

# Recall petition against Gov. Brown comes up short

By Claire Withycombe  
Oregon Capital Bureau

of State's office.



Gov. Kate Brown

Workers counted all 23,926 signature sheets. But since each sheet can only have, at most, 10 signatures each, after counting the sheets it was clear there weren't enough signatures for that effort to qualify for the ballot.

Currier told Larson that there was "absolutely" support for another recall effort.

"This fight is not over," Currier said.

Currier said that between the two efforts, enough valid signatures were collected.

"Another way to put this, is, there were enough signatures collected ... they just can't be combined," he said.

Currier also said that the petition received quite a few invalid signatures that he said could be easily corrected if petitioners file again. Many invalid signatures were "simply illegible," Currier said.

He said over the weekend, they had been able to identify about 100,000 invalid



Oregon Capital Bureau/Claire Withycombe  
**Carol Williams, petition coordinator for the Oregon Republican Party, indicates a box where signatures in support of a petition to recall Gov. Kate Brown are housed. More signatures are in the safe behind her.**

signatures by registered voters whose signatures could be converted into valid signatures.

"We have an address and a name, and with a little bit of research, we can tie that to a specific person and make that valid," Currier said. "And there were other folks who didn't put the correct information down, they put the wrong address, and so we can tie them back to a correct address."

Currier did not return requests seeking further

comment Monday.

Brown, a Democrat, was first appointed governor in 2015 after John Kitzhaber resigned after an influence-peddling scandal. She was elected to fill Kitzhaber's unexpired term in 2016 and reelected in 2018.

In the election last year, Brown received 50.05% of the vote, or 934,498 votes, according to Secretary of State data. Her main opponent, Republican Knute Buehler, received 814,988 votes. Currier said the public and

the party's volunteers were committed to the cause of removing Brown.

The GOP petition said Brown has "overturned the will of the voters" by allowing undocumented immigrants to get driver's licenses, "failed to protect Oregon's foster children" and "failed to address" the state's public pension debt, among other grievances.

"The volunteers are, for the most part, so committed to seeing Brown removed that we can carry this forward," Currier said on the show, "but we do have to work out details like timing, when we begin round two, setting up the infrastructure for all of that to happen. So this fight is definitely not over."

Brown's supporters say she has fulfilled her campaign promises.

"Gov. Brown ran a campaign promising to move Oregon forward by investing in our schools, creating paid family and medical leave, and protecting the environment," said Thomas Wheatley, political adviser to Brown, in a written statement

Monday. "That's exactly what she did this year."

Wheatley contended that "recalls should be used only when an elected official has committed a crime, not when someone disagrees with the policies of the governor or another elected official."

"The extremists pushing reckless recalls want to overturn the will of the voters who elected Democrats by wide margins," Wheatley said. "In rejecting this recall, the public has sent a clear message: Oregonians don't want to waste their tax dollars on a reckless recall against Democratic lawmakers who are moving our state forward."

Currier said that the number of signatures they gathered in three months was "historic." Experts had observed that getting enough signatures within 90 days with an all-volunteer campaign would be a steep climb.

"I think people need to understand that we had 90 days to collect twice as many signatures as a normal petition, which gets a whole year to do that," Currier said. "So this is historic."

# OLCC kicks off six-month ban on flavored vape products

Ban takes effect Oct. 15, as OHA and OLCC to create work group to investigate cause of vape-related outbreak

By Sam Stites  
Oregon Capital Bureau

was responding to Gov. Kate Brown's Oct. 4 order placing a temporary ban on the products.

OLCC's ban takes effect Oct. 15. The ban is expected to affect approximately 4,000 retailers statewide.

"We're dealing with a national epidemic with a growing number of cases," said Jeff Rhodes, the governor's senior policy adviser to OLCC. "The latest numbers are 1,299 cases and 26 deaths, two of which occurred in Oregon."

In Oregon, an outbreak of



Oregon Capital Bureau/Sam Stites  
**OLCC Director Steve Marks addresses the media following the OLCC board's unanimous approval of implementing a six-month ban on sales of all flavored vaping products as directed by Gov. Kate Brown's executive order.**

nine cases of acute respiratory illness caused the Health Authority and Brown to issue warnings in late September

for Oregonians to stop vaping. Brown asked the Health Authority to propose options up to and including a tempo-

rary ban which she issued a week earlier.

According to OLCC officials, the agency will call manufacturers and retailers across the state this weekend to inform them of the new rules and distributing signs notifying consumers of the ban.

The ban does not include tobacco-flavored tobacco or nicotine products. It also doesn't include marijuana-flavored marijuana and THC products on the market.

OLCC Marijuana Technical Unit Manager TJ Sheehy said that 10 percent of all marijuana vape products would be affected by the ban. A process to handle exceptions could be in place by

Nov. 15 at which time manufacturers can apply to have products sourced from natural botanicals exempted from the ban.

"It's important to note that most of these cases reporting vaping of THC products, some of them using exclusively THC products, but also some using exclusively nicotine products," said Dr. Dean Sidelinger, state health officer. "In working with the CDC, we still don't have a definitive cause of this injury, or what ingredient or ingredients are causing it."

The OLCC and the Health Authority will create a work group in the next six months to examine the source of these illnesses.

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