



## INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: How does an independent run for governor?**

An independent candidate must gather just over 18,000 valid signatures by the end of August to qualify for the November ballot.

**Q: Will the new law (HB 2614) prevent independents from qualifying?**

No, but the people who are eligible to sign is now more limited. Formerly, any registered Oregon voter could sign a petition to qualify an independent for the ballot. Now, the signatures of registered Democrats and Republicans who vote in their party's primary can't be counted towards the goal.

**Q: Can an independent win?**

Yes. Research demonstrates successful Independent races are won by candidates who tap into the broad middle of the electorate. Success is possible in states with high non-affiliated voter registration, high voter turn-out and where there is either a deep dissatisfaction with the choices in a particular race or a deep dissatisfaction with the state of affairs generally. A combination of those factors creates a perfect storm opportunity for independent candidates.

**Q: Can an independent governor be effective?**

Yes. Julius Meier became Oregon's first independent governor during the Great Depression, facing record debt and unemployment levels. Within four years, he worked with both Republicans and Democrats to wipe out the state debt, draw New Deal projects to Oregon to put people to work, lower taxes, and establish the Oregon State Police.