



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS RELEASE

BILL BRADBURY

For Immediate Release:

January 10, 2007

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The Office of the Secretary of State received a judgment from the Supreme Court on January 9, 2007, for initiative petition #22, proposing a constitutional amendment, for the General Election of November 4, 2008. The judgment from the Supreme Court included a copy of the modified ballot title submitted to the court by the Attorney General's office.

The modified ballot title is as follows:

**AMENDS CONSTITUTION: MAKES OREGON CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEE OF
FREE EXPRESSION OF OPINION INAPPLICABLE TO "CONDUCT" OR "PERSONAL
BEHAVIOR"**

RESULT OF "YES" VOTE: "Yes" vote restricts constitutional guarantee of free expression of opinion to apply to beliefs, thoughts, and personal judgment but not to "conduct" or "personal behavior."

RESULT OF "NO" VOTE: "No" vote retains constitutional guarantee of free expression of opinion as covering certain conduct and personal behavior as well as beliefs, thoughts, and personal judgment.

SUMMARY: Amends constitution. Currently, the Oregon Constitution provides: "No law shall be passed restraining the free expression of opinion or restricting the right to speak, write, or print freely on any subject whatever; but every person shall be responsible for the abuse of this right." Oregon courts have interpreted this constitutional provision to guarantee broad free speech rights and to prohibit certain restrictions not only regarding spoken or written material, but also to prohibit restrictions regarding some expressive conduct or personal behavior that is considered to be constitutionally protected free expression of opinion. Measure limits constitutionally protected expression by defining "free expression of opinion" as applicable to "beliefs, thoughts, and personal judgment regarding a matter" and directing that it "shall not include conduct or personal behavior."

Chief Petitioner(s): Lon Mabon, PO Box 13109, Salem, OR 97309 and Robert Ekstrom, 51163 Bankston RD, Scappoose, OR 97056