

Submitter:

Victoria Gonzalez

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SJR30

OPPOSITION TO SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 30 AND ATTACKS ON PETITION RIGHTS

I, the undersigned, strongly oppose Senate Joint Resolution 30 (SJR 30), which seeks to radically increase signature requirements and impose artificial geographic restrictions on the initiative petition process. This proposal is an unjustified and unnecessary restriction on the people's right to petition their government, as protected under the Oregon and U.S. Constitutions.

1. SJR 30 Radically Increases Signature Requirements

SJR 30 makes it significantly harder for citizens to put measures on the ballot by increasing signature requirements by 25% for law changes and 33% for constitutional amendments. These extreme increases place an unnecessary burden on voters, making the petition process even more difficult and costly.

2. Geographic Restrictions Will Void Thousands of Legitimate Signatures

SJR 30 introduces a new mandate that requires petition signatures to come equally from six Oregon districts. This arbitrary rule will void thousands of legitimate signatures simply because they originate from a so-called "surplus" location. The result? Higher costs, increased difficulty, and further suppression of citizen-led initiatives.

3. Citizens Are Already Blocked From the Ballot – SJR 30 Makes It Worse

Politicians have already made it nearly impossible for ordinary Oregonians to put measures on the ballot. In many cases, the initiative process requires close to a million dollars just to qualify. By adding two more extreme burdens—higher signature requirements and district-based quotas—SJR 30 will effectively shut down petition efforts, leaving only wealthy lobbyists and politicians with access to direct democracy. Citizens like you And I will be silenced.

4. The Petition Process Has Led to Major Voter Wins

The initiative process has been instrumental in securing critical victories for Oregon voters. Without citizen petitions:

- You wouldn't have a Kicker Tax Refund, which was put into the Constitution by voters to stop politicians from spending surplus tax dollars.
- Property taxes wouldn't have been cut by 40% (Measure 5 in 1990), a reform that protected homeowners from skyrocketing tax rates.
- Tough-on-crime measures that locked up murderers and rapists wouldn't exist, as

politicians were too afraid to pass them.

Conclusion

SJR 30 is a direct assault on the people's ability to hold their government accountable. It erects barriers that benefit wealthy elites and career politicians while silencing everyday citizens. I urge all Oregon voters, advocacy groups, and elected officials to reject this blatant attack on petition rights and preserve the integrity of the initiative process.

SIGNATURE:

s/Victoria Gonzalez

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One of The PEOPLE of OREGON

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