

tor of the ACLU of Oregon, said it's still complicated.

"Because the law has gone back and forth on this over the last 20 years, conservative lawyers are going to take the position that there shouldn't be any political activity at all," he said. "And when I say conservative, I mean cautious. There are definitely five or six ways to look at this issue legally and constitutionally."

That hasn't kept some major corporations, including Wal-Mart and Starbucks, from allowing NVP canvassers on their property. With Wal-Mart it's a corporate-wide policy and with Starbucks, it's up to the individual manager at each location.

"We're working with the New Voters Project in Oregon, Iowa, Nevada and other states as well," said Delia Garcia, spokeswoman for Wal-Mart Stores Inc. Wal-Mart deals with groups on a case-by-case basis and in the last few months, Garcia said she's processed about 300 requests from different

groups to conduct voter registration and signature collection on Wal-Mart property.

"I've really got to hand it to them (the NVP) for being so well-organized," she said. "They've been great to work with in all of our stores."

That hasn't been the case with all the groups she's allowed onto Wal-Mart property.

"We've had complaints about other groups that have been very aggressive and difficult to work with," she said.

As of Monday, Oct. 4, NVP canvassers had registered 30,308 people in Oregon. More than half of those people were registered by canvassers working the streets, coffee shops, fairs and public spaces in Eugene. Nationwide the NVP has registered more than 280,000 people.

"It would have been great if we had their support," said Barker, referring to the companies that won't let them canvass. "Then maybe we could have registered 20,000 people (in Eugene)." **EW**



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