

THINK BEFORE YOU INK!

- 1 Your signature is valuable.
- 2 Consider all 6 questions inside
- 3 Help us spread the word!



JOIN US

Create lasting change in your community with LWV.

MISSION:

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

HISTORY:

Established in 1920, the League is one of the nation's most respected grassroots organizations. We study issues from multiple perspectives and advocate for the common good of our communities, state and nation.

Membership is open to men and women.



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Consider carefully before you sign a petition!

www.VoteOregon.org



YOUR SIGNATURE IS VALUABLE



WHAT IS AN INITIATIVE PETITION

An initiative petition generates a ballot measure, if it collects enough certified signatures. If the ballot measure passes by a majority vote, it will have the force of law. A petition consists of the complete proposed text, cover and signature sheets. It should include the chief petition sponsor's name & residence on the cover sheet. It also has written approval from the filing officer. To be placed on ballots, it must collect a large number of registered voters' signatures. Volunteers use white signature sheets; paid gatherers use colored paper.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon encourages all Oregonians to be alert when asked to sign initiative petitions.

Beware when a petitioner asks you to sign "Just so it can get on the ballot for voting"

Your signature is valuable, more valuable than your vote, considering that fewer signatures are required to approve petitions than ballot measures. Only sign an initiative petition that you believe should become law.



Here are six questions to help you make up your mind about an initiative petition:

- 1 Is it *complex*?**
Some decisions can be simple yes or no votes. Complex issues may need thorough legislative examination.
- 2 Is it *confusing*?**
Some initiatives aren't well-written. They may have conflicts requiring court interpretation or resolution.
- 3 Does it *belong* in our Constitution?**
Initiatives can be local, statutory, or constitutional. Should this become a fundamental, constitutional law, protected from change? Further correction, by constitutional amendment, can be cumbersome and costly, requiring another vote of the people.
- 4 How will it be funded?**
Is this an "unfunded mandate"? Would it force our Legislature to pull funds from other essential programs? Consider how this would limit government budget flexibility. Initiatives should create their own revenue sources- not earmark, restrict or obligate a specific percentage of the General Fund.

- 5 Who is behind it?**
Chief petitioners must file campaign finance transactions under the initiative's petition committee, which must be opened by the Elections Division before the filing officer approves petition circulation. You can find out who the other real sponsors and opponents are, after petitions are certified as ballot measures and assigned numbers. Chief petitioners do not need to be citizens or even Oregon residents.

Get C&E (Contribution & Expense) reports from the Oregon Elections Division at: www.sos.state.or.us/elections/, 503.986.1518

- 6 Before signing, ask for ID.**
Paid (not volunteer) signature gatherers are now required to carry badges (ID # & photo) issued by the Secretary of State. They aren't required to wear or show ID, unless you ask as the SoS, BoLI, or AG. But refusal should lead you to refuse to sign. If a case of fraud arises, you will have info that could help authorities.

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LWV League of Women Voters®
of Oregon Education Fund

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