voter in the district will mean nothing!

Under Measure 24, a petition could acquire **THREE TIMES AS MANY SIGNATURES STATEWIDE AS NEEDED**, yet **FAIL** to get on the ballot if in even **ONE** congressional district it fell just **ONE** signature short!

Measure 24 makes the initiative process available only to large corporations, big unions and the very rich. No grass roots group could afford to pay petitioners to go wherever needed to fill the 20% signature quota.

Just imagine going from ranch to ranch, in Eastern Oregon, to collect 20,000 plus signatures!

Don't allow Oregon's politicians to deny ordinary people the right to use Oregon's initiative process to protect them from special interests!

Make no mistake. The goal of public employee unions, public utilities, some large corporations and the politicians they control, is to take power from the voters so they can tax and spend as they wish.

Vote NO! And urge others to defeat Measure 24. Do it for your own good!

(This information furnished by Ruth Bendl.)

(This space purchased for \$500 in accordance with 1993 Or. Laws 811 §11.)

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Measure No. 24

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

MEASURE 24 THREATENS CONSUMERS, DEMOCRACY

OSPIRG, the Oregon Consumer League, United Consumers of Oregon, and the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon urge you to **VOTE NO ON MEASURE 24.**

While wrapped in a cloak of "fairness," Measure 24 is actually an attempt by wealthy special interests to snatch the initiative process out of the hands of ordinary citizens. If it passes, only those special interests will be able to afford to qualify initiatives for the ballot.

Some of the most important recent consumer victories and democratic reforms have come through initiatives sponsored by grassroots citizen organizations. For example:

In 1984, voters created the Citizens' Utility Board to advocate for the public interest in utility service and pricing.

In 1986, consumer and small business groups sponsored a successful initiative preventing telephone customers from being charged by the minute for local calls.

In 1994, Oregon voters overwhelmingly passed the Campaign Finance Reform Initiative to get big money out of politics.

Each of these victories came after the Legislature failed or refused to act. The influence of powerful special interests often keeps our elected representatives from enacting measures that promote the public interest.

Now some of these big-money interests want to further increase their dominance of the political process by making it harder for citizens to use the initiative.

Right now, OSPIRG is collecting signatures on an initiative that would expand Oregon's landmark bottle bill to reduce litter and increase recycling in our state. Resorting to the initiative is only necessary because the Legislature has bowed to the wishes of big campaign contributors and refused to act. But despite overwhelming popular support, this effort would be too costly for OSPIRG and other grassroots groups under the restrictions imposed by Measure 24.

The initiative is a precious instrument of democracy, owned and operated by the people. Let's keep it that way. Don't turn it over to the special interests.

SAVE YOUR INITIATIVE PROCESS. VOTE NO ON MEASURE 24.

(This information furnished by Randy Tucker, OSPIRG Citizen Lobby; George Starr, Oregon Consumer League; Walter F. Brown, United Consumers of Oregon; Bob Jenks, Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon.)

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Measure No. 24

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM INDEX

The year the Oregon Legislature first proposed a constitutional amendment creating the initiative and referendum process: **1899**

The year the people of Oregon approved a constitutional amendment creating the initiative and referendum process: **1902**

Number of state initiatives that petitioners have placed on the ballot between 1902 and 1994: **272**

Number of those initiatives voted into law: **95**

Number of referenda that petitioners have placed on the ballot between 1902 and 1994: **60**

Number of those referenda voted into law: **24**

Number of measures referred by the Legislature between 1902 and 1994: **352**

Number of measures referred by the Legislature voted into law: **199**

The year the greatest number of measures (**37**) was on the ballot: **1912**

Number of measures that were on the ballot in 1994: **19**

Number of Congressional Districts from which an equal percentage of required signatures would have to be gathered under Measure 24 before an initiative could make the ballot: **5**

The only initiative in 1994 that would have come close to making the ballot under Measure 24: **Ballot Measure 18 (Bans hunting bear and cougar with dogs.)**

The number of Congressional Districts required to invalidate an initiative under Measure 24: **1**

Number of big utilities and large corporations supporting Measure 24: **7**

Boise Cascade, First Interstate Bank, Georgia Pacific Corporation, Northwest Natural Gas, Portland General Electric, U.S. Bank, US West Communications

The year the **U.S. Supreme Court** ruled that paid petitioning is prohibited by the U.S. Constitution and cannot be prohibited by Oregon: **1982**

Numbers to call to join in protecting the people's right to the initiative and referendum:

(503) 637-3549 (503) 232-3575

**SHUT THE DOOR ON 24
VOTE NO!**

(This information furnished by Lloyd Marbet, Coalition For Initiative Rights.)

