To the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State of Oregon:

On Monday, February 5th, I encountered two people collecting signatures for a initiative petition #22 in Portland, Oregon on PSU campus. Neither were wearing identifying badges, nor would they tell me their names. One petition circulator asked me to sign the petition, stating “This is for a ballot measure to protect the Sanctuary State law and keep Trump from deciding for Oregon.” Upon researching the ballot measure myself, it became clear that the language of the measure is to repeal the sanctuary law - the exact opposite of what he said to me. I approached another petitioner of the same ballot while he was collecting a signature from a woman, informed them both of the language of the ballot measure, and the woman scratched her name out and said that this man had lied to her. From what she said, this second petitioner had also told her it would protect the Sanctuary State law from Donald Trump.

Later, I had a conversation with the two gentlemen petitioners in which they told me they had no idea this was worded to repeal the Sanctuary status, but they wanted to continue collecting signatures using the same language. I asked if they had the language of the ballot measure on them, and both said no, and admitted to having never read it. When I asked why they thought this was an acceptable thing to do, they disclosed to me that they were being paid $2 per signature, and had been desperate for work, as they are felons from out of state. One of the men also justified lying to people for their signature, and said “That only puts it on the ballot, and Oregon won’t vote it to law.” When I inquired why he believed that to be true, he said that he didn’t think Oregon was racist enough to repeal the Sanctuary State protections. Both individuals confirmed with me that they were not in favor of the ballot measure, and one had expressed deep regret for taking the job, as it conflicted with his moral values. However, he told me he was still going to do the job as he’d been told so he could guarantee a paycheck.

Below is the link for the the video I took in speaking with the one individual on campus yesterday. I continued a conversation with him and his associate who was also collecting signatures, but that occurred off camera. As this man mentions in the video, he was told by his ‘boss’ how to talk about this measure. Both of these people had clearly no understanding of what it was they were talking about, but they were repeating the same script to people on my campus.

Since that incident on Monday, I have worked to contact my peers at Portland State University who may have signed the petition under false pretense. So far, on Portland State University campus alone, within the span of ONE DAY, I had been contacted by 9 people who had signed the petition after being told false and fraudulent information about the ballot measure. Since that time, the number has increased to 16, and countless more who have contacted me to say that they were stopped by these men, told about the ballot measure being “to protect Oregon’s sanctuary state status”, and had decided not to sign out of suspicion.

After I reported the incident to the Secretary of State’s office on Monday, I spoke with Lydia, who informed me that the company responsible for training and hiring the petitioners had
been notified about the behavior. On Tuesday night, multiple people reported seeing them at Pioneer Square in Portland, continuing to give people intentionally deceptive information about the ballot measure. The continuation of this behavior, as well as the clear lack of understanding from these men in the first place, indicate to me that this is not a case of two individuals acting out of the norms of their occupational role. I believe that these two men are following instructions to be intentionally confusing in their approach in order to gain signatures, which they are incentivized to do through a pay-per-signature model that both admitted to me.

The people in my community at Portland State are deeply concerned with the amount of students who have been affected by this fraudulent behavior, as well as its continuation into the Portland Metro Area. We are requesting that this initiative petition be suspended immediately pending investigation of violation of Oregon election law. According to resources on the Secretary of State's page, the chief petitioner is responsible for ensuring the petition is circulated in accordance with the law. They have demonstrably failed to obey the law, and I believe it is now the state's responsibility to act through a formal investigation and punitive action.

Best regards,

Robin Fisher

Video: https://youtu.be/apKlvtmpnS8

I just ran into some of these fools by pioneer. He presented it as a bill preserving sanctuary status and when I confronted him about it, he got suuuuper weird and dodgy about it. I would have been fooled if I hadn't seen this.

Robin Fisher Sure, it was a pretty brief encounter so I didn't get video. String Bean tried to get me to sign and when I asked him if it was for measure 22 he said no. "It's for sanctuary cities," I told him that was 22 and then he said he didn't know. I asked if I could look at it, told him what 22 did, and then he asked again if I wanted to sign it again. I said no. He asked why & I told him it was because 22 is garbage. Then I yelled what 22 did to the folks on the platform and the two left the area heading south on 6th.

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I think he recognized me because he really didn't wanna show me his clipboard when I asked if it was 22.

Like · Reply 10m