



OREGON STATE SENATE
900 COURT ST. NE, S-417
SALEM, OR 97301

The Citizens' Initiative Review and SB 1544 Fact Sheet

The Need

- Ballot measures have a big impact: directing over \$50 million in Oregon revenue from 2000-2010 alone.
- Voters say ballot measures are too complicated (75%), and two-thirds admit to voting on measures they don't understand. Yet, 66% support the system the way it is.

History

- The Citizens' Initiative Review was developed in Oregon in 2007 to provide voters with quality, unbiased information about the measures they vote on.
- It was tested in 2008, then passed into law as a pilot program in 2009 (HB 2895).
- In 2011, HB 2634 created the Citizens' Initiative Review Commission to oversee the reviews. The CIRC was initially housed within the Oregon Health Licensing Agency.
- In 2013, the CIRC became a semi-independent state agency and a sunset was placed on the commission to ensure that this new structure was effective.
- Since then, the CIRC has set administrative rules, developed its biennial budget, contracted out administrative services to the Policy Consensus Initiative at PSU and program services to the nonprofit Healthy Democracy, and made preparations for the 2014 reviews.

The Reviews

- 24 panelists per review.
- Invitations are sent to 10,000 random registered voters. Panelists are selected from those who respond, and are balanced to match the state by: party registration, voter history, age, race, gender, geography, educational attainment.
- Panelists currently spend 5 days hearing from pro and con campaigns or surrogates, talking with neutral experts, and deliberating (SB 1544 would allow for a 3-4 day process).
- Results are published in the Voters' Guide.
- In 2010, panels examined Measure 73 (mandatory minimum sentences) and Measure 74 (medical marijuana). The majority of each panel ruled in opposition.
- In 2012, panels examined Measure 82 (non-tribal casinos) and the majority ruled in opposition, and Measure 85 (directing corporate kicker to education), with the majority in support.

Structure of Commission

- Eleven members.
- Currently four former moderators (this bill would change that to two), and four former citizen panelists (the bill would change that to six). Three members who have previously served as the fifth member of an explanatory statement committee. Of these three, the governor

