

CITIZENS INITIATIVE REVIEW®

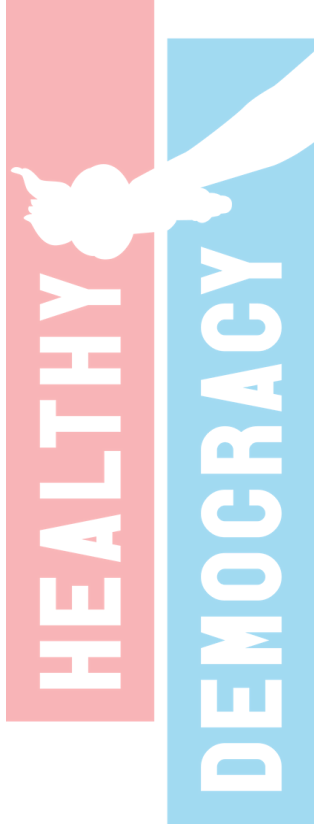
informing voters through citizen-centered deliberative democracy

THE PROBLEM

Ballot measures drive major policy decisions in both state and local governments, yet surveys show that 75% of voters say they often find initiatives too complicated or confusing to understand. Accurate and unbiased information is not only difficult to come by, it is often obscured by misleading statements and advertisements by both sides of an issue. Citizens don't want less democracy. But they do want more—and better—information.

THE SOLUTION

Citizens' Initiative Review®, created by Healthy Democracy and enacted into law by the Oregon legislature in 2011, engages citizens to help their fellow voters make better informed policy decisions that arise from the initiative process. This deliberative process brings together a randomly-selected, demographically-balanced "jury" of citizens and gives them the time and resources to fairly evaluate a ballot measure. At the conclusion of each review, panelists draft a statement highlighting the most important fact-based findings about the measure and the most strong and reliable pro and con arguments. For Oregon statewide initiatives, those results are then placed in the official voters' guide distributed by the Secretary of State's office.



Citizens Initiative Review®: How it Works



Research
demonstrates
effectiveness



Independent studies funded by the National Science Foundation and the Kettering Foundation find the Citizens Initiative Review® process to be highly deliberative. Participants have a meaningful opportunity to come to an understanding of a complex issue. They also find Citizens' Statements to be accurate, reliable, and more readable than official explanatory statements. Voters who use the Statement are better informed and are more confident in their knowledge. Find links to research reports on our website.

What People Say about Citizens Initiative Review®

"Participating in the Citizens Initiative Review® has been a unique and enriching experience for me. This opportunity to work side by side with fellow voters has affirmed my belief in the value of public participation in the democratic process."

-Citizen panelist (Oregon, 2014)

"[The Citizens Initiative Review®] is a promising form of voter education, a way to counter money in politics, and even an experiment in connecting high-quality, relational, but small-scale politics to the mass scale..."

-Peter Levine, Associate Dean and Professor of Citizenship & Public Affairs at the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University

"The CIR is a promising innovation in the development of democracy. The reviews combine the political power of voting with the educational power of deliberation: the knowledge and insight that can be generated by a diverse group of citizens thinking together about a policy issue. This is an extraordinary step forward for the state, and for the idea of self governance."

-Matt Leighninger, Vice President of Public Engagement at Public Agenda and author of *The Next Form of Democracy*



Bring a Citizens Initiative Review® to You!

Oregon made history when it became the first state to adopt the Citizens Initiative Review® as part of its elections process. The Citizens Initiative Review® process is now being invited into other states and jurisdictions. Pilot projects have been conducted in Colorado, Massachusetts, and Arizona, and an official statewide Citizens Initiative Review® process was held in 2016 by the publicly funded Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission.

Contact Healthy Democracy for more information on how to bring this unique and powerful approach to public decision making on ballot measures to your state, county, or city.



3583 NE Broadway Street
Portland, Oregon 97232

503.841.6865



www.healthydemocracy.org
info@healthydemocracy.org



@healthydem



@HealthyDemocracy