BUILDING A BETTER OREGON

OEA Signature Gathering Packet
There’s a **gaping hole** in Oregon’s education budget.

You’re about to be part of something **BIG**—a chance to build a **Better Oregon** by putting the needs of Oregon’s students, **families** and communities ahead of big, **out-of-state corporations**. Next November, we will have the opportunity to pass a ballot measure to make sure (mostly) out-of-state corporations **pay their fair share**, allowing us to raise much-needed funds for senior services, healthcare and public education.

Think about what that could mean for **our children**.

Right now, **Oregon students** are sacrificing important one-on-one time with their teachers—sitting in some of the **largest classes in the nation**—just so large corporations like **Comcast, Walmart and Bank of America** can get away with paying the lowest corporate taxes in America. It doesn’t have to be this way.

**WE CAN CHANGE THIS.**
Third largest class sizes in the nation
WE CAN CHANGE THIS.

One of the shortest school years in the nation
WE CAN CHANGE THIS.

Deep cuts to art, libraries, PE and music
WE CAN CHANGE THIS.

Third lowest investment in higher education in the nation
WE CAN CHANGE THIS.

Fewer counselors, advisors and student support services than ever before
WE CAN CHANGE THIS.

HERE ARE FOUR WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

SIGN THE PETITION Find a volunteer or download the petition at www.abetteroregon.org

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT Once you've signed, get our graphics and change your online profile picture

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME Circulate the petition to your family, friends, and coworkers

SPREAD THE WORD invite a coalition member to speak to your group or host an event in your home

For OEA campaign materials, check out:
www.oregoned.org/betteroregon

Photo: Thomas Patterson
TOP 5 FAQS

WHAT IS THE OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE?
The official ballot measure title for Initiative Petition 28: “Increases corporate minimum tax when sales exceed $25 million; funds education, healthcare, senior services.”

WHY IS THE MEASURE NECESSARY?
For decades, Oregon has been disinvesting in the things that are important to our communities. This measure would require the money that’s raised to be dedicated to education, healthcare, and senior services—that means classes small enough for one-on-one attention, more time to learn, and opportunities for additional investment into higher education and our communities. These are things we all care about and that will help build a Better Oregon.

WHO ISN’T PAYING THEIR FAIR SHARE?
Many large, out-of-state corporations pay just the minimum—$150. Oregon currently has the lowest corporate taxes in the nation. If this measure passes, Oregon’s corporate taxes would still keep us in the bottom fifth.

IF WE PASS THIS MEASURE, WILL BIG CORPORATIONS LEAVE OREGON?
The vast majority of Oregon businesses will not see any increase in taxes. This change would apply mostly to out-of-state corporations like Walmart, Comcast and Bank of America, whose sales exceed $25 million a year in Oregon. And, even with the increase, the tax rate would still remain one of the lowest in the nation.

COULD THIS MEASURE HURT OREGON’S SMALL BUSINESSES?
No. This measure only impacts corporations whose Oregon sales exceed $25 million per year. This measure allows local business to flourish by making large out-of-state corporations pay their fair share and leveling the playing field. It also makes Oregon a better place to do business by improving schools and services.

More information and resources are available on our website: oregoned.org/betteroregon
Section 1. ORS 317.090 is amended to read:

1. As used in this section:
   a. "Oregon sales" means:
      A. If the corporation apportions business income under ORS 314.650 to 314.665 for Oregon tax purposes, the total sales of the taxpayer in this state during the tax year, as determined for purposes of ORS 314.665;
      B. If the corporation does not apportion business income for Oregon tax purposes, the total sales in this state that the taxpayer would have had, as determined for purposes of ORS 314.665, if the taxpayer were required to apportion business income for Oregon tax purposes; or
      C. If the corporation apportions business income using a method different from the method prescribed by ORS 314.650 to 314.665, Oregon sales as defined by the Department of Revenue by rule.
   b. If the corporation is an agricultural cooperative that is a cooperative organization described in section 1381 of the Internal Revenue Code, "Oregon sales" does not include sales representing business done with or for members of the agricultural cooperative.

2. Each corporation or affiliated group of corporations filing a return under ORS 317.710 shall pay annually to the state, for the privilege of carrying on or doing business by it within this state, a minimum tax as follows:
   a. If Oregon sales properly reported on a return are:
      A. Less than $500,000, the minimum tax is $150.
      B. $500,000 or more, but less than $1 million, the minimum tax is $500.
      C. $1 million or more, but less than $2 million, the minimum tax is $1,000.
      D. $2 million or more, but less than $3 million, the minimum tax is $1,500.
      E. $3 million or more, but less than $5 million, the minimum tax is $2,000.
      F. $5 million or more, but less than $7 million, the minimum tax is $4,000.
      G. $7 million or more, but less than $10 million, the minimum tax is $7,500.
      H. $10 million or more, but less than $25 million, the minimum tax is $15,000.
      I. $25 million or more, but less than $50 million, the minimum tax is $30,000.
      J. $50 million or more, but less than $75 million, the minimum tax is $50,000.
      K. $75 million or more, but less than $100 million, the minimum tax is $75,000.
      L. $100 million or more, the minimum tax is $100,000.
   b. If a corporation is an S corporation, the minimum tax is $150.

