



Taxpayers Association of Oregon

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Vote No on SJR 30

Do not shut down Oregon's right to petition!

Oregon's initiative petition rights have stood for over 120 years. They historically passed ideas that were popular with the public but unpopular with politicians such as civil rights and women's right to vote.

The initiative petition process brought us some of Oregon best achievements – such as limits to property taxes and protecting the people's Kicker Refund. The initiative petition even saved lives as voters enacted several tough-on-crime measures for violent criminals -- something politicians refused to do. Voters had to take matters in their own hands to remove murderers and rapists from their neighborhoods.

Now, the same politician class who did not want to give voters civil rights, voter rights, the Kicker, property tax protections or even keep violent criminals behind bars wishes to shut down the entire process with SJR 30. This bill explodes signature requirements by over 30% which alone will doom most future petition efforts. The bill creates a new voter scheme which mandates 6 district origin of signatures rules which only serves to void thousands of legal signatures. Inventing new ways to void legal signatures is a cruel anti-democratic and anti-voter tactic. SJR 30's idea of raising signature requirements while eliminating legal signatures over arbitrary district regulations will make it nearly impossible for ordinary grassroots citizen efforts to succeed and leave the petition process only open for the super-rich lobby efforts that have a spare two million dollars.

Power belongs to the people. We should not abolish our right to petition through death-by-regulation because some politicians are upset that voters are not behaving properly.

Furthermore, in about the last 10 years we have seen historic transparency/cover-up scandals among our leaders. We have seen our Governor and Secretary of State resign over corruption – something we have never seen before. Our two most recent Governors have been rated as the least popular Governors in America (Morning Consult polls). The politicians answer to these problems of historic proportions is to blame voters and shut down their ability to speak their mind.

No way. No on SJR 30.