

Citizens' Initiative Review: Ballot Measure 58

This statement was developed by an independent panel of 23 Oregon voters. The panel was chosen at random and balanced to fairly reflect the state's voters in terms of political party, location of residence, gender, ethnicity, age, and education level. The panel has issued this statement after five days of hearings and deliberation. The panel heard from representatives of the campaigns for and against the measure, along with background witnesses during the Review. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization Healthy Democracy Oregon convened and hosted the Review.

Citizens' Statement in Support

Position taken by **9** of the **23** panelists.

We members of the Citizen Initiative Review demonstration support Ballot Measure 58 for the following reasons:

FOR THE CHILDREN OF OREGON, THE FUTURE OF OREGON

- Current programs have not worked for years so we need a change
- The Oregon legislature has had their opportunity to address this issue, they have not, and that is why we need Measure 58.
- We need a standardized English immersion program that is more effective and less of a financial burden
- To efficiently and effectively use state funds by merging non-English speaking students with native English speaking students to achieve proficiency.
- The timeline has been proven in other states to be sufficient and it promotes accountability
- Immersion programs in other states have produced higher test scores.
- This measure will help school districts be on equal ground. It will also enhance teaching programs, simplify instructions, help students learn, and grasp the English language more rapidly.
- Consistency across the state will keep students that transfer from other schools from falling behind when they enter a new school district.
- Estimated costs in other successful states is less than 15% of what Oregon is currently spending per student, leading to substantial savings in the future.

Oregon schools are not meeting required standards and need to improve. We believe that this measure will greatly improve our schools, helping children learn English while keeping up with core curriculum.

Citizens' Statement in Opposition

Position taken by **14** of the **23** panelists.

MEASURE 58 IS NOT THE FIX WE NEED!

We oppose Measure 58 because it will not save taxpayer dollars and will not guarantee English language proficiency. M58 will not help Oregon's children!

Measure 58:

- Is projected to cost over \$500 million in the first two years
- Does not acknowledge research which shows most students need more than 1-2 years to become proficient in English
- Does not allow flexibility for teachers to meet the needs of individual students
- Does not allow for any flexibility or exceptions to the rigid one to two year timelines
- Requires the legislature to determine what comprises English Immersion for the entire state of Oregon
- Does not allow for local control
- Would eliminate current successful programs
- Is NOT the same as the more flexible laws passed in CA and AZ, and no other state in the nation has a law as restrictive as this one
- May have unpredicted and/or unintended social and financial consequences

After five days of receiving testimony about M58, we cannot support it. According to published research the timelines imposed are unrealistic. Not ALL students learn English in such a short time frame. Most of our non-English speaking students are already in English immersion programs. M58 will not solve current problems

MEASURE 58 IS TOO COSTLY TO TAXPAYERS AND OUR CHILDREN.