



March 29th, 2025

TO: Senate Committee on Rules
FROM: Oregon League of Conservation Voters
SUBJECT: Oppose SJR 30

Dear Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

My Name is Britney VanCitters, and I am the Political & Organizing Director at the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Joint Resolution 30 (SJR 30), which proposes amendments to the Oregon Constitution that would impose stricter signature requirements for initiative petitions. I believe this resolution threatens the democratic principles that empower Oregonians to participate directly in the legislative process.

SJR 30 seeks to amend the Oregon Constitution to require that initiative petitions for proposed laws be signed by at least eight percent, and those for constitutional amendments by at least ten percent, of the total votes cast for all candidates for Governor in the most recent gubernatorial election. Additionally, it mandates that these signatures be evenly distributed among all congressional districts in the state.

Concerns Regarding SJR 30

1. **Increased Barriers to Citizen Initiatives:** The proposed increase in signature thresholds and the requirement for equal distribution across congressional districts would make it significantly more challenging for grassroots movements to qualify initiatives for the ballot. This disproportionately affects citizens in densely populated areas and undermines the ability of Oregonians to bring forth issues of statewide concern.
2. **Erosion of Direct Democracy:** Oregon has a proud tradition of direct democracy, allowing citizens to propose and vote on legislation independently of the Legislative Assembly. By imposing more stringent requirements, SJR 30 diminishes this tradition and centralizes legislative power, reducing the public's ability to effect change through the initiative process.
3. **Potential Disenfranchisement:** The equal distribution mandate does not account for the varying populations of congressional districts, potentially giving disproportionate influence to less populated areas and diluting the

voices of voters in more populous regions. This could lead to an imbalance in representation and disenfranchise segments of the electorate.

SJR 30 poses a significant threat to the participatory rights of Oregonians by making the initiative process more cumbersome and less accessible. Such changes would stifle citizen engagement and hinder the ability of the public to address pressing issues through direct legislative action. I urge you to oppose SJR 30 and uphold Oregon's commitment to a vibrant and inclusive democratic process.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "B. VanCitters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Britney" and last name "VanCitters" clearly legible.

Britney VanCitters
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Oregon League of Conservation Voters
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