3. The minimum tax is not apportionable (except in the case of a change of accounting periods), and is payable in full for any part of the year during which a corporation is subject to tax.

Section 2. The amendments to the minimum tax made by Section 1 of this 2016 Act do not apply to any legally formed and registered "benefit company," as that term is defined in ORS 60.750. A legally formed and registered "benefit company" shall pay the minimum tax set forth in ORS 317.090(2) in effect prior to the passage of this 2016 Act.

Section 3. All of the revenue generated from the increase in the tax created by this 2016 Act shall be used to provide additional funding for: public early childhood and kindergarten through twelfth grade education; healthcare; and, services for senior citizens. Revenue distributed pursuant to this section shall be in addition to other funds distributed for: public early childhood and kindergarten through twelfth grade education; healthcare; and, services for senior citizens.

Section 4. The amendments to ORS 317.090 made by Section 1 of this 2016 Act and Sections 2 and 3 of this 2016 Act apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

Section 5. If any provision of this 2016 Act is held invalid for any reason, all remaining provisions of this Act shall remain in place and shall be given full force and effect.
SIGNATURE GATHERING: An OEA Step-by-Step Guide

**MAKE YOUR PITCH**
You are likely talking with someone you know! Think about what’s important to them. Ask them what they would do if we had enough money for our schools. Also, share why the measure is important to you. Examples:

“OEA is putting forward a ballot measure to increase funding for schools – can you sign to help get it on the ballot?”

“Did you know that some out-of-state corporations are only paying $150 a year in taxes? Meanwhile, my class sizes are so large that I can’t give my students the attention they deserve. So, I had to get involved. Will you sign this so corporations pay their fair share?”

**COLLECT A VALID SIGNATURE**
Congratulations! You have found someone who wants to sign the petition. Follow these guidelines to help ensure all signatures are valid and counted.

**CHECK:**
- Are they a registered Oregon voter? (Only registered Oregon voters can sign the petition.)
- Have they used their full legal name? (Jennifer, not Jenny, for example.)
- Have they filled out the entire signature line? (It’s helpful to have their phone number and email in case we need to reach them.)
- Have they dated their signature? (Use the MM/DD/YY format.)

**WITNESS:**
- You must witness each signature, so make sure you keep the petition sheets with you at all times. Do not pass your sheets around, or leave on a table to be signed.

**COMPLETE:**
- You are a circulator. Once you are done with your sheet, please make sure the circulator info at the bottom of the sheet is complete.

**TURN IN YOUR SIGNATURES**
Nice work! Thanks for everything you’re doing to help pass this measure. All completed sheets should be returned either to the person who gave them to you, or to your local President or closest OEA office. If that’s not possible, please mail to:
OEA c/o Government Relations
6900 SW Atlanta St
Portland, OR 97223

Remember, signature sheets are legal documents—do not make any copies. Only official numbered sheets can be used.

More questions? Watch our signature gathering training video: [www.oregoned.org/betteroregon/signature-gathering](http://www.oregoned.org/betteroregon/signature-gathering)
KEEPING IT LEGAL:
Supporting the Better Oregon Campaign at Work

1. Can we talk with and recruit our colleagues during the work day for the Better Oregon campaign?

You can talk to your colleagues about the campaign during your “duty-free” time and during THEIR “duty-free” time. Do not interrupt anyone that is working to discuss the campaign.

YES

2. Can we wear political/campaign buttons or stickers at our worksite? Can I have a sign or bumper sticker on my car?

It is your first amendment right. Just be sure that it doesn’t disrupt the work environment.

YES

3. Can we distribute political information about the campaign to members through inter-district mail, staff mailboxes, email or school bulletin boards?

You cannot use district resources (computers, email or anything else) to promote or solicit for a ballot measure. You can use a union bulletin board. Remember: School email communications are NEVER private or confidential. You should assume that anything accessed or downloaded on a school district computer or network – whether it is retrieved from a school or personal email account – may be accessed or reviewed by the school district.

NO

4. Can we gather signatures at school events?

You can distribute political information at school sponsored events, such as athletic activities, provided you are not “on duty” at the time.

YES

5. Can we speak out publicly about the campaign at school board or community meetings?

Yes. Just be sure to speak as an individual and not as a representative of your school or district.

YES

GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT GATHERING SIGNATURES:

1. Can I turn in a sheet with less than a full sheet of signatures?

Yes! Once you sign and date the circulator information turn in the sheet immediately. If you find someone else who wants to sign, just start a new sheet.

2. What if a signer enters incorrect information?

The signer should cross out and correct their own information. The signer must initial any change.

3. Where can I get more information on how to gather signatures as a volunteer?

www.oregoned.org/betteroregon/signature-gathering

4. More questions?

Email us at: oea-gr@oregoned.org