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May 3, 2019

Via electronic distribution

**To: 2nd Amendment Supporters
County Commissioners
County Clerks**

RE: Misinformation regarding Columbia County Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance

To whom it may concern,

It has come to our attention that misinformation has been spread about the ruling in Columbia County in relation to Initiative Petition 19-1 which was the first version of the Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance to be submitted and tested legally for placement on the ballot pursuant to ORS 250.168. Pursuant to Oregon Law that review tests three things 1) whether the initiative includes the full text; 2) whether the initiative passes the single subject rule; and 3) whether the initiative is legislative in nature. The Columbia County clerk asserted IP 19-1 violated all three. After review by the local Circuit Court Judge, he found that a particular clause in it, created ambiguity and thus failed test 1) on “full text”. The text of his ruling on that was:

The proposed initiative identifies nine explicit prohibitions but then notes that this is not a complete list. That other undefined restrictions or prohibitions that may be imposed by the state or federal government shall be null, void, or of no effect in Columbia County. The voter cannot determine beyond the listed categories what other state or federal restrictions may be nullified by this initiative measure. It is this ambiguity that the Court finds to violate the constitutional requirement.

Judge Grove did not rule that the SASO violated the single subject rule, nor that the SASO violated the legislative nature rule, despite the government attorneys making those arguments. Neither the Oregon Supreme Court, nor the Oregon Court of Appeals has ever said that ambiguity is a reason that a ballot measure could fail the full text rule, however that objection or defect is easy to remedy.

In fact, the alleged “ambiguity” has been removed from the current SASO that many counties are using and this Judge Grove’s reason for denying the Columbia County SASO # 19-1 should not and cannot be applied to the newer versions of SASO.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact our office or Second Amendment Advocate Rob Taylor at 541-347-9942.

Thank you,

s/Tyler Smith