

Feb 11th, 2019

Chair Burdick and Committee:

I am a member of the Community Rights of Lane County and I oppose this bill, which would empower county clerks and other election officers to disqualify county charter measures from the ballot on the basis of a separate-vote test. We oppose it for many reasons:

- A separate-vote requirement for county charter amendments is unconstitutional.
- There is no separate-vote requirement for county charter amendments in the Oregon Constitution.
- Adding a separate-vote requirement for county charter amendments via statute would violate several provisions of the Oregon Constitution.

Regarding rules for the *Local Initiative Process*, we here in Lane County met every step that was required of us over a two year process of gathering and submitting over 30K signatures for two "separate single issue initiatives". We spent countless volunteer hours in pursuit of protecting the health of our communities and nearby complex ecosystems. This is the first time any county charter measure has ever been disqualified on separate-vote grounds, and we believe that it will be reversed in the courts.

As concerned and engaged citizens, we shall persevere in moving forth for a fair and democratic process of the local initiative process. As legislators we ask you to oppose this bill and give more respect and support for the local initiative process.

Thank you.

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