(This space purchased for \$500 in accordance with 1993 Or. Laws 811 §11.)

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Measure No. 79

Measure No. 79

House Joint Resolution 21—Referred to the Electorate of Oregon by the 1999 Legislature to be voted on at the Primary Election, May 16, 2000.

BALLOT TITLE

79 AMENDS CONSTITUTION: INCREASES SIGNATURES REQUIRED TO PLACE INITIATIVE AMENDING CONSTITUTION ON BALLOT

RESULT OF "YES" VOTE: "Yes" vote increases number of signatures required to place initiative to amend constitution on ballot.

RESULT OF "NO" VOTE: "No" vote rejects increasing signatures required to place initiative to amend constitution on ballot.

SUMMARY: Amends constitution. Currently, initiative to amend Oregon Constitution can be placed on the ballot by a petition signed by a number of qualified voters equal to 8 percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates at last election for Governor. Measure increases number of signatures required to place initiative to amend constitution on ballot to 12 percent of total number of votes cast for all candidates at last election for Governor. Applies to initiative submitted for vote after November 2000 election.

ESTIMATE OF FINANCIAL IMPACT: No financial effect on state government expenditures or revenues.

Counties are estimated to incur an additional \$4,300, statewide, once every two years in additional signature verification costs.

TEXT OF MEASURE

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

PARAGRAPH 1. The Constitution of the State of Oregon is amended by creating a new section 1d to be added to and made a part of Article IV, and by amending section 1, Article IV, such sections to read:

Sec. 1. (1) The legislative power of the state, except for the initiative and referendum powers reserved to the people, is vested in a Legislative Assembly, consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

(2)(a) The people reserve to themselves the initiative power, which is to propose laws and amendments to the Constitution and enact or reject them at an election independently of the Legislative Assembly.

(b) An initiative law may be proposed only by a petition signed by a number of qualified voters equal to six percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for Governor at the election at which a Governor was elected for a term of four years next preceding the filing of the petition.

(c) An initiative amendment to the Constitution may be proposed only by a petition signed by a number of qualified voters equal to [eight] 12 percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for Governor at the election at which a Governor was elected for a term of four years next preceding the filing of the petition.

(d) An initiative petition shall include the full text of the proposed law or amendment to the Constitution. A proposed law or amendment to the Constitution shall embrace one subject only and matters properly connected therewith.

(e) An initiative petition shall be filed not less than four months before the election at which the proposed law or amendment to the Constitution is to be voted upon.

(3)(a) The people reserve to themselves the referendum power,

which is to approve or reject at an election any Act, or part thereof, of the Legislative Assembly that does not become effective earlier than 90 days after the end of the session at which the Act is passed.

(b) A referendum on an Act or part thereof may be ordered by a petition signed by a number of qualified voters equal to four percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for Governor at the election at which a Governor was elected for a term of four years next preceding the filing of the petition. A referendum petition shall be filed not more than 90 days after the end of the session at which the Act is passed.

(c) A referendum on an Act may be ordered by the Legislative Assembly by law. Notwithstanding section 15b, Article V of this Constitution, bills ordering a referendum and bills on which a referendum is ordered are not subject to veto by the Governor.

(4)(a) Petitions or orders for the initiative or referendum shall be filed with the Secretary of State. The Legislative Assembly shall provide by law for the manner in which the Secretary of State shall determine whether a petition contains the required number of signatures of qualified voters. The Secretary of State shall complete the verification process within the 15-day period after the last day on which the petition may be filed as provided in paragraph (e) of subsection (2) or paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of this section.

(b) Initiative and referendum measures shall be submitted to the people as provided in this section and by law not inconsistent therewith.

(c) All elections on initiative and referendum measures shall be held at the regular general elections, unless otherwise ordered by the Legislative Assembly.

