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BALLOT INITIATIVES - OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Oil & Gas Association v. Thompson

Supreme Court of Oklahoma - March 19, 2018 - P.3d - 2018 WL 1376593 - 2018 OK 26

Opponents filed an application to assume original jurisdiction, alleging that initiative petition seeking to amend the Oklahoma Constitution by adopting a new article violated the single-subject requirement of the Oklahoma Constitution.

The Supreme Court of Oklahoma held that initiative petition was legally sufficient for submission to the people of Oklahoma under the germaneness test.

Initiative petition seeking to amend the Oklahoma Constitution by adopting a new article, which would primarily serve to increase funding for public education through an increase in the gross production tax, was legally sufficient for submission to the people of Oklahoma; although opponents asserted petition violated single-subject requirement, contending it contained multiple distinct subjects by lumping a pay increase for education personnel with the new gross production tax, as well as with expanding the reach of an executive branch entity into the legislative realm, under germaneness test applied to amendment by article, petition was sufficient.

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