



Testimony in opposition to SB368

Senate Rules Committee

February 11, 2019

Chair Burdick and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nancy Ward and I am a board member of ORCRN. I **oppose SB 368** which would impose a separate vote requirement for county charter amendments and would require the review prior to starting the signature gathering process.

I oppose this change for a number of reasons, including:

1. A separate vote requirement is unconstitutional.
2. County Clerks do not have the necessary skills or education to make this determination.
3. It creates a barrier to citizen participation in our democratic process.

Any barrier to direct democracy flies in the face of everything *Oregon*. Per Article 1, Section 1 of our Constitution: "We declare that all men, when they form a social compact are equal in right: that all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety, and happiness; and they have at all times a right to alter, reform, or abolish the government in such manner as they may think proper."

Please join me **opposing SB368**

Thank you!

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