May 20, 2019

To:    Senate Committee on Rules
       Senator Ginny Burdick, Chair

Re:    SB 761 -3 – Oppose

For nearly 100 years, the League has encouraged informed citizen participation in government, including
via the initiative process. We work to inform voters and ensure confidence in our elections by addressing
concerns of fraud. We oppose SB 761, which addresses who can print initiative petition e-signature
forms. We oppose the -3 amendment which removes availability of e-sheets for the next few years.

We appreciate the effort to protect our initiative process from fraud. According to the SoS, our Elections
Division statistically samples petition sheets, and has compared validity of multi-signature sheets used by
campaigns to the single signature e-sheets that can be accessed online. They can include slots for a roster
of signers with their names, addresses, and signatures, or be a single sheet for an individual signer. The E-
sheets were shown to have significantly greater validity rates.

We understand the intention of using printable e-sheets to allow voter access to signing petitions outside
of large population centers, to include voters in rural areas who would be less likely to have signature
gatherers, either volunteers or paid signature collectors, standing at grocery stores or public transit.

We do not agree with the theoretical fraud concern for printing a stack of e-petition sheets for distribution
and use. We would not advocate for actions in defiance of ORS or OAR for collecting signatures. We
realize that sheets may contain problematic or fraudulent signatures. This may be true for either variety of
sheet submitted. It does not seem to follow that e-sheets should be removed from circulation for the next
few years. They have been found to have greater validity than multi-signature sheets.

Concern for who prints initiative petition e-sheets could be discriminatory. It is reminiscent of poll taxes,
allowing participation by privileged voters while hampering or preventing access by others. Not everyone
has a printer, has easy access to printing, or would find the cost of printing trivial. We spoke to supporting
pre-paid ballot envelopes for younger voters who do not use stamps. Those may be some of the same
voters who would be grateful for having e-petition sheets provided for them, printed by someone else.

Speaking to the now-withdrawn bill, we oppose making printing of e-sheets a criminal activity. Speaking
to the -3 amendment, we oppose withdrawal of e-sheet availability. This comes with the understanding
that an appropriate oversight process, administered by our Elections Division, would continue.

We urge your support. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Norman Turrill    Rebecca Gladstone
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