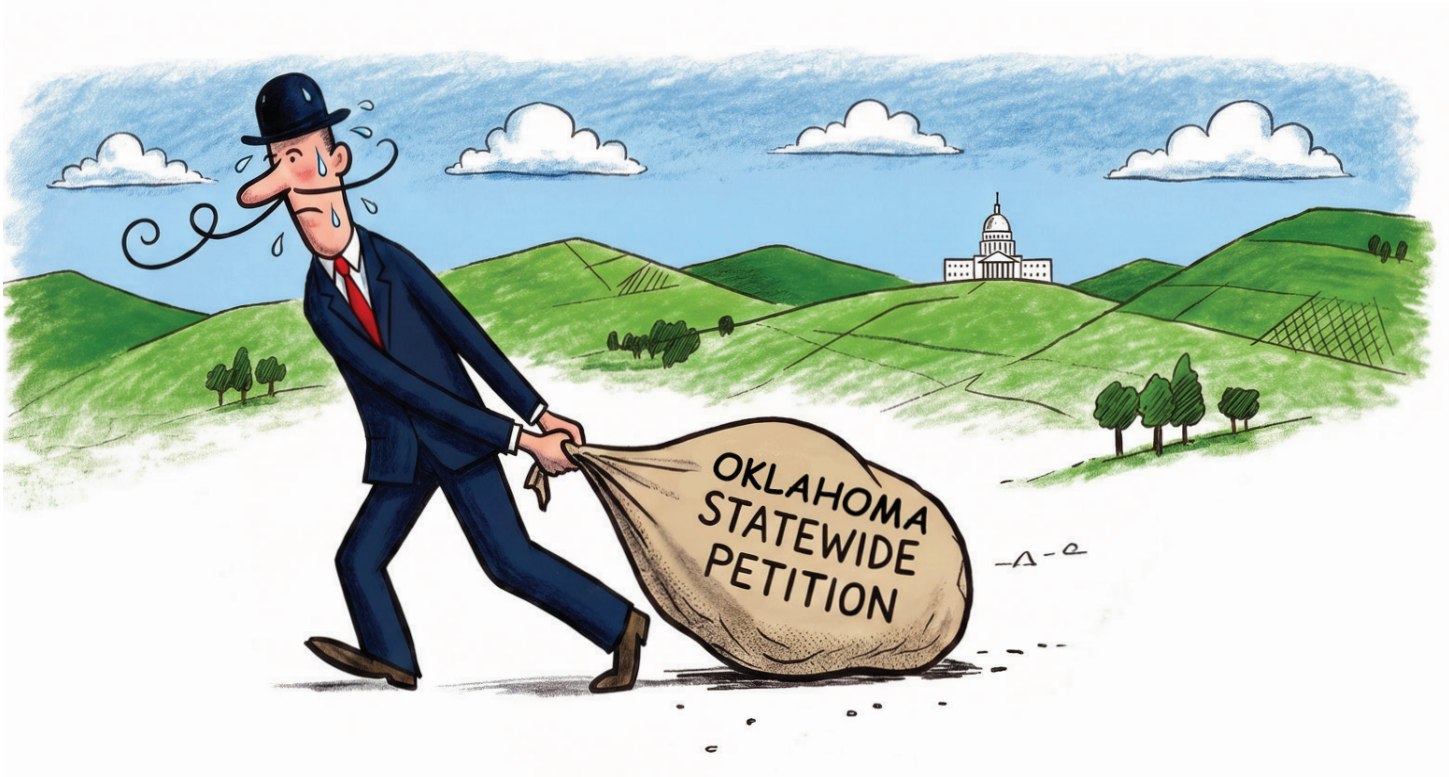


Right to Sign, Restored

November 17, 2026

An attempt to kill the right of statewide citizen initiative in Oklahoma has failed. By a 5-4 decision, the state supreme court ruled SB1027 unconstitutional and void.

Among other burdens, the legislation sought to require that no more than ten percent of petition signatures could come from a county with more than 400,000 residents.

KGOU reports that this cap would have been imposed on only two counties, those of Tulsa and Oklahoma, who together "could contribute only 20% of a petition's signatures despite being home to nearly 37% of Oklahoma residents."

We're trying to get rural voters more involved, burbled bill backers. Also, petitioners who secure signatures from only a few counties are "corrupt," asserted State Senator David Bullard.

The court's decision notes that the "supposed goal of incorporating more rural voters at the signature gathering stage would impose a significant burden on the right of petition. The caps seek to achieve the inclusion of some by *requiring* the exclusion of others. . . . By denying qualified legal voters the right to participate in the petition process, the caps violate Oklahomans' constitutional right of petition."

A dissenting judge replied that no one who wanted to sign a petition would have been stopped by SB1027. It's just that their valid signatures might have been tossed as irrelevant later . . . that's all.

So the idea was you *could* sign. But it would have been as if you hadn't were you one of those benighted post-ten percent signers.

. . . The virtue of which still eludes me.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.