

Initiative

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uled to speak in opposition to the initiative, but he was a no show. No explanation for his absence was given.

"This is perhaps the most important issue facing our country today," said Harry Lonsdale, one of the chief petitioners for initiative 150. "It affects us every day of our lives in a lot of ways."

Lonsdale listed examples of the influence of big corporate spending on politics.

In reaction to recent lawsuits filed by New Orleans, Detroit and a dozen other U.S. cities against hand-gun manufacturers to recover the cost of treating citizens injured with guns, many states have passed legislation prohibiting such class action suits. Lonsdale said the prohibitions were the result of intense National Rifle Association lobbying efforts.

"Do you recall writing to your legislator here in Oregon and saying, 'Please pass a bill so we can't sue the gun manufacturers?'" Lonsdale asked. "Where does this come from? It came from the NRA and a lot of money."

After Lonsdale spoke, Maureen Kirk, executive director of the OSP-IRG citizen lobby and a chief petitioner for the initiative, explained the necessity of amending the Oregon Constitution rather than simply reforming campaign financing with a petition.

A 1994 initiative limiting campaign contributions was passed with the favor of 72 percent of voters, but was thrown out by the Oregon Supreme Court because it limited free speech under Oregon's liberal definition of expression. Initiative 150 is not vulnerable to such concerns because it will actually amend the state constitution, Kirk said.

The initiative, which would limit contributions by any individual or corporation to the campaign for any ballot measure or candidate to \$1,000 per year, per initiative, has not yet been approved by the secretary of state. Its circulation is being held up by the objections raised by the Oregon chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"The ACLU has, since the mid 70s, opposed campaign finance limits," said David Fidanque, executive director of ACLU Oregon. Fidanque represented the lone

voice of opposition to the initiative on the panel.

"When an individual is running for office, they are seeking the support of other people who share their views," Fidanque said. "I think we all understand the principles of majority rules. If enough of us get together and are active in the political process, we can support the candidates that reflect our views."

For the initiative to appear on the November ballot, its supporters must gather 100,000 signatures by the end of June.

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Elections

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hearing, the Constitution Court ruled that by providing snacks, Gabbe and Larson had in fact violated election rule 2.4, which states that candidates cannot provide electors with a "thing of value" with the intention of promoting their campaign. However, they could not be kicked off the ballot because the Elections Board erred when handling the situation.

By not holding a hearing into ASUO Student Sen. Jennifer Greenough's grievance within 72 hours of it's being filed, the board violated Gabbe and Larson's due process right, which states that a person's rights cannot be denied unless done so in a manner compliant with existing rules.

Because Gabbe and Larson have already been tried for breaking rule 2.4, the court decided that the only part of DePoe's grievance that can be ruled on by the Elections Board is the portion dealing with the expenditure form.

To further complicate the situation set before the board, Gabbe and Larson submitted a motion to dismiss DePoe's grievance late Thursday afternoon. The motion claims the grievance is invalid based on the definition of an "expenditure form" according to the elections rules.

Their argument hinges on a rule stating that an expenditure form must include "the total amount spent by the candidate" up to two days before the election

occurs. Gabbe and Larson insist that the bill they owe the ISA is still outstanding. Because they hadn't actually spent that money by the time the expenditure form was due, it didn't need to be included.

The motions are not over yet. Greenough has filed a motion to reconsider with the court regarding its decision to keep Gabbe and Larson on the ballot. Her argument centers around the fact that she never conceded three days to mean 72 hours. This would change the conditions under which the court determined the Elections Board had erred, by placing the time of the hearing within that three-day period.

These motions and grievances have the power to withhold the election results and keep a new executive out of office for months to come.

Ballot measure election results

All eight measures on this year's ballot passed easily, five of which authored increases in the student incidental fee for next year.

No 1: USSA Referendum:

Yes 1,536
No 223

No 2: ASUO Grievances:

Yes 935
No 322

No 3: Designated Driver Shuttle (more vans):

Yes 1,506
No 281

No 4: Workers' Rights Consortium:

Yes 1,237
No 404

No 5: International Resource Center:

Yes 1,051
No 685

No 6: ASUO Constitution Changes:

Yes 787
No 243

No 7: Designated Driver Shuttle (more hours):

Yes 1,304
No 352

No 8: Lane Transit District Bus Funding:

Yes 1,275
No 396

Unofficial 2000 Student Senate election results

ASCAP	
Daniel Paul Adikisson	443
Amanda Langston	609
EMU SENATE SEAT NO. 4 (1 YEAR)	
A.J. Swoboda	446
Skye Tenney	529
EMU SENATE SEAT NO. 5 (2 YEARS)	
Kristen V. Dean	604
Ted Ehlert	317
ADFC SENATE SEAT NO. 7 (1 YEAR)	
Kate Kranzush	529
Jeff Oliver	380
TOTAL VOTER TURNOUT:	2,155

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