

Alliance for Democracy, Portland
818 SW 3rd Ave., PMB # 356 - Portland, OR 97204

Alliance for Democracy has been working on various aspects of campaign finance reform for the past 20 years. We have collected thousands of signatures on petitions. We have actively campaigned for the initiatives when they do make the ballot, most recently Measure 107.

For the past 10 years we have been tabling at various street fairs and other community gatherings, mostly in the Portland area. Each time we talk to a few hundred people in only a few hours.

The comment we hear most frequently is “I been signing petitions for this for YEARS. When are they going to actually DO something about it? Why can’t we just get this done & move on to something else?”

Voters understand the problems created by big money funding campaigns. They feel that nothing has been done; that they are not being taken seriously. They are frustrated.

When given the chance, voters pass CFR measures by high margins: the recent City of Portland and Multnomah County measures passed by 85-90% each. Measure 107 passed by 78%. It won every county in the state, by no less than 60% in each. It won at the precinct level. The data I found online is incomplete, most notably missing the breakdown for Clackamas County. However in what I did find, only 8 precincts voted it down.

Voters are very excited about these measures and they are expecting real change. They won’t be happy with any law that doesn’t have serious limits on donations, on independent expenditures or that doesn’t require true & clear disclosure. Any bill that contains loopholes or that is only just “window dressing” will leave voters feeling betrayed, angry & frustrated.

Thank you,

Joan Horton