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Senate votes in favor of campaign donation limits, better transparency in election process

SJR 18 will put constitutional amendment before voters in next General Election

SALEM – The Oregon Senate passed two bills and a resolution to limit the amount of money flowing into Oregon politics and improve transparency in the election process.

[Senate Joint Resolution 18](#) – which passed on the Senate floor yesterday – proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution authorizing adoption of state and local laws requiring campaign finance-related disclosures. The proposed amendment also would authorize limiting – to the extent permitted under the United States Constitution – political contributions and expenditures.

“The passage of SJR 18 by the Senate today is a key step to reining in the power of big money from concentrated interests on our politics,” said Sen. Jeff Golden (D-Ashland), who carried the resolution on the Senate floor. “That’s something that just about everyone I’ve talked to has been asking for. We’re finally on the way to people-powered politics in Oregon.”

[House Bill 2716](#), which also passed on the Senate floor yesterday, requires communication pieces such as advertisements, mailers and other materials supporting or opposing candidates to state the names of those who paid for them.

“Requiring campaign ads to disclose who paid for them is a critical step to keep our elections open and accountable,” Golden said. “This bill won’t get all the big money out of politics, but it

will make sure that voters know who is paying for what. I was very glad to vote for the bill and see its passage.”

A third bill that passed in the Oregon Senate today – [House Bill 2983](#) – builds on the transparency requirements set up in House Bill 2716 by requiring that qualifying organizations that make political expenditures to file with the Secretary of State a donor identification list. That list will identify donors making donations above \$10,000 during the election cycle.

The amendment proposed by Senate Joint Resolution 18 would expressly require campaign contribution limits that allow gathering resources necessary to run effective campaigns, but within limits so that campaign contributors don’t have as much control over Oregon politics. Statewide limits would apply to legislative and statewide races. Local jurisdictions could set their own campaign limits and requirements for their elections.

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