

Petition Signatures Submitted To Recall Commissioner Stufflebean

The Petition for Recall against Commissioner Kevin Stufflebean was filed on March 17 by Chief Petitioner Larry Van Elsberg, for the Citizens for a Fair and Open Government.

Approximately 5,344 signatures were filed which must be validated by the Election staff of the County Clerk's office over the next 10 days. The process is slow and methodical, following state statute and administrative rule.

The process for filing and processing a petition involves the following elements, according to

state law:

The Chief Petitioner must submit signatures supporting the petition – minimum 3,773 signatures. The Elections staff in the Coos County Clerk's Office has a 10 Day period for signature verification, which started on March 18, 2009.

Inspect petition sheets individually: They must be numbered in sequential order, be compared to the original approved version of SEL 351 (Signature Sheet), sufficient circulator certification per OAR 165-014-0270 must be

verified and the Petition for Recall must be verified – SEL 350 is copied on the reverse side of each signature sheet.

All petition sheets must then be processed in OCVR by inspecting each sheet for lines that have been: Crossed Out, are blank, contain no signature or an invalid date or have been altered in any way.

The signatures themselves must then be verified.

The Chief Petitioner must be notified if not enough valid signatures were submitted: The deadline to gather additional signatures is April 20, 2009.

If enough valid signatures were verified to call for an election, the Chief Petitioner will be notified.

The Public Officer who is being recalled, Commissioner Kevin Stufflebean will then be notified of the results and the deadline to either submit a written resignation, or submit a written Statement of Justification (200 words or less).

An election will be scheduled within 35 days if Commissioner Stufflebean does not resign.

Results of the verification process will not be given until all signatures have been reviewed and the petition sheets are certified at the end of the 10 day period, March 27, 2009, at 5:00 PM.

This recall effort is the result of a populist movement that is based entirely on a handful of people who have used misinformation and outright falsehoods to gather the signatures from

uninformed voters. A review of county records indicates that Commissioner Stufflebean has acted in accordance with all laws and regulations, has not misled the public in any way and has acted in the best interests of the people of Coos County. Records on file have disproved each and every allegation leveled against Commissioner Stufflebean by the petitioner.

The Chief Petitioner, former Roadmaster Larry Van Elsberg stated on April 11, 2007: "This last year, I've felt overwhelmed with all of the issues that are impacting our county roads and little funding to address many of those issues. The loss of the timber revenue has only increased my anxiety and stress level." "Any time you take something away from someone; they're not going to be happy and will strike back accordingly, this is a fact."

Again, review of county records indicates that the primary reason Van Elsberg was overwhelmed was that most of his budget requests were not for equipment or material but for personnel. It appears he was more interested in retaining employees than in keeping the county's roads in proper repair. Perhaps it is just as well he resigned, he should have been fired for not doing his primary job!

This assumption is verified by information contained in a report dated January 23, 2009 by PXX Public Works Management, Inc. of Central Point, Oregon. The

Coos County Commissioners had retained this company to evaluate the status of the county road department.

Should a sufficient number of the petition signatures be verified for a recall election, it would be held on about May 1, 2009. Some considerations for the voters to weigh when the cast their ballot are as follows:

1. The petitioners of this recall will ultimately cost the taxpayers of Coos County approximately \$60,000.00 at a time when every dollar counts.

2. The records indicate that Commissioner Stufflebean has done nothing wrong and has acted in the best interests of the people of Coos County. He is being blamed by a handful of malcontents for doing his job properly and making unpopular decisions. These are predominantly the same people who have railed against virtually everything of a positive nature that has happened in Coos County over the past several years.

3. If the recall is successful, state law requires the vacancy on the Board Of Commissioners be filled for the unexpired term by a vote of the remaining commissioners. If they cannot agree on a candidate, the Governor will make the appointment.

In view of the Governor's positions and policies on the fishing industry, the logging industry, land use and taxes, do we really want this governor to appoint ANYONE to a position of authority in Coos County?

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