

Measure #65 is a "Trojan Horse"

But you should vote for it anyway

By law, voters in Oregon are segregated by party affiliation. Republicans and Democrats are subsidized while restrictions are imposed on anyone else who attempts to participate as a voter or candidate. There's no legitimate reason for this segregation, but partisans control the legislature, and they wrote the rules.

Partisan elections should be abolished, which is exactly what sponsors of this measure claim they're doing. Unfortunately - it's just not true. If you read past the nonbinding preamble and scrutinize the actual statutory changes in this measure, the statutes defining partisan elections are not repealed. Instead, a new "voter choice office" is created.

Read carefully:

SECTION 4. Definitions. As used in this chapter, "voter choice office" means the office of United States Senator, Representative in Congress, Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, state Senator or state Representative; or any other state, county, city or district office that is not:

(1) A nonpartisan office; or

(2) An office for which nominations to the general election by political parties are expressly authorized by law.

The last subsection above (2) is odd - since partisan elections are abolished. This subsection is called a "hook". It allows the legislature to "gut" this initiative by "expressly authorizing" partisan offices. That's why the partisan election statutes weren't repealed. Note that neither subsection is necessary. Each "voter choice" office could have been listed.

Nonetheless, this is still a referendum on partisan elections. So I'm voting for it, and you should too. Just don't believe the story about partisan elections being abolished.

The only way to permanently guarantee fair and open elections is to reverse the court rulings that upheld partisan elections in the first place. To do this, the Oregon Constitution should be amended to allow referendums on judicial rulings. We can't rely on judges to protect our elections because partisans control the courts too.

Measure Argument for State Voters' Pamphlet

SEL 405

rev. 1/06 ORS 251.265

This form and the attached statement must be typed.

Primary 2008
 General 2008
 Special Election date: _____
 Ballot Measure Number: 65
 Argument in Favor
 Argument in Opposition
 This filing is an:
 Original
 Amendment
 \$500 fee paid
 1000 signatures filed

↓ this information furnished by as it should appear in the state Voters' Pamphlet
 name of person

Paul Damian Wells
 name of organization person represents, if applicable

none

↓ contact information
 name and address of contact person, person who could authorize changes to the argument

Paul D. Wells 23025 NE Mountaintop Rd. Newberg, Or. 97132

work phone: (503)538-6436 home phone: (503)538-6436 fax: none

name and address of person or organization that paid for the argument:
same

Attached is the following information:

- Measure Argument, typewritten on standard 8 1/2" x 11" white paper
- Statements of Endorsement, number of statements filed, if applicable: _____

Language that violates any provision of ORS 251.049 or 251.055 may be excluded from the Voters' Pamphlet.

↓ signature

By signing this document, I hereby state that I am the author of this argument (ORS 251.265).

Paul D. Wells

8/15/08
 date signed

signature of person furnishing argument
 must be person listed in "this information furnished by" section above

2008 Voters' Pamphlet Filing Fees and Deadlines

Measure Argument Filing Fee	Primary Election	General Election
\$500 or 1000 verified voters' signatures for 1 page*	March 13, 2008 at 5pm	August 26, 2008 at 5pm

*page means a maximum of 30 square inches or one column of state Voters' Pamphlet space.

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for office use only

initials _____ cash or check number _____ receipt number _____
 office number _____ number of endorsements submitted _____

PC 10 Statement of Independent Expenditures
please type or print legibly in black ink; list only one entry per line

rev 1/08

name of individual or organization use full name

Paul D. Wells

residence address street, city, state, zip code

day phone number

23025 NE Mountaintop Rd. Newberg, Or. 07132

(503)538-6436

date	name and address of payee*	purpose & support/oppose information	amount of expenditure
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*address includes city, or county if no city, and state

1	8/15/08	Oregon Secretary of State, Salem Or.	O Voters Phamphlet (support)	\$ 500.00
2				\$
3				\$
4				\$
5				\$
6				\$
7				\$
8				\$
9				\$
10				\$

page total

independent expenditures

\$ 500.00

signature

I hereby certify the above listed expenditures were made for the candidates or measures specified.

Paul D Wells

8/15/08

signature

date signed

for office use only

PC 10

see instructions on back and in Campaign Finance Manual