**Who Should Determine Your Essential Service Providers?**

The people who depend on local services and pay for them should have the final say when it comes to the formation, dissolution, or consolidation of special districts and other local government.

Self-determination is foundational to our democracy and nobody, not Washington, not Sacramento, not a commission we did not elect, should overturn the will of the voters in our community.

Some people like to talk about less government or more government, but bigger isn’t always better. When making decisions about essential local services like our fire protection or the water we drink, we shouldn’t rely on assumptions or tag lines.

Changing the governance of local services and boards established by voters should involve the voters through an open and public local process that includes an objective analysis of the costs and benefits and a meaningful opportunity for voters to participate and approve or reject the final decision.

Every year, Oregonians form, consolidate, or dissolve a number of special districts through local processes that ensure local needs are met, and that’s a good thing. As communities transition, so should their local governments—as directed by us, the voters, not as dictated by those who think they know better.