



Measure 56: **Voting Matters – FAQs**

What is Measure 56?

Measure 56 repeals the “double majority” requirement in Oregon’s local elections. The “double majority” rule is unfair to Oregon communities. That’s why a strong bi-partisan coalition of legislators drafted Measure 56 for the ballot – to give control of the elections back to the communities.

What exactly is “double majority”?

The “double majority” rule was added to the Oregon Constitution in 1996 in a measure sponsored by Bill Sizemore. Under “double majority,” getting a majority of the vote in an election is not enough. That’s because if less than 50 percent of registered voters participate, the measure automatically fails. In other words, your vote is canceled out by someone who doesn’t even bother to vote.

Who supports Measure 56?

Measure 56 is supported by hard-working Oregonians from across the state, including teachers, firefighters, law enforcement officials, and business leaders, all of whom share the goal of restoring fairness to local elections. For the long list of groups supporting Measure 56, please visit www.VotingMattersOregon.com.

How does Measure 56 restore fairness to local elections?

Measure 56 restores the basic democratic principle of “one person, one vote” to local elections. Measure 56 prevents non-voters from unfairly determining election outcomes, allowing local communities to reclaim control over their elections.

But don’t we want to encourage people to vote?

Yes. But “double majority” is outdated and unnecessary. Since Oregon voters approved Oregon’s vote-by-mail system in 1998, greater numbers of Oregonians are participating in elections. And Measure 56 would likely further increase voter turnout, as it rewards those who vote, not those who don’t.

How much would Measure 56 cost?

Nothing! The 2007 Legislature determined that Measure 56 would have “no direct financial effect on state or local expenditures or revenue.” Measure 56 simply restores fairness and democracy to our elections process.

For more information:

Michael Novak

Michael.Novak@VotingMattersOregon.com

503.288.5514

www.VotingMattersOregon.com