(d) Notwithstanding section 1, Article XVII of this Constitution, an initiative or referendum measure becomes effective 30 days after the day on which it is enacted or approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon. A referendum ordered by petition on a part of an Act does not delay the remainder of the Act from becoming effective.

(5) The initiative and referendum powers reserved to the people by subsections (2) and (3) of this section are further reserved to the qualified voters of each municipality and district as to all local, special and municipal legislation of every character in or for their municipality or district. The manner of exercising those powers shall be provided by general laws, but cities may provide the manner of exercising those powers as to their municipal legislation. In a city, not more than 15 percent of the qualified voters may be required to propose legislation by the initiative, and not more than 10 percent of the qualified voters may be required to order a referendum on legislation.

(6) Making Signature Gatherers Be Registered Oregon Voters. A person gathering signatures on an initiative or referendum petition shall be registered to vote in this state in the manner provided by law.

SECTION 1d. (1) The amendment to section 1 of this Article by House Joint Resolution 21 (1999) does not apply to any initiative petition that, if filed with the Secretary of State with the required number of signatures of qualified voters, will be submitted to the people at the general election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2000.

(2) The amendment to section 1 of this Article by House Joint Resolution 21 (1999) does apply to any initiative petition that, if filed with the Secretary of State with the required number of signatures of qualified voters, will be submitted to the people at a general election occurring after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2000, regardless of when the prospective petition for the initiative petition is filed.

(3) This section is repealed December 31, 2002.

PARAGRAPH 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution shall be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection at a special election held throughout this state on the same date as the next biennial primary election.

NOTE: Boldfaced type indicates new language; [brackets and italic] type indicates deletions or comments.

Measure No. 79

Measure No. 79

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

In 1999 the Oregon Legislature placed this measure on the ballot. It is supported by an unholy alliance of big business, big labor and elitists of both political parties. Measure 79 would turn our Clock back to before 1902 when the People adopted a constitutional amendment allowing the People to initiate constitutional and legislative changes. This People's right has worked well. There is no need for this radical change that would increase the signature requirements for initiated constitutional amendments by 50%.

With our present right to amend the constitution and to change laws Oregonians have done wonderful things. We preserved the right to refer all tax measures, adopted our first corrupt election practices act and the right to recall public officials, and gave women the right to vote. Under the change proposed by this measure those great victories would have been unlikely.

Initiating a constitutional amendment has become increasingly expensive. With rare exceptions only wealthy persons, big corporations or large labor organizations can provide the money for obtaining the signatures. This change would make it almost impossible for a citizen's group to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot. It would be no problem for the wealthy!

During the past 20 years some radical changes have been made to our constitution, all sponsored by wealthy special interests, including property tax measures 5 and 47 which have had a disastrous impact on our public school finance systems, including our community colleges.

Notwithstanding the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision allowing states to limit campaign contributions to candidates, an Oregon Supreme Court constitutional interpretation prohibits such a limitation. It would not be possible in Oregon unless we amend our constitution.

This measure would make it almost impossible to change those provisions.

Sincerely, Vern Cook, former State Senator and candidate for election to the State Senate, District 28. Contact me at (503)665-8143, FAX 665-8145, E-Mail cookv@teleport.com and see Web Page at www.verncooklaw.com with your support.

(This information furnished by Vern Cook.)

(This space purchased for \$500 in accordance with ORS 251.255.)

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ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

RALPH NADER'S STATEMENT OPPOSING MEASURE 79

Measure 79 is a naked power grab by the Legislature and the corporate vested interests which have historically dominated it. The power they seek for themselves has been reserved by and for the people for nearly a century.

In 1902, the people of Oregon rose up against their domination by the railroads, banks, and big corporations. The people created for themselves the power of the initiative in order to bypass a legislature corrupted by vested interests.

The legislature has long coveted this power that the people reserved for themselves, and has considered many restrictions on initiative power, each designed to tip the balance of power away from the people and toward the legislature. In 1996, the legislature proposed Measure 24, which would have enhanced legislative power at the expense of citizens and communities. Special interests funded a lavish campaign for Measure 24, but voters wisely – and overwhelmingly – rejected it.

