



For Immediate Release

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Voters will be asked to protect supermajority requirement in November

Over 174,000 Oregonians sign petitions to ensure three-fifths vote on revenue increasing measures

Salem, Ore – June 27 2018 – A measure strengthening Oregon’s required supermajority in order to increase state revenue appears that it is headed to the ballot in November. A coalition of small business groups turned in over 174,000 signatures supporting the measure today. The measure clarifies that changes in tax rates, exemptions, or elimination of credits or deductions require at least three-fifths support in each chamber of the legislature.

“We need to protect middle-class families and small business from higher taxes and the elimination of important tax deductions that keep things like homeownership and housing affordable,” said Art Kegler, one of the chief petitioners for the proposed measure which will likely appear on the ballot as Ballot Measure 104. “This measure puts an end to the tricks that legislators are playing on taxpayers by secretly raising our taxes without the required supermajority.”

Over 20 years ago Oregonians passed a similar measure requiring a supermajority vote on revenue raising legislation – but legislators and their lawyers have found creative loopholes and made several attempts at raising taxes and eliminating exemptions, deductions and credits without a supermajority vote.

“It’s time the legislature got serious about eliminating waste and reigning in overspending rather than creating loopholes to raise taxes on hardworking Oregonians,” said Derrick DeGroot, Klamath County Commissioner, another of the measure’s chief petitioners. “A tax is a tax, no matter what you attempt to call it.”

Last year legislators attempted to eliminate deductions and exemptions as sacred as those for mortgage interest or property taxes via legislation they said did not require a supermajority.

“These are important tax deductions that Oregonians depend on,” stated Kegler, a realtor from Boardman. “Any legislation that raises people’s taxes by eliminating or changing them should have broad, bi-partisan support that comes by requiring a supermajority vote.”

Backers of the initiative include representatives from small business and grassroots groups who are concerned about the legislature’s abuse of the supermajority requirement. The coalition

believes that tax and fee increases should receive support from at least three-fifths of the legislature as voters intended when they passed Ballot Measure 63 in 1998.

Some of the organizations that helped with efforts to qualify the measure for the ballot include:

- Associated Oregon Loggers
- Automobile Dealers Association of Portland
- National Federation of Independent Business
- Oregon Association of REALTORS®
- Oregon Bankers Association/Independent Community Banks of Oregon
- Oregon Beer & Wine Distributors Association
- Oregon Business and Industry
- Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association
- Oregon Farm Bureau
- Oregon Forest Industries Council
- Oregon Home Builders Association
- Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association
- Oregon Small Business Association
- Oregon Trucking Association
- Oregonians for Food and Shelter
- Priority Oregon
- Taxpayer Association of Oregon

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