

February 20, 2018



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**Oregon Progressive Party
Position on Bill at 2018
Session of Oregon Legislature:**

SB 1510 -7 Amendment: Oppose

Dear Committee:

The Oregon Progressive Party opposes the -7 amendment, which was only posted today and is 14 pages long. This lack of notice indicates disrespect for citizens who are interested in election processes.

The -7 amendment forbids chief petitioners from collecting more than 2,000 signatures on a prospective petition that count toward the ultimate signature requirement for qualifying for the ballot. There is no reason for this change, other than merely to make the initiative process more difficult. All prospective petition signature sheets must be accompanied by the full text of the proposed measure, so such sheets are fully as protected from fraud as ordinary signature sheets (which have only the ballot title printed on the back).

We oppose the provision that bans the Secretary Of State from allowing the gathering on signatures on sheets that in fact do show the full certified ballot title approved by the Attorney General, if anyone has filed a ballot title challenge. Such challenges in the Oregon Supreme Court currently consume on average 4 months. If signature sheets cannot proceed on the basis of the certified ballot title, petitioners must completely halt signature gathering during the entire ballot title challenge period. This stymies many petitions that depend upon volunteers, not paid circulators. There is no reason for this new prohibition. The ballot titles are already fully certified by the Attorney General as accurate and unbiased. And most ballot title challenges produce either zero change in the certified ballot title or at most very small changes that would make little or no difference to any voter being asked to sign the petition. This is just another means to make the initiative process more difficult, particularly for grassroots efforts that cannot afford to hire massive teams of highly-paid circulators.

And what takes the cake is the new prohibition on a voter signing a one-signature sheet, unless that voter has personally printed a copy of the sheet. That can only be

described as ludicrous. It bans a voter from signing a one-signature sheet, if that person is given the sheet by someone else or receives it in the mail. How can that be a problem? There is utterly no justification for this new prohibition, and the Legislature should rest assured that it will be challenged in court.

Oregon Progressive Party

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