

# Senate Joint Resolution 29

Sponsored by Senator JOHNSON; Senator VERGER, Representatives BOONE, BUTLER, JENSON

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution requiring that specified number of signatures for initiative petitions amending Constitution and for initiative petitions for proposed laws be collected in each congressional district.

Refers proposed amendment to people for their approval or rejection at special election held on same date as next primary election.

## JOINT RESOLUTION

**Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

**PARAGRAPH 1.** The Constitution of the State of Oregon is amended by creating new sections 1e and 1f to be added to and made a part of Article IV, and by amending section 1, Article IV, such sections to read:

**Sec. 1.** (1) The legislative power of the state, except for the initiative and referendum powers reserved to the people, is vested in a Legislative Assembly, consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

(2)(a) The people reserve to themselves the initiative power, which is to propose laws and amendments to the Constitution and enact or reject them at an election independently of the Legislative Assembly.

(b) An initiative law may be proposed only by a petition signed by a number of qualified voters equal to six percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for Governor at the election at which a Governor was elected for a term of four years next preceding the filing of the petition. **A number of the signatures of qualified voters required under this paragraph must be collected in each congressional district in this state. The number of signatures of qualified voters required to be collected in each congressional district shall be equal to not less than 1/X of the total number of signatures of qualified voters required under this paragraph. As used in this paragraph, "X" is equal to the number of congressional districts in this state.**

(c) An initiative amendment to the Constitution may be proposed only by a petition signed by a number of qualified voters equal to eight percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for Governor at the election at which a Governor was elected for a term of four years next preceding the filing of the petition. **A number of the signatures of qualified voters required under this paragraph must be collected in each congressional district in this state. The number of signatures of qualified voters required to be collected in each congressional district shall be equal to not less than 1/X of the total number of signatures of qualified voters required under this paragraph. As used in this paragraph, "X" is equal to the number of congressional districts in this state.**

(d) An initiative petition shall include the full text of the proposed law or amendment to the Constitution. A proposed law or amendment to the Constitution shall embrace one subject only and

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 matters properly connected therewith.

2 (e) An initiative petition shall be filed not less than four months before the election at which  
3 the proposed law or amendment to the Constitution is to be voted upon.

4 (3)(a) The people reserve to themselves the referendum power, which is to approve or reject at  
5 an election any Act, or part thereof, of the Legislative Assembly that does not become effective  
6 earlier than 90 days after the end of the session at which the Act is passed.

7 (b) A referendum on an Act or part thereof may be ordered by a petition signed by a number  
8 of qualified voters equal to four percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for  
9 Governor at the election at which a Governor was elected for a term of four years next preceding  
10 the filing of the petition. A referendum petition shall be filed not more than 90 days after the end  
11 of the session at which the Act is passed.

12 (c) A referendum on an Act may be ordered by the Legislative Assembly by law.  
13 Notwithstanding section 15b, Article V of this Constitution, bills ordering a referendum and bills  
14 on which a referendum is ordered are not subject to veto by the Governor.

15 (4)(a) Petitions or orders for the initiative or referendum shall be filed with the Secretary of  
16 State. The Legislative Assembly shall provide by law for the manner in which the Secretary of State  
17 shall determine whether a petition contains the required number of signatures of qualified voters.  
18 The Secretary of State shall complete the verification process within the 30-day period after the last  
19 day on which the petition may be filed as provided in paragraph (e) of subsection (2) or paragraph  
20 (b) of subsection (3) of this section.

21 (b) Initiative and referendum measures shall be submitted to the people as provided in this sec-  
22 tion and by law not inconsistent therewith.

23 (c) All elections on initiative and referendum measures shall be held at the regular general  
24 elections, unless otherwise ordered by the Legislative Assembly.

25 (d) Notwithstanding section 1, Article XVII of this Constitution, an initiative or referendum  
26 measure becomes effective 30 days after the day on which it is enacted or approved by a majority  
27 of the votes cast thereon. A referendum ordered by petition on a part of an Act does not delay the  
28 remainder of the Act from becoming effective.

29 (5) The initiative and referendum powers reserved to the people by subsections (2) and (3) of this  
30 section are further reserved to the qualified voters of each municipality and district as to all local,  
31 special and municipal legislation of every character in or for their municipality or district. The  
32 manner of exercising those powers shall be provided by general laws, but cities may provide the  
33 manner of exercising those powers as to their municipal legislation. In a city, not more than 15  
34 percent of the qualified voters may be required to propose legislation by the initiative, and not more  
35 than 10 percent of the qualified voters may be required to order a referendum on legislation.

36 **SECTION 1e. (1) The amendment to section 1 of this Article by Senate Joint Resolution**  
37 **29 (2007) does not apply to any initiative petition that, if filed with the Secretary of State**  
38 **with the required number of signatures of qualified voters, will be submitted to the people**  
39 **at the general election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2008.**

40 **(2) The amendment to section 1 of this Article by Senate Joint Resolution 29 (2007) ap-**  
41 **plies to any initiative petition that, if filed with the Secretary of State with the required**  
42 **number of signatures of qualified voters, will be submitted to the people at a general election**  
43 **occurring after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2008, regardless of**  
44 **when the prospective petition for the initiative petition is filed.**

45 **(3) This section is repealed December 31, 2010.**

1       **SECTION 1f. Nothing in the amendment to section 1 of this Article by Senate Joint Re-**  
2 **solution 29 (2007) is intended to affect the initiative powers granted under subsection (5) of**  
3 **section 1 of this Article, section 10, Article VI, and sections 2 and 14, Article XI of this**  
4 **Constitution.**

5

6       **PARAGRAPH 2.** **The amendment proposed by this resolution shall be submitted to the**  
7 **people for their approval or rejection at a special election held throughout this state on the**  
8 **same date as the next primary election.**

9

\_\_\_\_\_