



## **Money in Politics Research Action Project**

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### **Initiative Signature Gathering Dominated by Big Donors**

As Oregonians head out for the summer festivals that traditionally start with Memorial Day, they are likely to run into another staple of summer gatherings—petition-wielding signature gatherers.

What are Oregonians likely to see on those clipboards—and how likely are they to make the ballot? Judging by campaign finance reports, only a handful of campaigns are in a position to make the November ballot.

The fundraising champion at \$2.2 million is the PAC working to qualify initiative #106, Medical Liability Reform, for the ballot. The top donors are Kaiser Permanente (\$250,000), Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest (\$200,000) and physician groups including the Oregon Medical Association (\$239,710). This constitutional amendment would limit noneconomic damages to \$500,000 for medical malpractice.

Oregonians in Action is the major group backing initiative #36 that has raised \$429,289 to qualify a measure requiring compensation when land use regulations affect property values. Top donors include ATR Services, owned by Veneta timber land dealer Greg Demers, (\$118,481); Oregonians in Action and its affiliated political committee (\$83,731); Wes Lematta/Columbia Helicopters and Seneca Jones Timber Co giving \$55,000 each; and ADEC and Jeld-Wen giving \$30,000 each.

Initiative #120 requiring Tillamook and Clatsop state forest management to consider equally sustainable logging and habitat restoration has raised \$235,208, most of it from The Wild Salmon Center. Restoring term limits, initiative #20, has raised \$112,287, with most of it (\$104,239) coming from a national group, US Term Limits.

The Oregon Priorities Act, initiative #90, would abolish the state-owned workers' compensation insurance company, Saif. All of the money raised for this effort has come from Saif's major insurance business rival, Liberty Northwest. Liberty Northwest's chief petitioner PAC has raised \$92,206. However, this understates the level of fundraising and campaign preparation on this topic.

Liberty Northwest, created 13 chief petitioner PACs linked to different versions of the initiative. While they have discontinued 12 of the PACs they did so after spending just over \$124,000. The bulk of the spending was for polling and website development that will likely be helpful to the overall campaign effort.

A few campaigns have already submitted signatures to the Secretary of State's office, indicating that they have met or are close to meeting the qualifying threshold. Turning in signatures prior to the July 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline gives these committees an opportunity for additional signature gathering as needed.

Chart 1 includes all of the campaigns that have raised at least as much money as the medical marijuana campaign, which is one of three groups that have turned in signatures. (As of the May money disclosure deadline, the committee seeking to place constitutional amendment to define marriage between a man and a woman on the ballot had not yet formed a political committee, so that data is not included here.)

**Chart 1: Select 2004 Signature Gathering Committees**

Init #	Subject/Chief Petitioners/Top5 Donors	Total \$ to Date
106	Medical Liability Reform*+ Colin R Cave, Monica C Wehby, Peter Bernardo Kaiser Permanente \$250,000 (11% of total); Mid-Valley Independent Practice Assoc, Inc: \$250,000 (11%); Oregon Medical Association: \$239,710 (11%); Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest: \$200,000 (9%) Oregon Anesthesiology Group, PC: \$200,000 (9%);	\$2,215,207
36	Measure Requiring Compensation for Regulations Taking Value of Property Eugene Prete, Barbara Prete, Dorothy English ATR Services Inc (Greg Demers): \$118,481 (28%); Oregonians in Action/OIA PAC: \$83,731 (19.5%); Wes Lematta/Columbia Helicopters and Seneca Jones Timber Co: \$55,000 each (13% each); ADEC, Inc and Jeld-Wen Foundation: \$30,000 each (7%)	\$429,289
120	Good for Economy, Good for Environment, and Good for Oregon*+ Mari Anne Gest, Robert Rees, Steven D. McGeady The Wild Salmon Center: \$123,286 (52%); Initiative #65: \$90,522 (38%); (related signature gathering effort that received \$149,564 of its total \$265,436 from The Wild Salmon Center); Jen Huckins: \$2513; Donald Satchell: \$1500; Karen Garst: \$1139; Bruce Ackerman and Art Kayser: \$1000 each	\$235,208
20	The Citizens' Term Limits Restoration Act Leigh Anna Foxall, Paul R. Farago, Ted Piccolo US Term Limits (DC): \$104,239 (93%); US Term Limits Foundation (IL): \$5,000; US Term Limits (IL): \$3,000; Paul Farago: \$47.94	\$112,287
90	Oregon Priorities Act* (abolish Saif) Jim Bernau, Lorinda L Gauthier Liberty Northwest: \$92,906 (100%)	\$92,906
56	Oregon Forest Restoration Initiative Gary A Kutcher Miscellaneous Contribution of \$50 or less: \$34,766 (87%); Sustainable Forestry Project: \$2000; Edward Alpern: \$250; Mike Brow: \$200; Susan Studd: \$185	\$39,811
127	Fund Oregon's Schools Committee James Lee MacKay, Julie A. Smith, Merlene S. Martin Oregon School Employees Association: \$27,761 (100%)	\$27,761
31	OMMA2 (Medical Marijuana)+ Kenneth Scott Brown, John A Sajo, Edward Glick Misc Contributions of \$50 or Less: \$11,805 (43%); Donald Walker: \$1500; Greg Walker: \$1000; Deborah Oerther, Fred Oerther, Don Coon & THC Foundation: \$500 each	\$27,705

Totals include cash and in-kind contributions, loans and other receipts disclosed through the May 6, 2004 report. Data could change due to amendments or auditing. \*Top five donors list includes donors whose contributions started in an earlier initiative PAC that then transferred the balance of its account to the chief petitioner PAC of the initiative that was approved for circulation. †These campaigns have turned in signatures to the Secretary of State's office

**Chart 2: Remaining Active 2004 Signature Gathering PACs.**

Init	Subject/Chief Petitioners	Total \$
16	Student Protection PAC III/Lon T. Mabon, Robert F. Ekstrom, Jeremy Bowen	\$16,924
53	Oregon Campaign Finance Reform/Lloyd Marbet, Sarah Charlesworth, Harry Lonsdale	\$13,179
15	The Judicial Reform Act/Lon T. Mabon, Robert F. Ekstrom	\$11,076
17	The Divine Sovereignty Life Amendment/ Lon T. Mabon, Robert F. Ekstrom, Jeremy Bowen	\$10,178
129	Nonpartisan Legislature/Charlie Ringo, John Hoadley, Cliff Zauner	\$3,500
97	HealthOregon Act/Albert DiPiero, David Sanders	\$2,292
13	Road building in certain area of the state/John Shank, Joseph H Glide, Wayne F. Johnston	\$330