



Keri Hinton
Yamhill County Clerk

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Via USPS Mail: December 23, 2025

Via Electronic Mail: December 23, 2025

Matthew Dolphin
16870 NE Mountain Home Rd
Sherwood, OR 97140

Dear Chief Petitioner Matthew Dolphin:

On December 16, 2025, you filed a Prospective Petition (SEL 370) titled "Protect the Yamhelas Westsider Trail". Under ORS 250.168(1) the County Clerk is required to make a determination as to whether the prospective petition meets the requirements of Article IV, section 1(2)(d) and Article VI, section 10 of the Oregon Constitution. In making this determination I have sought and received legal advice from the Yamhill County Counsel's office and from outside legal counsel retained by that office with experience in evaluating prospective initiative petitions for compliance with constitutional requirements. As required by ORS 250.168(1) I have determined that Prospective Petition YAM-2025-002, "Protect the Yamhelas Westsider Trail," meets the requirements of Article IV, section 1(2)(d), of the Oregon Constitution and Article VI, section 10, of the Oregon Constitution.

This determination is a limited review of constitutional conformity and does not necessarily identify all potential constitutional difficulties that may preclude the proposed measure from proceeding.

As provided in ORS 250.168(4), any elector dissatisfied with this constitutionality determination may petition the Circuit Court of the judicial district in which the County is located seeking to overturn the determination of the clerk. The petition must be filed no later than the seventh business day after the ballot title is filed with the Clerk.

The petition is being delivered to the District Attorney's office for preparation of a ballot title. Under state law the District Attorney's office is required to draft and file a ballot title impartially summarizing the petition and its major effect, due the fifth business day after receipt. We have calculated the fifth business day to be December 31, 2025 taking into consideration legal holidays as defined in ORS 187.010. Once the ballot title is submitted to our office by the District Attorney's office, it will be published in the next available edition of a newspaper of general circulation in the county. In addition, the notice will be published on our website for a minimum of seven days. Per ORS 250.195 any elector dissatisfied with a ballot title filed with the County Clerk by the District Attorney may petition the Circuit Court of the judicial district in which the county is located seeking a different title and stating the reasons the title filed with the court is insufficient, not concise or unfair and must be filed no later than the seventh business day after the ballot title is filed with the County Clerk.

After the ballot title challenge period has passed, we will reach out to you regarding next steps.

Sincerely,

Keri Hinton
Yamhill County Clerk