



# COMMON SENSE FOR OREGON

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Initiative Petition 50 changes the way legislative districts are drawn in Oregon. This petition would take politics and partisanship out of the process, and require a panel of judges to draw the district lines.

Why is this so important?

Because right now legislators get to draw their own lines. Think about that for a second: Legislators get to determine who is in their district and who isn't. In other words, a democrat can draw a district with only democrats in it, and a republican can draw a district with only republicans in it.

By allowing legislators to draw their own district lines, legislators draw lines in such a way that guarantees legislators will get re-elected over and over again.

The current process creates an obvious conflict of interest.

Initiative petition #50 eliminates that conflict of interest, and also eliminates the partisanship that has taken over the process.

Here is why The Oregonian thinks you should sign the petition:

Normally, we don't care much whether the advocates of a ballot measure manage to gather enough signatures to get their idea before the voters. It's a marketplace of ideas, after all, and not everything catches on. But this is different.

First of all, we think this idea has real merit. The impact of extreme partisanship on every aspect of public life has become overbearing, almost corrosive. That alone makes reasonable remedies such as this one worth considering. Second, there is no other practical way to make the change before the reapportionment process begins in the 2011 legislative session.

That means the next chance for Oregon to employ a more dispassionate, more objective system of drawing legislative boundaries will not come until 2020. Oregonians shouldn't have

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## Summary:

Redistricting – or reapportionment – is the process of re-drawing the lines for legislative districts. Redistricting occurs every ten years in Oregon, and is supposed to allow legislative district boundaries to be redrawn in order to account for changes in a state's population.

Redistricting is supposed to be a non-partisan process, and is supposed to ensure that districts are drawn as fairly as possible.

In Oregon, legislative

to wait that long. When you see this petition, do Oregon a favor and sign it.

Please Click on the link below, print Petition 50, sign it and put it in the mail:

[Measure 50 Petition](#)

[Text of Independent Redistricting Commission Amendment](#)

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**Summary:**

Redistricting – or reapportionment – is the process of re-drawing the lines for legislative districts. Redistricting occurs every ten years in Oregon, and is supposed to allow legislative district boundaries to be redrawn in order to account for changes in a state’s population.

Redistricting is supposed to be a non-partisan process, and is supposed to ensure that districts are drawn as fairly as possible.

In Oregon, legislative districts are currently drawn by legislators themselves, which creates an obvious conflict of interest. Instead of drawing legislative districts fairly, politicians draw districts to guarantee their re-election, and the election of their fellow party members. A process that is supposed to be fair and non-partisan is now controlled by self-interested partisan politicians who ignore the basic tenets of fairness in order to enhance their own political power.

The Independent Redistricting Commission Amendment eliminates the conflict of interest and self-dealing by politicians by creating a non-partisan commission of retired judges – appointed by the chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court – who are responsible for drawing the boundaries for Oregon’s legislative districts. By having judges – and not politicians –

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The Independent Redistricting Commission Amendment eliminates the conflict of interest and self-dealing by politicians by creating a non-partisan commission of retired judges – appointed by the chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court – who are responsible for drawing the boundaries for Oregon’s legislative districts. By having judges – and not politicians – draw the lines, the Independent Redistricting Commission Amendment eliminates the conflict of interest that exists in the current system, and guarantees a fair process for all Oregonians.

It is time to eliminate the politicians’ conflict of interest. It is time to adopt the Independent Redistricting Commission Amendment.

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**Instructions:**

In this newsletter are two links for the petition for the Independent Redistricting Commission Amendment. There are some things you need to know before you send in your petition:

1. Only the person who actually prints the petition sheet can sign the petition sheet. In other words, you cannot print off multiple copies of this petition for your friends and family. Each person that signs one of these E-Petitions must physically press "PRINT" on the computer and sign the petition he/she printed;
2. Be sure to fill in all the information at the bottom of the page. However – DO NOT FILL IN THE SPACE ENTITLED "SHEET NUMBER"; THAT IS FOR OFFICE USE ONLY;
3. The petition is a "self mailer". That is, the postage is already pre-paid. All you have to do is sign the petition, fill out the information, fold the petition and mail it in. We have to pay for each piece that is mailed, so if you are feeling generous, feel free to attach a stamp to the outside of the petition as well;
4. The petition sheet will print so that you can fold the petition into thirds in order to mail the petition. After folding the petition, please use A PIECE OF TAPE to secure the petition – PLEASE DO NOT USE STAPLES;
5. Feel free to email this E-Newsletter to your own EMAIL lists and ask your friends and family to sign this petition and bring real change to Oregon!

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