



Democracy Reform Oregon

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Accessible politics, accountable government

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Ballot Measure Money, Dominated by Big Tobacco, Tops \$22 Million Timber Company with Large Measure 37 Claim Gives One-Fifth of No on 49 Total

Campaigns for and against two measures on Oregon's ballot have raised close to \$22.5 million to date, half of which came from three tobacco companies.

Stimson Lumber, which has filed claims under Measure 37 demanding a waiver of land-use regulations or reimbursement to the tune of \$239,686,463 (see our [October 11, 2007 release](#) online), has given \$495,000, or \$1 in every \$5 the No on 49 campaign has raised to date. (See Chart 1.) Timber-related interests have contributed at least \$1,482,700, or 60 percent of total Measure 49 opponent fundraising.

Assuming an average contribution of \$50 from miscellaneous contributors giving \$100 or less, the No on 49 effort has an estimated 3697 contributors in this small-donor category.

Chart 1: Top 10 Contributors to No on 49 Campaign Committees (Fix Measure 49, Oregonians in Action PAC and Stop Taking Our Property)

Contributor	Amount	Percentage
Stimson Lumber	\$495,000	20.1%
Seneca Jones Timber Co.	\$332,000	13.5%
A-Dec Dental Equipment	\$213,500	8.7%
Columbia Helicopters/Wes Lematta and Swanson Group Inc.	\$163,500 each	6.6% each
Hire Calling, Inc. (Dick Wendt)	\$100,000	4.1%
Freres Lumber Co., Inc.	\$75,000	3.0%
George Advertising, Inc.	\$117,063	4.8%
Cascade Timber Consulting, Inc	\$60,000	2.4%
Rosboro	\$50,000	2.0%
Top 10 Contributors Subtotal	\$1,769,563	71.9%
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions \$100 and under	\$184,833	7.5%
Remaining Contributions	\$507,737	20.6%
Total No on 49 Contributions	\$2,462,134	100.0%

Figures include cash and in-kind contributions and loans reported to the Elections Division by 10 a.m. Tuesday, November 06, 2007.

The top donor to the Yes on 49 committee, The Nature Conservancy in Oregon, has given \$1.2 million, or \$1 in every \$4 the campaign has raised. (See Chart 2.) Overall, environmental groups have provided at least \$1,630,595, or 34 percent of the "yes" side's total fundraising. (Oregon winemaker Eric Lemelson is also on the board of the Oregon League of Conservation voters. If his contributions are added to the total from environmental groups, then the total from environmentalists becomes \$2,655,595, or 55 percent.)

The Yes on 49 committee has raised \$260,157 from miscellaneous contributors giving \$100 or less. Assuming an average contribution of \$50, they have 5203 contributors in this small-donor category. The Yes on 49 campaign has out fundraised its opponents almost \$2 to \$1.

Chart 2: Top 10 Contributors to Yes on 49 Committee

Contributor	Amount	Percentage
The Nature Conservancy in Oregon	\$1,220,535	25.3%
Eric Lemelson	\$1,025,000	21.2%
Environment Oregon, Inc.	\$168,917	3.5%
Lemelson, Dorothy (Trust Account)	\$126,000	2.6%
John D. Gray	\$125,000	2.6%
1000 Friends of Oregon	\$123,249	2.6%
Philip Knight and Edmund Hayes, Jr.	\$100,000 each	2.1% each
Paul Brainerd	\$75,000	1.6%
William Swindells	\$50,500	1.0%
Top 10 Contributors Subtotal	\$3,114,200	64.6%
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions \$100 and under	\$260,157	5.4%
Remaining Contributions	\$1,449,358	30.0%
Total Yes on 49 Contributions	\$4,823,716	100%

Figures include cash and in-kind contributions and loans reported to the Elections Division by 10 a.m. Tuesday, November 06, 2007.

Measure 49, asks voters to approve a land-use law to address concerns about Measure 37. Measure 37, which passed in 2004, requires local and state governments to compensate landowners for any loss in value caused by land-use regulations, or to waive those regulations.

Supports of Measure 49 say that it restores fairness to the land-use system by allowing landowners to build a limited number of houses on their land while stopping unfettered commercial development. Detractors say that the referral guts Measure 37, taking away important property rights and ignoring the will of the voters.

