

Multnomah County Campaign Finance Limits on Candidates Upheld by Court



honest-elections.com

Judge rejects challenges to ballot measure approved by 89% of Multnomah County voters in 2016

August 25, 2021

Yesterday, the Multnomah County Circuit Court ruled that the campaign contribution limits adopted by Multnomah County voters in 2016 are valid under the U.S. Constitution.

At the 2016 general election, the voters of Multnomah County gave 89% of their votes to Measure 26-184, which established limits on contributions to the campaigns of persons running for Multnomah County public office. That includes the Multnomah County Chair, Commissioners, and Auditor.

"This is a reasoned and well-documented decision," said Dan Meek, attorney for the 9 residents of Multnomah County who have been briefing this matter since 2017 and who prevailed at the Oregon Supreme Court in April 2020. "I would not expect anyone to appeal it."

The constitutionality of the contribution limits was challenged by the Portland Metropolitan Association of Realtors, the Portland Business Alliance, and Associated Oregon Industries. Judge Eric Bloch of the Multnomah County Circuit Court in 2018 ruled the limits invalid under the Oregon Constitution on the basis of a 1997 decision by the Oregon Supreme Court. Upon appeal, the Oregon Supreme Court on April 22, 2020, ruled the limits valid under the Oregon Constitution, expressly reversing that 1997 decision. The Oregon Supreme Court remanded the case back to Judge Bloch to decide whether the contribution limits violate the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, an issue that he had not initially addressed. Judge Bloch yesterday ruled that the Multnomah County limits are valid.

Measure 26-184 limits campaign contributions to any candidate for Multnomah County public office to \$500 from any individual or any political committee.

[Click HERE for the Court's decision and the documents filed by the parties in the remand case.](#)

For more information:

Dan Meek
dan@meek.net
503-293-9021

Jason Kafoury
jkafoury@gmail.com
202-465-2647