

Testimony in opposition to SB368

Senate Rules Committee

February 11, 2019

Chair Burdick and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tammy Maygra, **I oppose Senate Bill 368.**

I have used the initiative process to stop fraudulent activities of a Health District. The initiative process was the only way the taxpayers could have due process against a "Special District" which used millions of dollars for other things than what the voters approved.

When elected officials ignore significant actions against the taxpayers, because of political allegiances, personal affiliations, or big money donors, it is the only remedy available to the average citizen.

The initiative is a process for the average citizen to participate in their government. Without this process the average citizen has no voice to make a change in their government. The initiative process is in twenty four states, and an important factor to the health and standard of a free republic and must be upheld and used unabridged.

The architects of Oregon's Constitution, sets forth the proclamation very eloquently, direct and most importantly as to protect the citizens of the state and the state itself from being two separate entities and equal in all social aspects.

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."

Without the initiative process the people of Oregon has no remedy from county, city or state legislation. The initiative is a check and balance for "we the people".

I oppose this change for several reasons,

1. A County Clerk in Oregon is not required to have a law degree or any understanding of legal verbiage. Therefore they should not be empowered to make any legal decisions, or actions regarding a document's legality.

2. Adding a separate vote would halt freedom of speech which is guaranteed by the Constitution of The United States.

3. A separate vote would end the Due Process of law which is guaranteed by the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution.

4. Oregon's constitution clearly states in Article II, § 18(8), which prohibits the Legislature "in any way to limit the initiative and referendum (I&R) powers reserved by the people. To make a separate vote without the people of Oregon requesting the said action, through a ballot measure, is a direct attack, on Oregon's constitution and the rights of all Oregonians.

5. Requiring a separate vote requirement would prohibit the ability of citizens to partition "their" government for seeking relief or remedy or to right a wrong.

SB 368 is a bad bill; it is an attack on the very basic principle's which this country and state has afforded and guaranteed its people for generations. A free republic without the participation of all its people is no republic at all. In order to have a free and functioning society our government must have oversight from its citizens. Even if the participation of its people is considered by some to be burdensome, unwanted, or not in the majority, it is prudent to allow democracy to proceed without hesitation, infringement, or added difficulty. It is imperative that all citizens are allowed to easily participate in the making or running of "their" government.

I urge you to join me in opposition to SB 368

Regards,

Tammy Maygra
34319 Canaan Rd.
Deer Island, Or 97054

as