



# Money in Politics Research Action Project

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**For Immediate Release:**  
 July 10, 2006

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## Deep-Pocketed Donors Help 12 Proposals Over Hurdle to November Ballot

Oregonians are again bracing for a busy election season with as many as 12 measures, several funded by a few donors, still in the running for the November ballot.

Loren Parks, a major contributor to signature gathering efforts in 2002 who was absent from the state's ballot measure fights in 2004, re-emerged as the driving force behind two measures tied to Bill Sizemore. Parks gave \$112,500, or 86%, of the money to a measure that would allow Oregonians to substitute for the state exemption credit an income tax deduction equal to the federal exemptions deduction, and \$100,000, or 90%, of the money to a measure that prohibits insurance companies from using "credit worthiness" to calculate rates or premiums.

Parks appears to be the major source of money behind petition # 24, the effort to require Oregon Supreme Court and Court of Appeals judges to be elected by district. Parks gave \$100,000 each to the Oregon Family Farm Association PAC and Oregon Citizens for a Sound Economy, which in turn gave \$100,000 or more to the chief petitioner PAC. Parks' pass-through contributions comprise 75% of the money raised for that effort.

Of the remaining nine chief petitioner PACs, three raised 100% of their money from five or fewer contributors. Four PACs raised more than 90% of their dollars from their top-five donors.

The PAC for petition # 86, which would open Oregon's primary to voters from any party, had a top-five donor list that accounts for less than one quarter of the money raised for that effort. The top-five donors to the PAC for petition # 40, which would make access to health care a fundamental right, gave 65% of all the money that PAC raised. Both of these efforts are unlikely to pass the signature-verification stage of the process, given the relatively low numbers of signatures turned into the Secretary of State's office.

### Chief Petitioner PACs that turned in signature by deadline for November 2006 ballot

Pet. #	Subject/Chief Petitioners/Top 5 Donors/Top 5 and Small-donor Percentages	Total \$ to date <sup>i</sup>
6	Amends constitution: limits biennial percentage increase in state spending to percentage increase in state population, plus inflation.	\$232,199
	John McIntire, Jason Williams, Greg How	
	Americans for Limited Government \$178,077(76.7%); Americans for Tax Reform \$40,000 (17.2%); Taxpayer Association of Oregon \$1994 (<1%); Oregonians in Action PAC \$1764 (<1%); 3 individuals at \$500 each (<1%)	
	<b>Top 5:</b> \$223,335 or 96.2% <b>Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$100 and under:</b> \$7,765 (3.3%)	
8	Amends constitution: allows laws regulating election contributions, expenditures adopted by initiative or 3/4 of both legislative houses.	\$101,080
	David E. Delk, Jim Robison, Ruth Duemler	
	Money is Not Democracy PAC \$90,478 (89.5%); Democracy's Edge Action Fund \$10,602 (10.5%)	
	<b>Top 5:</b> \$101,080 or 100% <b>Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$100 and under:</b> \$0 (0%)	

Pet. #	Subject/Chief Petitioners/Top 5 Donors/Top 5 and Small-donor Percentages	Total \$ to date <sup>i</sup>
14	Allows income tax deduction equal to federal exemptions deduction to substitute for state exemption credit.	\$130,487
	Abner J. Bobo, Carol A. Bobo, Russ Walker	
	Loren Parks \$112,500 (86.2%); Freedomworks \$4500 (3.4%); Walter Pelett \$500 (<1%); seven donors at \$200 each (<1% each)	
	<b>Top 5:</b> \$118,900 or 91.1% <b>Miscellaneous cash contributions of \$100 and under:</b> \$10,987 (8.4%)	
23	Prohibits insurance companies from using credit score or "credit worthiness" in calculating rates or premiums.	\$110,625
	Bill Sizemore, Grace I. Sizemore	
	Loren Parks \$100,000 (90.4%); Democracy Direct, Inc. \$10,625 (9.6%)	
	<b>Top 5:</b> \$110,625 or 100% <b>Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$100 and under:</b> \$0 (0%)	
24	Amends constitution: requires Oregon Supreme Court judges and Court of Appeals judges to be elected by district.	\$265,308 <sup>ii</sup>
	Abner J. Bobo, Carol A. Bobo, Russ Walker	
	Oregon Family Farm Association PAC \$160,408 (60.5%); Oregon Citizens for a Sound Economy \$100,000 (37.7%); Freedom Works \$4000 (1.5%); Friends of Gary George PAC \$900 (<1%)	
	<b>Top 5:</b> \$265,308 or 100% <b>Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$100 and under:</b> \$0 (0%)	
37	Revises campaign finance laws: limits or prohibits contributions and expenditures; adds disclosure, new reporting requirements.	\$77,685
	Francis G. Nelson, Peter Buckley, Bryn Hazell	
	Money Is Not Democracy PAC \$67,083 (86.4%); Democracy's Edge Action Fund \$10,602 (13.6%)	
	<b>Top 5:</b> \$77,685 or 100% <b>Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$100 and under:</b> \$0 (0%)	
39	Amends constitution: limits state legislators: six years as representative, eight years as senator, fourteen years in legislature.	\$156,497
	Theodore F. Berthelote	
	US Term Limits \$110,000 (70.3%); Americans for Tax Reform \$40,000 (25.6%); Americans for Limited Government Foundation \$5000 (3.2%); Committee to Restore Term Limits PAC \$947 (<1%); Eric Winters \$450 (<1%)	
	<b>Top 5:</b> \$156,397 or 99.9% <b>Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$100 and under:</b> \$100 (<1%)	
40	Amends constitution: requires access to health care as fundamental right; legislature must adopt plan expanding health care.	\$138,115
	Mitch Greenlick, Alan Bates, Ben Westlund	
	CareOregon \$35,000 (25.3%); Tuality Healthcare \$15,000 (10.9%); Willamette Dental Management Corp., Oregon AFSCME Council 75, William Shields, OSEA Seed Fund PAC \$10,000 (7.2%)	
	<b>Top 5:</b> \$90,000 <b>Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$100 and under:</b> \$3190 (2.4%)	
51	Requires 48-hour notice to unemancipated minor's parent before providing abortion; authorizes lawsuits, physician discipline.	\$244,111
	Felicia Bautista, Brenda Cochran	
	Oregon Right to Life Issues PAC \$154,789 (63.4%); Oregon Right to Life PAC \$63,408 (26.0%); Oregon Right to Life \$19,394 (7.9%); Adams & Company \$1389 (<1%)	
	<b>Top 5:</b> \$238,979 or 97.9% <b>Miscellaneous Cash Contributions \$100 and Under:</b> \$5132 (2.1%) <sup>iii</sup>	

