

Submitter: Andrew Hall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR30

Testimony Opposing Oregon 2025 SJR 30

Submitted April 3, 2025 I oppose SJR 30, which raises signature requirements for ballot initiatives by 25% for statutory measures and 33% for constitutional amendments, while mandating equal distribution across six districts. This bill threatens Oregon's budget stability by stifling voter-led fiscal reforms and entrenching legislative spending unchecked. Oregon's 2025-27 budget faces uncertainty—\$38 billion is proposed, but federal cuts loom, and costs for schools, housing, and health care are rising. Initiatives have historically balanced this, like 1990's Measure 5, capping property taxes, or 2000's Measure 7, pushing compensation for regulatory takings. SJR 30's higher thresholds—7.5% and 10.67% of gubernatorial votes—plus geographic quotas, spike petition costs (already near \$1 million) beyond what grassroots groups can afford. This kills citizen-driven budget fixes, leaving taxpayers at the mercy of a legislature that's increased spending 40% since 2015, per Oregon's Legislative Fiscal Office. The distribution rule worsens this. Rural districts, with fewer voters, become choke points, voiding urban signatures if quotas are met elsewhere. This doesn't save money—it wastes it, forcing campaigns to overspend on redundant collection. Meanwhile, lawmakers dodge accountability, as seen with the \$1.8 billion kicker rebate in 2026, which SJR 30 ensures can't be redirected by voters to fund schools or roads. SJR 30 doesn't protect the budget; it shields a spend-happy status quo. Oregonians need initiative power to curb waste—like the \$300 million annual corporate tax breaks—and address underfunded priorities. Reject SJR 30 to keep fiscal control with the people, not a legislature that's already overpromised our dollars.