The other legislative referral Oregonians face this fall is Measure 50, a state constitutional amendment that would raise cigarette taxes by \$0.85 per pack and dedicate the funding for children's health care and other health programs while also encouraging more smokers to quit because of the increase in cost for cigarettes. Proponents argue that this is a sound way to provide basic health care for thousands of uninsured children across the state. Opponents argue that it is wrong to place a tax increase in the state constitution and that it is wrong to tax smokers to pay for children's health insurance.

Chart 3: Top 10 Contributors to No on 50 campaign committees (Oregonians against the Blank Check and Stop the Measure 50 Tax Hike)

Contributor	Amount	Percentage
Philip Morris USA Inc.	\$6,775,693	57.3%
Reynolds American	\$4,858,632	41.1%
Altria Corporate Services, Inc.	\$165,411	1.4%
Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company	\$7872	<1%
Taxpayer Defense Fund	\$3832	<1%
Rich & Rhine Distributors; Northern Sales Company, Inc. and Capitol Distributing, Inc.	\$1000 each	<1% each
Taxpayers Association of Oregon PAC, Oregon Neighborhood Store Association Political Action Committee and Plaid Pantries, Inc.	\$500 each	<1% each
Top 10 Contributors Subtotal	\$11,815,940	~100.0%
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions \$100 and under	\$152	<1%
Remaining Contributions	\$100	<1%
Total No on 50 Contributions	\$11,816,192	100%

Figures include cash and in-kind contributions and loans reported to the Elections Division by 10 a.m. Tuesday, November 06, 2007.

Big tobacco companies remain the overwhelming force behind the effort to defeat Measure 50. Philip Morris USA Inc., its parent company, Altria Corporate Services, and Reynolds American have contributed \$11,799,736, or nearly all of the \$11,816,192¹ the “no” effort has raised. (See Chart 3.)

No on 50 allies have raised \$152 from contributors giving \$100 or less. Assuming an average contribution of \$50 each, there are an estimated three contributors in the small-donor category.

Fundraising to help pass Measure 50 is dominated by health care organizations, with help from labor unions. Health insurance companies, hospitals and health care organizations provided at least \$2,079,082, or 61 percent of the dollars raised to date. Labor has pitched in at least \$606,406, or 18 percent of the Yes on 50 total.

Proponents of Measure 50 have raised \$15,511 from miscellaneous contributors giving \$100 or less. Assuming an average gift of \$50 each, there are approximately 310 donors in this small-donor category.

Chart 4: Top 10 Contributors to Yes on Healthy Kids Plan (Yes on 50) campaign committee

Contributor	Amount	Percentage
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network	\$550,000	16.2%
Providence Health System; American Cancer Society, Great West Division and Opportunity PAC II	\$200,000 each	5.9% each
Healthy Communities Coalition*	\$168,000	5.0%
Regence BlueCross	\$165,773	4.9%
Oregon Education Association	\$150,000	4.4%
SEIU Local 503	\$142,406	4.2%
AFSCME Council 75	\$125,000	3.7%
American Heart Association	\$110,000	3.2%
Top 10 Contributors Subtotal	\$2,011,179	59.4%
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions \$100 and under	\$15,511	<1%
Remaining Contributions	\$1,360,121	40.2%
Total Yes on 50 Contributions	\$3,386,811	100.0%

* The Healthy Communities Coalition, another “yes on 50” political committee, raised \$168,000 from Oregon Association of Hospitals & Health Systems (\$108,000), American Hospital Association (\$50,000) and St. Charles Medical Center (\$10,000), all of which it gave to Yes on Healthy Kids Plan. Figures include cash and in-kind contributions and loans reported to the Elections Division by 10 a.m. Tuesday, November 06, 2007.

“Oregonians have seen a record-breaking amount of money contributed for any measure campaign in the state this fall. Thanks to recent improvements in our campaign finance disclosure system, the public can easily follow the money to see who is asking for their vote,” said Sarah Wetherson, research and outreach associate with Democracy Reform Oregon.

Democracy Reform Oregon (DRO) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit group working to increase accountability and opportunities for participation in politics and governmental decision-making. DRO has been working on democracy reform issues since 1999 and was formerly the Money in Politics Research Action Project.

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¹ Some news outlets have reported that the “no” campaign has broken the \$12 million dollar mark. To avoid double-counting, DRO subtracts from the “No on 50” fundraising total \$281,340 that was passed between the Stop the Measure 50 Tax Hike and the Oregonians Against The Blank Check committees, both of which oppose the measure.