Measure 79 is yet another attempt to expand legislative power by crippling the citizens' initiative rights. Measure 79 would increase the number of signatures required for a constitutional amendment by 50 percent. This would have a devastating impact on the power of ordinary citizens and grassroots groups, yet those with big bankrolls could still employ paid petitioners to get on the ballot. With the threat of constitutional amendments diminished, the legislature would feel more free to amend or overrule statutory initiatives that had been passed by vote of the people.

Oregonians nearly one hundred years ago reclaimed political power for themselves. The real agenda of those promoting Measure 79 is to deceive the people into restricting those political rights that their great grandparents struggled so hard to secure for them.

No on 79!

(This information furnished by Ralph Nader.)

(This space purchased for \$500 in accordance with ORS 251.255.)

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Measure No. 79

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

The Coalition for Initiative Rights urges "NO" on 79

The Coalition for Initiative Rights is composed of groups and individuals of the right, left, and center who are united in their determination to defend the citizens' right to the initiative process that Oregonians created nearly 100 years ago.

There are two kinds of initiatives: statutory and constitutional. If a statutory initiative is passed, the legislature can change it. Constitutional initiatives cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

Measure 79 would increase by **50 percent** the number of signatures required to put a constitutional initiative on the ballot.

The legislature has shown its contempt for the will of the people by avoiding or overturning measures passed by the people. When the people voted for assisted suicide, the legislature put the measure back on the ballot for a new vote. When the people voted to prevent utilities from requiring ratepayers to pay for abandoned nuclear plants, the legislature passed a law requiring ratepayers to pay for profit on the abandoned Trojan plant until 2011.

If Measure 79 should pass, there would be no effective check on the power of the legislature, and those with the resources to buy legislative power will have us at their mercy.

If Measure 79 should pass, those voluntary efforts and grass-roots groups which should be the heart of the initiative system will wither away, and the initiative process will become the reserve of those big corporations and wealthy individuals who can afford to hire paid petitioners.

The initiative system was designed to give power to ordinary people.

Measure 79 would cut the heart out of the initiative process by taking power that belongs to the people and giving it to the legislature and the powerful few who have long ruled in Salem.

NO on 79!

(This information furnished by Lloyd K. Marbet, Coalition for Initiative Rights.)

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Measure No. 79

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

DON'T BE FOOLED!

VOTE NO ON 79

A statement by Lloyd K. Marbet

During the last legislative session, when Legislators were busy creating 79, they were also forcing ratepayers to pay hundreds of millions of dollars in profit to PGE/Enron for abandoning Trojan. The Legislature overturned Ballot Measure 9, a statutory law created by initiative in 1978, that prohibited utilities from charging you for something that you didn't build, you didn't break, and doesn't work

**Did the Legislature ask if you wanted to pay for Trojan: NO!
Did they ask if you wanted to change your law: NO!**

**This is why Oregonians turn to their Constitution
when they sponsor initiatives.**

IT FORCES THE LEGISLATURE TO ASK YOU FIRST!

In 1996, the City Club of Portland considered the impact of increasing signature requirements to amend Oregon's Constitution. They found:

Such changes would simply increase the power and advantage of individuals or interests with money compared with individuals or interests with less or no resources.

Measure 79 turns our Constitution over to big monied interests! IT STOPS YOU FROM AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION BUT IT DOESN'T STOP THEM! Corporations and rich people will have no problem circulating constitutional initiatives!

If the Legislature had respect for the will of the people, and were willing to address our concerns, we wouldn't need an initiative process! If the Legislature had respect for the legislative powers of the people, it would refer substantive changes to initiative laws back to a vote of the people. This would reduce the need for Oregonian's to amend their Constitution. In the words of Thomas Jefferson:

I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but inform their discretion.

VOTE NO on 79

Phone: 503-637-6130

Email: marbet@mail.com

(This information furnished by Lloyd K. Marbet.)

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Measure No. 79

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

VOTE NO ON 79

IT DOESN'T EVEN ADDRESS THE REAL PROBLEM!

The proponents of 79 want to raise **by 50%** the number of signatures needed to qualify a constitutional initiative for the ballot. They think there are too many initiatives being filed to amend your Constitution.

