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**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON
FOR THE COUNTY OF MULTNOMAH**

In the Matter of: Validation
Proceeding to Determine the
Legality of City of Portland Charter
Chapter 3, Article 3 and Portland
City Code Chapter 2.10 Regulating
Campaign Finance and Disclosure.

Civil No. 19CV06544

**DECLARATION OF
JO ANN HARDESTY**

I, JO ANN HARDESTY, swear and affirm under penalty of perjury the
following:

1. I am currently a Portland City Commissioner, having won election in November 2018.
2. Previously I was a member of the Oregon Legislature as a State Representative from 1995-2001, having won elections in 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2000.
3. I have worked as an advocate on variety of topics, lobbied local and state lawmakers, and worked on dozens of campaigns.
4. The following observations are based upon my decades of political experience but are largely drawn from my recent race to become a Portland City Commissioner.
5. It is possible to run a successful campaign for Portland city office on donations of \$500 or less from any individual or political committee. Most of my campaign funding came from donations of \$500 or less per donor.
6. I was able to successfully convey my message to voters by operating a grassroots campaign which included over 100 house parties, knocking on over 36,000 doors, sending text messages and making calls to voters, distributing 2,000 lawn signs, and mobilizing over 300 active volunteers. By working to engage with people face-to-face I was able to be heard throughout the entire city while not relying on large campaign contributions.
7. My campaign raised \$386,200 for the 2018 primary and general election combined. Of that, \$228,195 was received from in donations of \$500 or less. \$173,696 was received in donations of \$200 or less.
8. Limiting campaign contributions to \$500 from each individual and political committee will not render political association ineffective, drive the sound of a candidate's voice below the level of notice, or render contributions pointless.

- 1 9. If Measure 26-200 had been in effect during the 2018 election cycle, various
2 membership organizations that contributed larger amounts to me would have
3 been able to create Small Donor Committees that could have contributed
4 amounts greater than \$500, as long as such committees did not receive any
5 contributions except from individuals in amounts of \$100 per calendar year or
6 less. So Measure 26-200 would not have limited my campaign to raising only
7 \$228,195 in donations of under \$500.
8
9 10. If Measure 26-200 had been in effect during the 2018 election cycle, my
10 campaign would not have faced the need to counter the widespread advertising
11 of my opponents, paid for primarily by large contributions.
12
13 11. The corruptive influence of money in politics cannot be overstated. Recent
14 reporting on the topic has highlighted how large contributions have negatively
15 impacted attempts to address environmental challenges facing the state. This
16 problem exists in all other topics of lawmaking and at all levels of elected
17 government in Oregon.
18
19 12. There is no reason or need for unlimited campaign contributions. Messages
20 can be effectively delivered to the voters with only small contributions, and
21 limiting the contributions from powerful special interests will help reduce the
22 corruptive influence of money in politics.
23

24 **I hereby declare that the above statement is true to the best of my**
25 **knowledge and belief, and that I understand it is made for use as evidence in**
26 **court and subject to penalty for perjury.**
27

28
29 Dated: May 6, 2019
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33 */s/ Jo Ann Hardesty*
34

35
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37 _____
38 Jo Ann Hardesty
39

40
41 Signed in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon