

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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SECRETARY OF STATE



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May 20, 2019

Chair Burdick and Members of the Senate Rules Committee,

The Secretary of State opposes SB 761 which along with the -3 amendments will eliminate the use of e-sheets for initiative and referendum petitions until 2023.

Eliminating e-sheets denies Oregonians the ability to participate in the petition process, particularly if a person lives in a rural community or is home bound.

Oregon has a vibrant culture of voter engagement and outreach and this is a step in the wrong direction. Our initiative and referendum petition process allows each citizen to make their voice heard and this bill would require a citizen to rely on signature gatherers to participate. This is not feasible for many Oregonians around the state.

Lastly, our office has found that e-sheets have a higher validity rate than regular petitions, and we are not aware of any abuses.

Validity Rates:

2016

E-Sheets	94%
Regular Sheets	77%

2018

E-Sheets	98%
Regular Sheets	86%

We want to work toward expanding petition rights, and this bill does not do that.

Sincerely,

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