

2020.01 DRAFT BALLOT TITLE

Amends Constitution: Allows laws that “regulate” (undefined) contributions and expenditures made to influence elections

Result of “Yes” Vote: “Yes” vote allows laws passed by elected legislative body by a three-fourths vote or by initiative that “regulate” (undefined) contributions/expenditures to influence elections.

Result of “No” Vote: “No” vote retains Oregon Constitution’s existing freeexpression provision; laws limiting contributions to candidates or political committees by a person, corporation or union violate constitution.

Summary: Amends Constitution. The Oregon Supreme Court has interpreted the Oregon Constitution’s free-expression provision (Article I, section 8) to prohibit limits on many political campaign contributions and expenditures. The proposed measure amends Article I, section 8, to allow laws that “regulate contributions and expenditures” made to “influence the outcome of any election” (quoted terms undefined). Such laws would need to be consistent with the federal constitution’s free-speech provision and “adopted or amended by an elected legislative body by a three-fourths vote of each chamber or by initiative.” If amendment passes, Measure 47 (2006), which limited campaign contributions/expenditures, established new reporting/advertising disclosure requirements for the sources and amounts of campaign contributions/expenditures, might be revived