TO SIGN OR NOT TO SIGN?

IS IT TOO COMPLEX?
Some decisions may be simple yes or no votes. Other decisions will affect many areas of government. Make sure you understand the implications and consequences if this petition becomes law.

IS IT CLEAR?
Some proposals aren’t well-written. They may have conflicts requiring court interpretations or resolutions.

DOES IT BELONG IN THE CONSTITUTION?
Is it a fundamental law that should be protected? Changes or mistakes would require another (costly) election for a constitutional amendment.

IS IT AN "UNFUNDED MANDATE"?
Would the Legislature need to pull funds from other essential programs? Initiatives should generally not earmark, restrict, or obligate specific General Fund revenue percentages.

BEFORE YOU SIGN ASK TO SEE ID.
Paid gatherers must carry photo ID issued by the Secretary of State. State law requires them to show ID to certain officials, but not to voters. If they don’t, voters can reasonably wonder why. Numerous instances of fraud could have been avoided by insisting on seeing ID. If fraud is found, your information could help.

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.

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League of Women Voters® of Oregon

Read this before you sign a petition!

League of Women Voters® of Oregon
www.lwvor.org/VOTEResources
YOUR SIGNATURE IS VALUABLE

ONLY SIGN PETITIONS YOU SUPPORT!
Similar to primary versus general election votes, your vote has proportionately more impact on petitions. Never sign a petition “just to get it on the ballot so people can vote on it.”

HOW MANY SIGNATURES ARE NEEDED?
For statewide issues, this is defined by how many voted in the last Governor’s race when a governor was elected for a full term. Petition signatures are “certified” by comparing with those on file in the Oregon Certified Voter Registration (OCVR) database. Invalid or duplicate signatures are not counted.

TO PASS A BALLOT MEASURE:
50% + 1 (majority of votes casted)

TO PUT MEASURES ON BALLOTS:
8% (for constitutional amendments)
6% (for initiatives)
4% (for veto referenda)

Note: petitions may be for local issues.

WHAT ARE PETITIONS?
Petitions can send decisions to ballots as ballot measures, if enough certified signatures are collected.

INITIATIVE
Registered voters can put issues on ballots to change laws, Oregon Revised Statutes, or to amend the Oregon State Constitution.

REFERRAL
The Legislature can refer an undecided issue or a bill they passed to voters for approval. Any bills that amend the Oregon Constitution must be referred to voters and do not need petitions.

REFERENDUM
Registered voters can try to reject (veto) bills passed by the Legislature by placing a referendum on the ballot. These referenda aren’t subject to veto from the Governor.

LOOK UP WHO IS BEHIND IT
Chief Petitioners are listed on the Oregon Secretary of State Initiative, Referendum, and Referral Search page: http://egov.sos.state.or.us/elec/web_irr_search_search_form.

Chief petitioners and funders of ballot measures are not required to be Oregonians.

FOLLOW THE MONEY
See ORESTAR, the Oregon website to find organizational and financial information for ballot measure, candidate and political action (PAC) committees: https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/GotoSearchByName.do

Call the Oregon Elections Division if you have questions: 503-986-1518.

LWV League of Women Voters® of Oregon

Think before you ink!