

Table 6.15
STATE REFERENDUMS: CIRCULATING THE CITIZEN PETITION

State or other jurisdiction	Basis for signatures	Maximum time period allowed for petition circulation (a)	Can signatures be removed from petition? (b)	Completed petition filed:	
				With	Days after legislative session
Alabama	...	...	...	...	...
Alaska	10% TV, from 3/4 ED	w/i 90 days of LS	Y	LG	90 days
Arizona	5% VG	24 months prior to GE	Y	SS	90 days
Arkansas	8% for initiated act; 6% for referenda VG	...	N	SS	90 days
California	5% VG	90 days; 131 days for initiatives prior to GE	Y	(c)	...
Colorado	5% of votes cast for prior SS election	6 months	Y	SS	...
Connecticut	...	...	...	...	...
Delaware	...	...	...	...	...
Florida	8% of TV in prior Presidential election	Up to 2 years (d)	.....	CES	...
Georgia	...	...	...	...	...
Hawaii	...	...	...	...	...
Idaho	6% EV	w/i 60 days after LS	Y	SS	60 days
Illinois	8% VG (e)	24 months prior to GE	Y	SBE	...
Indiana	...	...	...	...	...
Iowa	...	...	...	...	...
Kansas	...	...	...	...	...
Kentucky	...	...	...	...	...
Louisiana	...	...	...	...	...
Maine	10% VG	18 months	...	SS	50 days for 1st session; 25 days for 2nd session
Maryland	3% VG	(f)	Y	SS	...
Massachusetts	1.5% VG for emergency 2% or immediate suspension	First state election 60 or more days after filing certified petition	Y (g)	SS	90 days after signed by governor
Michigan	5% VG	90 days after LS	N	SS	90 days after enactment
Minnesota	...	...	...	...	...
Mississippi	...	...	...	...	...
Missouri	5% VG, from 2/3 ED	w/i 90 days after LS	Y	SS	90 days
Montana	5% EV and 5% from 34 of 100 ED	(h)	Y	SS	6 mos.
Nebraska	5% EV	...	Y	SS	90 days
Nevada	10% EV last GE	(i)	Y	CC, SS	120 prior to next GE
New Hampshire	...	...	...	...	...
New Jersey	...	...	...	...	...
New Mexico	...	...	...	...	...
New York	...	...	...	...	...
North Carolina	...	...	...	...	...
North Dakota	2% total population	90 days	N	SS	(j)
Ohio	6% VG, 3% each from 1/2 counties	90 days	Y	SS	90 days
Oklahoma	5% VH	w/i 90 days of LS	Y	SS	90 days
Oregon	4% VG	w/i 90 days of LS	Y (k)	SS	90 days
Pennsylvania	...	...	...	...	...
Rhode Island	...	...	...	...	...
South Carolina	...	...	...	...	...
South Dakota	5% VG	24 months prior to GE	N	SS	90 days
Tennessee	...	...	...	...	...
Texas	...	...	...	...	...
Utah	10% VG	40 days after LS	Y	CC	40 days
Vermont	...	...	...	...	...
Virginia	...	...	...	...	...
Washington	4% VG	Approx. 90 days	N	SS	90 days
West Virginia	...	...	...	...	...
Wisconsin	...	...	...	...	...
Wyoming	15% TV, from 2/3 county	18 months	N	SS	90 days
American Samoa	...	...	...	...	...
No. Mariana Islands	...	Up to 120 days before election	Y	AG	...
Puerto Rico	...	...	...	...	...
U.S. Virgin Islands	No. of registered voters	180 days	...	...	...

See footnotes at end of table.

REFERENDUMS

STATE REFERENDUMS: CIRCULATING THE CITIZEN PETITION— Continued

Sources: The Council of State Governments' survey of state election websites, Initiative & Referendum Institute website and Ballotpedia website, February 2016 .

Key:

...—Not applicable.
VG—Total votes cast for the position of governor in the last election.
EV—Eligible voters.
TV—Total voters in the last general election.
VH—Total votes cast for the office receiving the highest number of votes in last general election.
VSS—Total votes cast for all candidates for the office of secretary of state at the previous general election.
ED—Election district.
GE—General election.
LS—Legislative session.
LG—Lieutenant governor.
SBE—State Board of Elections.
SS—Secretary of state.
AG—Attorney General.
CC—County clerk.
CES—County election supervisor.
Y—Yes
N—No
w/i—Within

(a) The petition circulation period begins when petition forms have been approved and provided to or by the sponsors. Sponsors are those individuals granted permission to circulate a petition, and are therefore responsible for the validity of each signature on a given petition.

(b) Should an individual wish to remove his/her name from a petition, a request to do so must first be submitted in writing to the state officer with whom the petition is filed.

(c) County elections office.

(d) Signatures must be verified by Feb 1 in year of election.

(e) Referenda are advisory only.

(f) No signature may be collected until the final action of the General Assembly. Session ends the second Monday in April. One third of the signatures must be submitted not later than May 31. The remaining signatures are due no later than June 30th.

(g) Should an individual wish to remove his/her name from a petition, a request to do so must first be submitted in writing to the local election official prior to the petition being submitted for certification of signatures.

(h) No specific beginning date for circulation of petitions, so there is no maximum time period. There is an ending deadline of 6 months after legislative session.

(i) Not later than the third Tuesday in May of even-numbered years.

(j) Within 90 days after the legislation is filed in the Secretary of State's office.

(k) Only by the chief petitioners before submitting signatures before verification. Signatures may not be removed once the signatures have been submitted to the secretary of state for verification.