

Submitter: Denise Ball
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1576

February 12, 2024

Senate Judiciary Committee
Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

Chair Floyd Prozanski
Vice-chair Kim Thatcher
Member Senators Sara Gelser Blouin, Dennis Linthicum and James Manning

As Gilliam County Voters for over 35 years, we feel our vote is a barometer given to the people to grade the elected officials on their performance. Please keep that option in place for major decisions such as a complete structural change in our county government. Bill 1576 amendment -4 takes that power of the vote away from the County electorate and puts it the hands of three elected officials. This is not an Emergency! Should this bill make it out of Committee, I would ask that the language guaranteeing the vote of the electorates be added to amendment C-4 on Bill 1576. We believe this would only require a small sentence added to ORS 111.055 Section 1, the -4 amendment creating a subsection (3)).

- (3) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of this section, the county court of Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Sherman or Wheeler County may approve a transfer, upon an approved referral of the voters, of the probate jurisdiction, authority, powers, functions and duties of the county court to the circuit courts and the judges thereof, and set an effective date of the transfer.

The change of a government structure is a decision to be made within a County border, but only when the entire electorate is involved!

Thank you,
Denise Ball, City Council President, City of Arlington, OR
And Lenn Ball, her husband