



Money in Politics Research Action Project

917 SW Oak St. #422, Portland, OR 97205 • (503) 283-1922 • Fax (503) 283-1877
miprap@oregonfollowthemoney.org • www.oregonfollowthemoney.org

For Immediate Release

July 22, 2004

For more information:

Janice Thompson or Sarah Wetherson, 503-283-1922

Initiative Campaign Spending Breaks Record Some Signature Gathering Efforts Build Big War Chests for Fall Fights

Oregonians will decide issues obscure, emotional and familiar this fall, and several of the groups responsible for placing them on the ballot are poised to spend millions to ensure that they pass.

Seven signature-gathering campaigns turned in signatures by the July 2nd deadline. The Secretary of State's office has verified that four campaigns have turned in enough signatures to qualify for the November ballot, and has until August 1 to check two more. One effort remains in question as a legal challenge works through the courts. (See chart 1 for details.)

Backers of the Oregon Priorities Act, initiative #90, which would abolish the state-owned workers' compensation insurance company, Saif, have broken past spending records for signature gathering campaigns. The previous record was for a union-backed attempt to change election law in 1998.

All but less than one quarter of one percent 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 and spent nearly \$1.6 million. However, this understates the fundraising and campaign preparation to date.

Liberty Northwest created 13 chief petitioner PACs linked to different versions of the initiative. They discontinued 12 of the PACs after spending just over \$124,000, mainly on polling and website development that will help to the overall campaign effort.

By far, though, the top fundraiser to date is the campaign behind Medical Liability Reform, petition #106. The campaign has raised just over \$4 million dollars and has spent only about one-fourth of that, leaving them with about \$3 million dollars to build a "yes" campaign.

Miscellaneous contributions of \$50 or less, one measure of the grassroots nature of an campaign, made up less than 2 percent of donations to all but two signature-gathering effort.

"Campaigns have already raised nearly \$7.5 million to place questions before voters. With few exceptions, a small base of deep-pocketed donors pays petitioners to put things on the ballot. Voters need to pay attention to who is paying to ask for their vote," said Sarah Wetherson, research and outreach associate with the Money in Politics Research Action Project.

Totals in Chart I include cash and in-kind contributions, loans and other receipts disclosed through the July 19, 2004 report. Data may change due to amendments or auditing.

Chart I: Top 10 Contributors to Signature-Gathering PACs

Init #*	Subject/Chief Petitioners/Top 10 Donors	Total \$ to Date
106	Medical Liability Reform** Colin R Cave, Monica C Wehby, Peter Bernardo	\$4,021,300
	Hospitals for Liability Fairness (Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems) \$797,263 (20% of total); Mid-Valley Independent Practice Assoc, Inc: \$500,000 (12%); Oregon Medical Association: \$286,133 (7%); Kaiser Permanente \$250,000 (6% of total); Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest and Oregon Anesthesiology Group, PC: \$200,000 (5%) each; Providence Health System: \$150,000 (4%); OHSU Medical Group: \$125,000 (3%); American Medical Association: \$100,000 (2%); Douglas Medical Clinic, PC: \$70,000 (2%).	
90	Oregon Priorities Act** (abolish Saif) Jim Bernau, Lorinda L Gauthier	\$1,594,059
	Liberty Northwest: \$1,590,340 (99.8%); Ashton Pacific Inc: \$3699 (<1%); Miscellaneous contributions under \$50: \$20.	
36	Measure Requiring Compensation for Regulations Taking Value of Property Eugene Prete, Barbara Prete, Dorothy English	\$756,492
	ATR Services Inc (Greg Demers): \$143,481 (19%); ADEC, Inc: \$85,000 (11%); Oregonians in Action/OIA PAC: \$83,731 (11%); Seneca Jones Timber Co.: \$78,000 (10%); Wes Lematta/Columbia Helicopters and Jeld-Wen Foundation: \$55,000 (7%) each; Freres Lumber Co: \$52,368 (7%); DR Johnson Lumber Co.: \$50,000 (7%); Norman Brenden, William Colson, Roseburg Forest Products and Donna Woolley: \$25,000 (3%) each.	
120	Good for Economy, Good for Environment, and Good for Oregon** Mari Anne Gest, Robert Rees, Steven D. McGeady	\$442,501
	The Wild Salmon Center: \$283,259 (64%); Democracy Resources of Oregon: \$13,751 (3%); James Ratzlaff: \$10,000 (2%); Initiative #65: \$90,522 (20%); (related signature gathering effort that received \$149,564 of its total \$265,436 from The Wild Salmon Center); William M. Shields III: \$5000 (1%); Miscellaneous Contributions of \$50 or less: \$4735 (1%); Lyndon Ruhnke: \$3900 (<1%); David Howitt: \$2998; Jen Huckins: \$2513; Clear Creek Distillery: \$1980.	
20	The Citizens' Term Limits Restoration Act Leigh Anna Foxall, Paul R. Farago, Ted Piccolo	\$364,155
	US Term Limits (DC): \$354,239 (97%); US Term Limits Foundation (IL): \$5,000 (1%); US Term Limits (IL): \$3,000 (<1%); Taxpayer Association of OR: \$1868; Paul Farago: \$48.	
150	Constitutional Definition of Marriage Kent Walton, Dennis R. Tuuri	\$232,302
	Miscellaneous contributions of \$50 or less: \$111,516 (48%); Oregon Family Council PAC: \$35,000 (15%); Defense of Marriage Coalition: \$29,266 (13%); Oregon Marriage Amendment Committee (Focus on the Family, CO): \$6082 (3%); East Hill Church and NTP Distribution: \$5000 (2%) each; Central Bible Church: \$2200 (<1%); Oregon Right to Life Candidate PAC: \$1823; New Hope Church: \$1060; The City Church and Thomas Bauer: \$1000 each.	
31	OMMA2 (Medical Marijuana) Kenneth Scott Brown, John A Sajo, Edward Glick	\$53,489
	Misc Contributions of \$50 or Less: \$20,189 (37%); Foundation for Constitutional Protection: \$8000 (15%); Voter Power: \$5000 (9%); Greg Mihalik: \$2000 (4%); Donald Walker: \$1500 (3%); Thomas Zink: \$600 (1%); Deborah Oerther, Fred Oerther, Don Coon, Robert Field, Phil Allen and THC Foundation: \$500 (<1%) each.	

###

*Initiatives 106, 90, 36 and 120 have turned in enough signatures to qualify for the ballot. Initiative 20 did not have enough valid signatures, but the Secretary of State's decision is in the courts; signatures counts for initiatives 150 and 31 are incomplete.

**Top 10 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.