Oregon Initiative Process

Chief Petitioner begins process by filing text of a prospective initiative and a SEL 310 listing up to three chief petitioners.

Chief Petitioners gather at least 1,000 sponsorship signatures and submit to Elections Division.

- The full and correct text of the prospective initiative must be attached to (or printed on) each sponsorship petition.
- A maximum of 2,000 signatures are accepted in a submission.

Any registered voter may submit comments on draft ballot title and procedural compliance.

- 10th business day after draft ballot title filed

Elections Division verifies that sponsorship petitions meet procedural requirements and that signatures are valid. If there are 1,000 valid signatures, Elections Division forwards to Attorney General.

- 10th business day after receipt, unless three or more petitions filed at once or full signature verification required, then 20th business day

If there are not enough valid signatures, chief petitioners can make one additional submission.

Attorney General drafts ballot title impartially summarizing the petition and its major effect.

- 5th business day after receipt

Elections Division requests public comments on draft ballot title.

Secretary of State certifies constitutional procedural compliance. Noncompliant petitions must stop. Elections Division forwards comments to Attorney General.

A registered voter who filed comments and is dissatisfied with the certified ballot title can appeal to Oregon Supreme Court.

- 10th business day after certified ballot title filed

Oregon Supreme Court may approve certified ballot title as-is or rewrite it.

Oregon Supreme Court may order the Attorney General to make changes.

Chief Petitioners submit cover and signature sheets or make necessary corrections identified by Elections Division and submits correct sheets for approval.

Elections Division issues templates to chief petitioners so they can begin the signature sheet approval process.

- 3rd business day after appeal deadline or 3rd business day after final ballot title issued

Chief Petitioners review with circulators the legal requirements for circulating a petition and begin gathering signatures.

Elections Division reviews cover and signature sheets and either approves for circulation or notifies chief petitioners of necessary corrections.

Chief Petitioners submit signatures:

- 10th business day of every month for signatures gathered by paid circulators
- May 25, 2018, early submission deadline
- July 6, 2018, signature submission deadline

Elections Division conducts signature verification and qualifies petition for ballot if it contains enough signatures.

- 30th day after signature submission deadline

*This Oregon Initiative Process chart is intended to help explain the initiative process. It is only a summary that does not include all legal requirements. Please refer to the State Initiative and Referendum Manual for legal requirements.