

The Road to Success in Washington

A Historical Timeline of the Washington Death with Dignity Act

November 8, 1994

The people of Oregon pass Measure 16, the Oregon Death with Dignity Act, 51%-49%, making Oregon the first state to legalize physician-assisted dying.

October 27, 1997

The Oregon Death with Dignity Act goes into effect, 8 days before the repeal election.

November 4, 1997

The people of Oregon repudiate the Oregon legislature's attempt at nullifying the Oregon Death with Dignity Act by voting against the repeal initiative, Measure 51, by a 60-40 margin.

April 8, 2005

Our board of directors made a decision to identify partners in Washington and pursue a 2008 ballot initiative, before any other organization identified Washington as a possibility.

January 17, 2006

The United States Supreme Court validates Oregon's law, ruling against John Ashcroft, Alberto Gonzales and the Bush administration in their attempt to prosecute Oregon physicians and pharmacists for practicing legally and ethically under the Oregon Death with Dignity Act.

February 24, 2006

The first official meeting of the Coalition—individuals from the state of Washington, Death with Dignity National Center, Compassion & Choices, and Compassion & Choices of Washington meet to discuss a potential Washington Death with Dignity initiative.

March 26, 2007

A small task force of Oregonians convenes to determine if any changes need to be made to Oregon's law. The group explores requirements for the disposal of medication, but determines there are no accepted standards in the field of pharmacy for the disposal of medicine. The only change the group recommends is to allow prescriptions to be sent by fax, reflecting advancements in communications technology.

May 6, 2007

Former Washington Governor Booth Gardner conducts focus groups about Death with Dignity in Washington. Results from the focus groups lead him to conclude that a model based on Oregon's law is the best policy for the people of Washington.

August 23, 2007

The Coalition votes to go forward with an initiative effort, formally establishing the *It's My Decision Committee*. Laird Harris is named the treasurer. This date marks the official launch of the campaign.

November 1, 2007

The campaign opens its office doors at 4041 Roosevelt Way, NE, in Seattle.

November 15, 2007

The Oregon Death with Dignity Political Action Fund donates \$200,000 in seed money to jumpstart the campaign.

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January 4, 2008

Eli Stutsman, a Portland-based attorney and lead drafter of the Oregon Death with Dignity Act, authors the Washington Death with Dignity Act.

January 24, 2008

Former Governor Booth Gardner files the initiative with the Secretary of State's office in Washington.

February 6, 2008

The *It's My Decision Committee* is re-named *Yes on I-1000*.

March 2 - June 30

Over 3,600 volunteers participate in the process of gathering signatures.

May 1, 2008

Yes on I-1000 hires Alex Morgan as the campaign manager.

June 25, 2008

Yes on I-1000 hires FRCR, Inc., out of Nashville, TN, to coordinate and produce all paid media efforts.

July 2, 2008

Former Washington Governor Booth Gardner turns in 320,000 signatures, nearly 100,000 more than needed to make it onto the ballot.

August 13, 2008

The Secretary of State's office certifies the Washington Death with Dignity Act to the ballot.

September 15, 2008

Former Governor Booth Gardner writes a check for \$300,000 to the *Yes on I-1000* campaign, making him the largest single contributor to the campaign. His giving totals \$470,000.

October 10, 2008

The Oregon Death with Dignity Fund donates \$615,000 to the campaign, the largest check from a single organization to the campaign.

October 13, 2008

Yes on I-1000 raises \$1M in one week's time.

October 31, 2008

166 Catholic parishes, dioceses, and Catholic organizations from 40 different states donate a total of \$805,518 to the opposition campaign.

October 31, 2008

The *Yes on I-1000* campaign raises \$4,890,019.83. It is the first time in the history of the Death with Dignity movement that the proponent's fundraising exceeded that of the opponents.

November 4, 2008

Washington voters go to the polls and make Washington the second state in the nation to enact a Death with Dignity law.

Eli Stutsman, who serves on the board of the Death With Dignity National Center in Portland, stated in a [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) article dated November 5, 2008, that his board will convene this month and in December to discuss which states to target next. Visit www.deathwithdignity.org to read this and other articles and information about I-1000 in Washington and future campaigns.