Why do Oregonians choose to amend their Constitution rather than file a statutory initiative? Sadly a constitutional initiative stands a better chance of preventing the legislature from tinkering with it. Take the example of Ballot Measure 9 which was passed into law in 1978. Ballot Measure 9 put limitations on what private utilities could charge ratepayers for in their rate base; **such as preventing PGE/Enron from charging a profit on dead nuclear plants.**

In 1999, the Legislature passed House Bill 3220 which overturned Ballot Measure 9. If Ballot Measure 9 had been drafted as a constitutional amendment, rather than a statutory law, the Legislature would have had to refer House Bill 3220 to a vote of the people. Since Measure 9 was a statutory law, the Legislature didn't bother to ask you if you wanted to change it, even though in 1978, Measure 9 was passed by an overwhelming margin of 2 to 1.

Stop the Legislature from overturning the will of the people!

If the Legislature was required to seek voter approval of changes to statutory laws passed by initiative, the number of constitutional initiatives would drop dramatically.

BUT DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH

You can bet the Legislature won't restrict itself!

VOTE NO ON 79!

"I believe there are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations."

President James Madison

(This information furnished by Andrew V. Reid.)

(This space purchased for \$500 in accordance with ORS 251.255.)

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Measure No. 79

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

THE LEGISLATURE ONLY WANTS YOU TO PASS LAWS THAT THEY CAN CHANGE.

Those pesky voters! They keep trying to control their own destinies. They keep trying to make their own decisions about which direction their state will go. When will they shut up and let us politicians make all the decisions?

Sound arrogant? Sure does. But apparently, that's what a lot of politicians in Salem think. They see too much self-government going on in Oregon and they don't like it.

The amazing thing about the legislature's attitude toward initiatives is that they are patting us voters on the back and insulting us at the same time. Apparently, when we vote on ballot measures we are the ignorant masses, incapable of making intelligent decisions regarding matters of public policy. But when we come to the part of the ballot where we choose which politicians will make all those decisions for us, suddenly we are astute voters who make wise decisions.

Truth is, the politicians in Salem consider the initiative process a threat to their power, which was what it was intended to be; a way of reminding the state legislature that we the people are the ones who gave them their power; and that we have the right to limit that power when we see fit.

Why did the legislature place Measure 79 on the ballot? Because they want voters to place statutory measures on the ballot; not constitutional amendments. Why? Because the legislature can change voter approved statutory laws, if they don't like them.

When we pass a statutory measure, the legislature has a choice. They can accept the law. They can change it. Or they can throw it out.

However, the legislature cannot change a voter approved constitutional law. They have to accept the will of the voters.

Please, don't weaken the only tool we voters have to keep the legislature in line. Preserve Oregon's initiative process. Vote "No" on Measure 79.

(This information furnished by Bill Sizemore, Executive Director, Oregon Taxpayers United.)

(This space purchased for \$500 in accordance with ORS 251.255.)

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Measure No. 79

Measure No. 79

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

This measure takes away your rights and gives them to special interests

This measure won't stop wealthy special interests from using the initiative process, but it will guarantee that they're the only ones who can. If this measure passes it will increase the cost of putting a measure on the ballot from about \$125,000 to \$200,000. This isn't a big problem for the wealthy special interests who back some initiative campaigns.

But it would be a very big problem for everyday people. People who brought us things like vote by mail.

The initiative process is for the people, not wealthy special interests – that's why special interest groups want you to vote for this measure.

The whole point of the initiative process is that it grants everyday people the power to be full participants in our government - to bring our ideas before the public for debate and a vote. Oregonians have traditionally prized the people's initiative process as a way to accomplish important things that we believe in.

But if we pass this measure, it will increase by 50% the number of signatures needed for everyday people to put their ideas on the ballot. That means increasing the cost by 50% - or even more!

It is already nearly impossible for average Oregonians to put a measure on the ballot. This measure will make it even more difficult for average citizens, but will do little to slow down the special interest groups from pushing their agenda. Imagine if you wanted to put your idea before the voters and you had to come up with an extra \$75,000 beyond what you would have to pay currently. This would be the death knell for most citizen campaigns.

And who would be left? The wealthy special interests. Should they be the only ones allowed to use our initiative process?

