



# COMMON SENSE FOR OREGON

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**Better Government. Better Results. Stronger Oregon.**

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## The Importance of E-petitions

By Ross Day, Executive Director and General Counsel

One of the few changes to Oregon’s initiative and referendum system made by the Oregon Legislature that actually benefits the system is the creation of electronic petitions, or “E-petitions”. An E-petition is an initiative or referendum petition sent to you via your email address.

Common Sense For Oregon is pioneering the use of E-petitions. Approved in 2007, the use of E-petitions in an initiative and/or referendum campaign has been somewhat limited. Common Sense For Oregon did a test run of the use of the E-Petition during the circulation of the two tax referendum petitions last summer, with encouraging results.

Over the next several weeks, you are likely to receive E-petitions

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from Common Sense For Oregon on a number of common sense measures we support. The E-petitions will come from us in a form resembling this newsletter. The E-Petition will have an explanation of the measure, the actual text of the measure, and a petition form.

Our biggest obstacle in the use of E-petitions is getting Oregonians used to the idea of signing an E-petition, as opposed to the old format 10-line petitions circulated by professional, paid circulators or volunteers.

When you receive an E-petition from Common Sense For Oregon, please take the time to review the merits of the measure. If you are inclined to support the measure, or even if you just want Oregonians to have a chance to weigh in on the measure, please print the petition form, sign it, and send in the form.

And then forward the email to people on your email list who you think might want to sign the E-petition as well.

There are some rules you need to be aware of, though, when using the E-petition:

Only the person who actually, physically prints the E-petition can sign the E-Petition. In other words, if you and your spouse want to sign a petition, each of you must click "print" and sign the sheet you actually printed;

The E-Petition sheets you get from Common Sense For Oregon are called "self-mailers". When you print out the sheet, you will see the postage is already paid for (although you can use your own stamp, if you like, and save Common Sense some money). After you print and sign the sheet, just fold the sheet into thirds, put one piece of tape on the petition, and send it off in the mail!

You absolutely can forward the E-petitions, as long as you also forward the text of the measure as well;

Most of all, when you receive an email from Common Sense For Oregon, please make sure not to simply delete the message. Chances are, the next email you receive from Common Sense For Oregon will offer you a chance to create a better government and a stronger Oregon!

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Common Sense For Oregon Brings You:

# The ODOT Cultural Competency Assessment!

Take the ODOT ["Cultural Worklife Survey"](#)



That's right, the Oregon Department of Transportation is concerned about the "cultural competency" of their staff. In an effort to increase "diversity," ODOT has hired a team of consultants to conduct the survey, interviews, and ultimately develop a training program to "address the uniqueness" of their organization! They even created a new website! Of course we as citizens are not allowed access to their [diversity intranet site](#).

The survey is due by Feb. 12th.

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