

STATE CONSTITUTIONS

Table 1.2
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROCEDURE: BY THE LEGISLATURE
Constitutional Provisions

<i>State or other jurisdiction</i>	<i>Legislative vote required for proposal (a)</i>	<i>Consideration by two sessions required</i>	<i>Vote required for ratification</i>	<i>Limitation on the number of amendments submitted at one election</i>
Alabama.....	3/5	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Alaska.....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Arizona.....	Majority	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Arkansas.....	Majority	No	Majority vote on amendment	3
California.....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Colorado.....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None (b)
Connecticut.....	(c)	(c)	Majority vote on amendment	None
Delaware.....	2/3	Yes	Not required	No referendum
Florida.....	3/5	No	3/5 vote on amendment (d)	None
Georgia.....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Hawaii.....	(e)	(e)	Majority vote on amendment (f)	None
Idaho.....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Illinois.....	3/5	No	(g)	3 articles
Indiana.....	Majority	Yes	Majority vote on amendment	None
Iowa.....	Majority	Yes	Majority vote on amendment	None
Kansas.....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	5
Kentucky.....	3/5	No	Majority vote on amendment	4
Louisiana.....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment (h)	None
Maine.....	2/3 (i)	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Maryland.....	3/5	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Massachusetts.....	Majority (j)	Yes	Majority vote on amendment	None
Michigan.....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Minnesota.....	Majority	No	Majority vote in election	None
Mississippi.....	2/3 (k)	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Missouri.....	Majority	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Montana.....	2/3 (i)	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Nebraska.....	3/5	No	Majority vote on amendment (f)	None
Nevada.....	Majority	Yes	Majority vote on amendment	None
New Hampshire.....	3/5	No	2/3 vote on amendment	None
New Jersey.....	(l)	(l)	Majority vote on amendment	None (m)
New Mexico.....	Majority (n)	No	Majority vote on amendment (n)	None
New York.....	Majority	Yes	Majority vote on amendment	None
North Carolina.....	3/5	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
North Dakota.....	Majority	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Ohio.....	3/5	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Oklahoma.....	Majority	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Oregon.....	(o)	No	Majority vote on amendment (p)	None
Pennsylvania.....	Majority (p)	Yes (p)	Majority vote on amendment	None
Rhode Island.....	Majority	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
South Carolina.....	2/3 (q)	Yes (q)	Majority vote on amendment	None
South Dakota.....	Majority	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Tennessee.....	(r)	Yes (r)	Majority vote in election (s)	None
Texas.....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Utah.....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Vermont.....	(t)	Yes	Majority vote on amendment	None
Virginia.....	Majority	Yes	Majority vote on amendment	None
Washington.....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
West Virginia.....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Wisconsin.....	Majority	Yes	Majority vote on amendment	None
Wyoming.....	2/3	No	Majority vote in election	None
American Samoa.....	2/3	No	Majority vote on amendment (u)	None
No. Mariana Islands.....	3/4	No	Majority vote on amendment	None
Puerto Rico.....	2/3 (v)	No	Majority vote on amendment	3

See footnotes at end of table.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROCEDURE: BY THE LEGISLATURE—Continued

Constitutional Provisions

Source: John Dinan and The Council of State Governments, February 2011.

Key:

(a) In all states not otherwise noted, the figure shown in the column refers to the proportion of elected members in each house required for approval of proposed constitutional amendments.

(b) Legislature may not propose amendments to more than six articles of the constitution in the same legislative session.

(c) Three-fourths vote in each house at one session, or majority vote in each house in two sessions between which an election has intervened.

(d) Three-fifths vote on amendment, except amendment for “new state tax or fee” not in effect on Nov. 7, 1994 requires two-thirds of voters in the election.

(e) Two-thirds vote in each house at one session, or majority vote in each house in two sessions.

(f) Majority vote on amendment must be at least 50 percent of the total votes cast at the election (at least 35 percent in Nebraska); or, at a special election, a majority of the votes tallied which must be at least 30 percent of the total number of registered voters.

(g) Majority voting in election or three-fifths voting on amendment.

(h) If five or fewer political subdivisions of the state are affected, majority in state as a whole (and also in affected subdivisions) is required.

(i) Two-thirds of both houses.

(j) Majority of members elected sitting in joint session.

(k) The two-thirds must include not less than a majority elected to each house.

(l) Three-fifths of all members of each house at one session, or majority of all members of each house for two successive sessions.

(m) If a proposed amendment is not approved at the election when submitted, neither the same amendment nor one which would make substantially the same change for the constitution may be again submitted to the people before the third general election thereafter.

(n) Amendments concerning certain elective franchise and education matters require three-fourths vote of members elected and approval by three-fourths of electors voting in state and two-thirds of those voting in each county.

(o) Majority vote to amend constitution, two-thirds to revise (“revise” includes all or a part of the constitution).

(p) Emergency amendments may be passed by two-thirds vote of each house, followed by ratification by majority vote of electors in election held at least one month after legislative approval. There is an exception for an amendment containing a supermajority voting requirement, which must be ratified by an equal supermajority.

(q) Two-thirds of members of each house, first passage; majority of members of each house after popular ratification.

(r) Majority of members elected to both houses, first passage; two-thirds of members elected to both houses, second passage.

(s) Majority of all citizens voting for governor.

(t) Two-thirds vote senate, majority vote house, first passage; majority both houses, second passage. As of 1974, amendments may be submitted only every four years.

(u) Within 30 days after voter approval, governor must submit amendment(s) to U.S. Secretary of the Interior for approval.

(v) If approved by two-thirds of members of each house, amendment(s) submitted to voters at special referendum; if approved by not less than three-fourths of total members of each house, referendum may be held at next general election.