

TABLE 6.10
State Initiatives: Requesting Permission to Circulate a Petition

State or other jurisdiction	Applied to (a)		Signatures required to request a petition (b)		Request submitted to	Request form furnished by (c)	Restricted subject matter (d)	Individual responsible for petition		Financial contributions reported (e)	Deposits required (f)
	Const. amdt.	Statute	Const. amdt.	Statute				Title	Summary		
Alabama	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alaska	...	I	...	100	LG	(p)	Y	LG	LG	Y	\$100
Arizona	D	D	...	...	SS	SS	N	P, SP	P, SP	Y	N
Arkansas	D	D	...	...	AG	SP	N	AG	AG	Y	N
California	D	D	25 (g)	25 (g)	AG	...	Y	AG	AG	Y	\$200
Colorado	D	D	...	...	SS	SS	N	(i)	(i)	Y	N
Connecticut	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Delaware	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Florida	D	...	...	...	SS	SP	N	SP	SP	Y	N (q)
Georgia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hawaii	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Idaho	...	D	...	20	SS	SP	N	AG	AG	Y	N
Illinois	D	...	...	...	...	...	Y	...	...	Y	N
Indiana	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Iowa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kansas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kentucky	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Louisiana	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Maine	...	I	...	6 (j)	SS	SS	Y	P	SS	Y	N
Maryland	...	...	...	(k)	SS (l)	SBE	Y	...	...	Y	N
Massachusetts	I	I	10	10	AG	SS	Y	AG	AG	Y	N
Michigan	D	I	...	...	SS	...	Y	SP	SP	Y	N
Minnesota	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mississippi	D	...	...	...	SS	...	Y	AG	AG	Y	\$500
Missouri	D	D	...	...	SS	SP	Y	SS, AG	SS, AG	Y	N
Montana	D	D	...	...	SS (o)	SP	Y	AG	AG	Y	N
Nebraska	D	D	...	...	SS	SP	Y	SP	SP	Y	N
Nevada	D	I	...	...	SS	SS	Y	P, SP	P, SP	Y	N
New Hampshire	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Jersey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Mexico	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New York	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
North Carolina	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
North Dakota	D	D	25	25	SS	SP	N	SS, AG	SS	Y (e)	N
Ohio	D	I	1,000	1,000	AG	(m)	Y	(m)	(m)	Y	N
Oklahoma	D	D	...	...	SS, AG	O	N	P	P	Y	N
Oregon	D	D	1,000	1,000	SS	SS	N	AG	AG	Y	N
Pennsylvania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rhode Island	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Carolina	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Dakota	D	D	...	...	SS	SS	Y	AG	AG	Y	N
Tennessee	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Texas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Utah	...	D, I	...	5 SP	LG	LG	N	SP	SP	Y	N
Vermont	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Virginia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Washington	...	D, I	...	...	SS	SP	N	AG	AG	Y	\$5
West Virginia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wisconsin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wyoming	...	I	...	100	SS	SS	Y	SS	SS	Y	\$500
American Samoa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CNMI*	D	I	...	...	AG	AG	Y	SP	SP	Y	N
Puerto Rico	...	D	...	...	SBE	(n)	N	(n)	(n)	Y	\$500
U.S. Virgin Islands	D	...	...	...	SBE	SBE	Y	SBE	SBE	Y	N

See footnotes at end of table

INITIATIVES

TABLE 6.10

State Initiatives: Requesting Permission to Circulate a Petition (continued)

Sources: The Council of State Governments' survey of state election website, Initiative & Referendum Institute website and Ballotpedia website, December 2017.

*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Key:

...–Not applicable

D–Direct initiative

I–Indirect initiative

EV–Eligible voters

LG–Lieutenant Governor

SS–Secretary of State

SBE–State Board of Elections

- (a) An initiative may provide a constitutional amendment or develop a new statute, and may be formed either directly or indirectly. The direct initiative allows a proposed measure to be placed on the ballot after a specific number of signatures have been secured on a petition. The indirect initiative must first be submitted to the legislature for decision after the required number of signatures have been secured on a petition, prior to placing the proposed measure on the ballot.
- (b) Prior to circulating a statewide petition, a request for permission to do so must first be submitted to a specified state officer.
- (c) The form on which the request for petition is submitted may be the responsibility of the sponsor or may be furnished by the state.
- (d) Restrictions may exist regarding the subject matter to which an initiative may be applied. The majority of these restrictions pertain to the dedication of state revenues and appropriations, and laws that maintain the preservation of public peace, safety, and health. In Illinois, amendments are restricted to "structural and procedural subjects contained in" the legislative article.

- (e) In some states, a list of financial contributors and the amount of their contributions must be submitted to the specified state officer with whom the petition is filed. In North Dakota, must report any contributions and/or expenditures in excess of \$100. Must also report the gross total of all contributions received and gross totals of all expenditures made. Must give total cash on hand in the filer's account at the start and close of a reporting period.
- (f) A deposit may be required after permission to circulate a petition has been granted. This amount is refunded when the completed petition has been filed correctly.
- (g) Signatures required to seek assistance of Office of Legislative Counsel in drafting measure before filing with the Attorney General's office.
- (h) The secretary of state charges a 10 cent fee per signature that must be verified for ballot consideration.
- (i) Title Setting Board–secretary of state, attorney general, director of legislative legal services.
- (j) The signature of six voters.
- (k) Three percent of the total qualified voters from the last gubernatorial election.
- (l) Secretary of state accepts and turns over to State Board of Elections.
- (m) Petitioners. Petitioners must prepare the summary and submit it to the Ohio Attorney General, who then must certify whether the summary fully and accurately describes the proposal.
- (n) Office of the Supervisor of Elections Titling Board.
- (o) After submitted, the secretary of state transfers it over to the Legislative Services Division.
- (p) Division of Elections.