Pet. #	Subject/Chief Petitioners/Top 5 Donors/Top 5 and Small-donor Percentages	Total \$ to date <sup>i</sup>
57	Prohibits public body from condemning private real property if intends to convey to private party.	\$214,991
	Ross Day, David J. Hunnicutt	
	Oregonians In Action PAC \$50,616 (23.5%); Oregon Family Farm Association PAC \$45,000 (20.9%); Wes Lematta, Seneca Jones Timber Co., Norman Branden, Swanson Group, Inc., A-Dec Dental, Hire Calling Public Affairs (Dick Wendt) \$12,500 (5.8%) each.	
	<b>Top 5:</b> \$183,116 or 85.2% <b>Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$100 and under:</b> \$50 (<0.1%)	
86	Establishes open primaries; electors vote regardless of party affiliation; two candidates proceed to general election.	\$355,778 <sup>iv</sup>
	Phil Keisling, Norma Paulus, Richard Alexander	
	AOI Center for Citizen Leadership PAC \$20,000 (5.6%); William C. Pierce, \$15,000 (4.2%); CareOregon, \$12,700 (3.6%) William Swindells, Stan Amy, Oregon Business Association \$10,000 (4.8%) each.	
	<b>Top 5:</b> \$77,700 or 21.8% <b>Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$100 and under:</b> \$7832 (2.2%)	
122	Allows any Oregon resident without prescription drug coverage to participate in Oregon prescription drug program.	\$61,805
	Bill Morrisette, Gerald J. Cohen	
	AARP \$43,734 (70.8%); Our Oregon \$13,946 (22.6%), AARP Oregon \$4125 (6.7%).	
	<b>Top 5:</b> \$61,805 or 100% <b>Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$100 and under:</b> \$0 (0%)	

“While conventional wisdom has it that the initiative process allows grassroots issues to get around legislators controlled by special interests, the financing of these initiatives reflects the will of a few deep-pocketed contributors,” said Sarah Wetherson, research and outreach associate for the Money in Politics Research Action Project, a non-partisan, not-for-profit group whose goals are to increase accountability and opportunities for participation in politics.

Almost as interesting as what has passed this hurdle is how interest groups used the process to put pressure on the Governor and the Legislature to make change. Threats to take reforms of the payday loan and nursing home industries to the voters were enough to force action. Groups pushing initiatives succeeded in adding payday loan reforms to the legislation taken up in a one-day special session in April 2006 and in getting the Governor to create a special commission to look at nursing home regulations.

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<sup>i</sup> Includes all contributions reported through the May 2006 Initiative and Referendum report. Complete signature-gathering contributions will not be available until July reports are filed on July 24.

<sup>ii</sup> Loren Parks contributed \$100,000 each to the Oregon Family Farm Association and Oregon Citizens for a Sound Economy. Loren Parks has a history as a major donor to efforts to change Oregon’s system of electing judges—see <http://www.oregonfollowthemoney.org/Press/2002/October2802.html>.

<sup>iii</sup> Historically, the Oregon Right to Life PAC reports an unusually high percentage of small-dollar contributors, more than 90% of the money raised during each election cycle back to 1998.

<sup>iv</sup> Includes contributions to a chief-petitioner PAC sponsoring an earlier version of the open-primary petition for 2006 for which signatures were gathered but abandoned.