

In favor of HB 2680 and HB 3343

1. Campaign Finance—specifically, implementing the mandate created by Measure 107 in Nov 2020—is perhaps THE most consequential and important priority facing the Oregon legislature.
2. Foremost: elections should NEVER, ever be allowed to be bought! Period. By individuals or groups! The whole point of democracy is that every (single) person is equal. Allowing money to put its thumb on the scale discriminates against all those who don't have discretionary money.
3. Corporations are NOT persons! Make absolutely sure they have no standing, much less privilege, in campaign finance. Their only participation in campaign finance should be as individual citizens: each board member, executive, employee subject to the same limits imposed on any other citizen.
4. Finance limits must be COMPREHENSIVE. Damming only certain tributaries while not preventing water to rush in from other sources still causes a flood. Meaningful, effective limits with teeth are necessary—for individuals, corporations, non-profit organizations, unions, and especially PACs, superPACs, and any money entering from outside Oregon. They must all be dammed at the same time to be effective.
5. No political PARTY BIAS allowed. We are well aware that the wolf is guarding the henhouse. Asking politicians who themselves benefit from campaign finance, to fully and objectively write effective campaign finance legislation is your challenge and obligation. The people are watching, and expect the ultimate ethics in your final set of bills on this topic.

Respectfully submitted,
March 30, 2021

Gary Lietke, member Election Integrity study group, Democratic Party of Multnomah County

The Election Integrity study group advocates fiercely to guard and advance election integrity policy and practice that ensures fair and equal voices of all citizens, and represents all residents, including the underrepresented and marginalized.