Please vote NO on 79.

(This information furnished by Dave Hunnicutt, Oregonians in Action PAC.)

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ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

MEASURE 79 DOES NOT PROTECT THE OREGON CONSTITUTION

The political establishment will try to persuade you that the state legislature only placed Measure 79 on the ballot to protect the sanctity of the Oregon Constitution.

They want voters to believe that we need to protect that "sacred document" from all those special interest groups who are cluttering our constitution with ordinary laws.

However, the idea that state constitutions are sacred documents that should only contain basic principles regarding the structure of government and the basic rights of citizens is groundless. Numerous national studies have found that most state's use their constitutions to enshrine ordinary laws that they simply do not want the state legislature to change.

Oregon's constitution is no different. Want to limit the growth of property taxes or income taxes? You had better place the limit in the constitution or the politicians will ignore it. Want to limit the number of terms legislators can serve and keep the legislature a citizen legislature? Better place the limits in the constitution, or legislators will ignore it.

Why? The state legislature can change any statutory law they want; voter-approved or not. But they can't change laws that are placed in the constitution. Perhaps that's the real reason why the legislature wants to make it much more difficult to place constitutional amendments on the ballot.

Indeed, there is a sacred political document that we should protect; that we should not amend lightly: That document is the U.S. Constitution, the one document that enshrines the basic rights of all Americans. Everything in the Oregon Constitution is subject to the U.S. Constitution. Compared to the U.S. Constitution, the Oregon Constitution is merely "state law."

Frankly, it is hypocritical to claim that Measure 79 is an attempt to preserve the Oregon Constitution. It is not. It is merely an attempt by the state legislature to weaken the initiative process, because that process is a threat to their power.

(This information furnished by Becky Miller, Oregon Taxpayers United.)

(This space purchased for \$500 in accordance with ORS 251.255.)

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Measure No. 79

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Large corporations and special interest groups can control the legislature but they can't control the voters. The initiative system is a threat to their power. That is why they have pressured the legislature to put this measure on the ballot.

It didn't take much arm twisting though. After all, the politicians in Salem view the initiative system as a threat to their power too. **And isn't power what this measure is really all about?**

All this measure will do is prevent the everyday citizen from putting an initiative on the ballot by making it more expensive. So you may have one or two less initiatives on the ballot, but the ones you do have will be paid for by many of the same big corporations and special interest groups that want you to pass this measure. **More Power!**

You and I can't hire some high powered lobbyist to go to Salem and twist arms. That is why we have the initiative system. Do you really want to lose that?

The backers of this measure will tell you that it will prevent the huge number of initiatives cluttering up the ballot (**most of which were put there by the legislature and won't be affected by this measure**). They will try to convince you that you don't like voting on all these issues.

But let's be honest with ourselves. Oregonians like having a say on important issues. Oregon's initiative system works and it works well.

Let's send a message to the power-hungry bureaucrats and lobbyists in Salem. **Tell them to keep their hands off our initiative system! VOTE NO on Measure 79!**

(This information furnished by Adam Mayer, State Chairman, Libertarian Party of Oregon.)

(This space purchased for \$500 in accordance with ORS 251.255.)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by the State of Oregon, nor does the state warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the argument.

Measure No. 79

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

PLEASE, NO MORE PETITIONERS!

I'm voting against this measure for one reason: I'm sick of being accosted by paid petition circulators everywhere I go.

It's bad enough that we have to deal with these mercenaries for a few months every two years. But if Measure 79 passes, we may have to put up with them year round!

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that we can't prohibit paid petitioners, and we cannot even require that they be registered voters. So now we have paid petitioners coming to Oregon from California, Alabama, Illinois, and everywhere else under the sun. Enough, already.

I don't want Oregon to be the best employment opportunity in the country for these people, so why would I support increasing the number of signatures that have to be gathered to place a measure on the ballot? The number is high enough already. Already, eighty percent of the initiatives never make it to the ballot in spite of the army of paid petitioners out there tugging at our pant legs every time we go to the grocery store.

Measure 79 requires 50% more signatures to get a measure on the ballot. If it passes, petition drives will have to start a lot sooner, and we will have many more months of petitioners hanging out in front of grocery stores and post offices, and on every other street corner, just waiting for some hapless shopper to accidentally make eye contact.

No thanks. There are enough paid petitioners already. That's why I'm voting NO on Measure 79.

(This information furnished by Leesa Beaudoin.)

(This space purchased for \$500 in accordance with ORS 251.255.)

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Measure No. 79

Measure No. 79

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

They're back with another sucker-bet. Again, our legislators are hoping we'll be dumb enough to shoot ourselves in our collective feet! They've put another measure on the ballot to crimp our initiative process. This time it's Measure 79.

These fine lawmakers say Measure 79 is necessary because too many measures will "clutter" the Constitution. But the fact is, since the beginning of our initiative process in the early 1900's, virtually all the "clutter" in the Constitution has been put there by legislative referral, not by the initiative!

Last November, these same legislators who don't think we're smart enough to vote on citizen initiatives, put **9 constitutional amendments** on the ballot. All **7 measures** on this ballot have been put there by the Legislature and there will be **8 more of their amendments** this November! So . . . we're smart enough to vote for all **their** stuff, but not smart enough to vote for **our** stuff!

Here's the real reason they want to make it a lot harder for people to exercise their constitutional right to the initiative: it's not really how many initiatives there are, **it's what's in the initiatives that bugs them.**

They know that the initiative and referendum . . . which is one of our greatest constitutional rights . . . is the biggest obstacle to foolish and expanding government. They know that, and they hate it.

Vote NO on 79 ... BIG TIME!

(This information furnished by Don McIntire, President, Executive Club, Gresham.)

(This space purchased for \$500 in accordance with ORS 251.255.)

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ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

It takes a lot of money and time to become a major player around the legislature.

Lobbyists for the big unions and the major chemical and timber industries (people like Paulette Pyle and Craig Hanneman) are there year after year making sure the "right" people get elected, the "right" information gets provided and the "right" issues get legislative attention.

Imagine, after they've spent all that time and money guiding their concerns through the process and getting the results they wanted, how frustrated they must be when a citizen's initiative comes along and says they can't negotiate that sweetheart deal with the state or that voters demand their taxes be lowered.

Their answer? Make it 50% harder for the people to initiate constitutional amendments. That way, all their time, effort and money spent making friends with the lawmakers won't go to waste.

This measure has been promoted behind the scenes and put on the ballot by lobbyists who think they "can control the legislature, but they can't control the people!"

Vote NO on 79!

(This information furnished by Greg Wasson, Committee for Petition Rights (CPR).)

(This space purchased for \$500 in accordance with ORS 251.255.)

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Measure No. 79

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Measure 79 would increase by 45,000 the number of signatures required on an initiative, raising it to 134,000 for any measure to amend the constitution.

The Legislature put this measure on this ballot to increase its own power and the power of the special interests that run the place with their campaign contributions and lobbying. Legislators get huge campaign contributions and "gifts" from the big utilities and corporations who want special treatment, and they get it.

If the big money boys win on Measure 79, they will try more schemes to destroy democracy in Oregon. They will have more power than ever before:

- power to raise your phone bills
- power to increase your electricity and gas rates
- power to ruin the forests
- power to pollute the air and water
- power to raise your taxes, while cutting their own

Every measure on this statewide ballot was created by the Legislature, not by the initiative. The 1999 Legislature put 21 of its own measures on this ballot and on the November 2000 ballot, without collecting even one signature. So far, not a single initiative has qualified for the ballot this year, because it is hard to get enough signatures unless you pay for them.

Making supporters collect 45,000 more signatures will be no problem for the big money corporations and utilities. They will just buy more signatures. It will hurt only the grass-roots efforts by groups that are not funded by special interests.

The people cannot rely only on initiatives that adopt statutes. Because the courts and the Legislature routinely invalidate statutory initiatives. The 1999 Legislature, for example, nullified Measure 9 of 1978 (prohibiting charging ratepayers for dead power plants) in order to allow PGE to charge an additional \$304 million to ratepayers for the nuclear broken hulk of Trojan. In 1997, the Oregon Supreme Court in 1997 nullified Measure 9 of 1994 (campaign finance reform).

VOTE NO

(This information furnished by Dan Meek, Voters Net (www.voters.net).)

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