



## Fact Sheet

### About the Citizens' Initiative Review

The Citizens' Initiative Review is an innovative way of publicly evaluating ballot measures so voters have easy access to clear, useful, and trustworthy information at election time.

During the Citizens' Initiative Review, a panel of randomly-selected and demographically-balanced voters is brought together from across the state to fairly evaluate a ballot measure. The panel hears directly from campaigns for and against the measure and calls upon policy experts during the multi-day public review. For each measure reviewed, a new panel is convened. At the conclusion of the in-depth review, the panel then drafts a 'Citizens' Statement' highlighting the most important findings about the measure. Each 'Citizens' Statement' is published as a prominent new page in the voters' pamphlet as a new and easily accessible resource for voters to use at election time.

### About the 2011 Citizens' Initiative Review Legislation

In June, 2011, the Oregon legislature approved legislation making of the Citizens' Initiative Review a permanent part of Oregon elections. Oregon is now the first state in the nation to adopt this innovative policy into law. The law will be fully implemented during the 2012 election cycle.

Instrumental to the bill's passage was the official 2010 'pilot' of the CIR. Healthy Democracy Oregon worked with the Secretary of State's office, State Elections Office, campaign officials, and policy experts to convene two Reviews in 2010. A team led by nationally recognized researchers, and backed by funding from the National Science Foundation, evaluated the Reviews and confirmed that the Reviews were high-quality, fair and of great use to voters--proving the CIR to be a success!

### About Healthy Democracy Oregon

Healthy Democracy Oregon is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization committed to strengthening the integrity of the ballot initiative process. HDO was founded in 2007, by Oregonians Elliot Shuford and Tyrone Reitman. More than 30,000 people from around the state have signed on in support of the Citizens' Initiative Review (*see reverse*). Through its work on the CIR, Healthy Democracy Oregon has established itself as a credible leader in the growing field of nonpartisan political reform and civic engagement.

### Advisory Board:

Kappy Eaton  
Dave Frohnmayer  
Jeff Golden  
Mike Greenfield  
Phil Keisling  
Andi Miller  
Fred Neal  
Norma Paulus  
Harvey Platt  
Jack Roberts  
Ron Saxton

### Healthy Democracy Oregon Timeline

**2007** – HDO is founded and legislation is drafted for the Citizens' Initiative Review. Outreach reveals interest in the process, and a desire to see a 'field test' of the CIR conducted.

**2008** – A successful 'field test' of the Citizens' Initiative Review is conducted on Ballot Measure 58. The process is evaluated by the League of Women Voters of Oregon. Secretary of State Kate Brown suggests 'pilot' legislation as the next step forward.

**2009** – House Bill 2895 is passed by the Oregon Legislature, allowing for a pilot of the Citizens' Initiative Reviews to be run, with the results to be placed as prominent new pages in the statewide Voters' Pamphlet. The National Science Foundation grants \$218k for an evaluation of the 2010 CIR Pilot.

**2010** – The Citizens' Initiative Review pilot is conducted on Measures 73 and 74. The NSF funded evaluation proves that the CIR was high quality, and was widely used and helpful to a large percentage of Oregon voters.

**2011** – House Bill 2634 is signed passed by the Oregon Legislature, making the CIR a permanent resource for voters!

## *What are people saying about the Citizens' Initiative Review?*

"After seeing this process first-hand, it is clear that this citizen deliberation holds great potential to provide voters with new and important information." - **Kate Brown, Secretary of State**

"After hearing testimony from previous Citizens' Initiative Review panel members, it became clear to me that this was a valuable process that helped to inform not only panel participants, but, through them, to better inform all Oregonians about important state issues. I applaud the efforts of the Citizens' Initiative Review."

-**State Representative Arnie Roblan, Co-Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives**

"This bill [Citizens' Initiative Review Pilot - HB 2895], it is an opportunity to get more people engaged in the process, to think about, and to come to informed conclusions when they cast their ballots. If knowledge and understanding an engagement are inappropriate in a democratic process, then a "no" vote on this bill would be appropriate. They are totally appropriate in a democratic process. Mr. President, I urge an "aye" vote."

- **State Senator, Frank Morse** (R-Albany) Senate floor debate, June 16, 2009

"Voters in Oregon need a clear, useful and nonpartisan source for information and evaluation of statewide ballot measures. OBA supports making the Citizens' Initiative Review an ongoing public service for Oregon voters."

- **The Oregon Business Association**

"Oregon has long been an innovator in the area of direct democracy. This bill represents another example of how our state continues to encourage and support citizen engagement in the process of governing."

- **State Senator Richard Devlin** (D-Tualatin)

"The League of Women Voters believes that the Citizens' Initiative Review is a real plus for improving civic engagement in Oregon. It serves the dual purpose of providing invaluable information about initiatives while giving citizens a real voice in the democratic process." - **Marge Easley, President of the League of Women Voters of Oregon**

"Healthy Democracy Oregon is one of the best things to happen to Oregon in the past 20 years."

- **Daily Astorian Editorial Board**

"Oregon, which introduced the initiative, may be on the verge of pioneering a way of improving it."

- **Register Guard Editorial Board**

"This is a great idea that merits enactment and eventual extension into the biennial election process."

- **East Oregonian Editorial Board**

"The project's goal is to provide voters with more balanced information than the yes-no statements in voters pamphlets. This strikes us as a good idea, good for democracy and deserving of backing."

- **Hillsboro Argus Editorial Board**

"The proponents and opponents' goal, as the CIR notes, is to influence voters, not necessarily inform. The CIR hopes to change that with reliable and clear information. Watch for the Citizens Statements in the Voters Pamphlet this fall. They'll be the most objective analyses of the issues we'll be voting on."

- **La Grande Observer Editorial Board**

"Oregon is pioneering an innovative and empowering reform with the Citizens' Initiative Review. It will help voters cut through the campaign rhetoric to find clear and credible information when casting their ballot."

- **Phil Keisling, former Oregon Secretary of State**

"Bringing more voices into the ballot initiative process is always a good thing. The Citizens' Initiative Review is also cutting edge in seeking greater involvement of the average citizen through randomly selecting participants, similar to the way juries are chosen." - **Paul Jacob, President of the Citizens in Charge Foundation**