

**INITIATIVES AND REFERENDUMS**

**Table 6.9  
STATEWIDE INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM**

State or other jurisdiction	Changes to constitution			Changes to statutes			
	Initiative		Referendum	Initiative		Referendum	
	Direct (a)	Indirect (a)	Legislative (b)	Direct (c)	Indirect (c)	Legislative	Citizen petition (d)
Alabama.....	...	...	★	...	...	★	...
Alaska.....	...	...	★	★	...	...	★
Arizona.....	★	...	★	★	...	★	★
Arkansas.....	★	...	★	★	...	...	★
California.....	★	...	★	★	...	★	...
Colorado.....	★	...	★	★	...	★	...
Connecticut.....	...	...	★	...	...	...	...
Delaware.....	...	...	★	...	...	★	...
Florida.....	★	...	★	...	...	...	...
Georgia.....	...	...	★	...	...	★	...
Hawaii.....	...	...	★	...	...	...	...
Idaho.....	...	...	★	★	...	★	★
Illinois.....	★	...	★	...	...	...	...
Indiana.....	...	...	★	...	...	★	...
Iowa.....	...	...	★	...	...	...	...
Kansas.....	...	...	★	...	...	...	...
Kentucky.....	...	...	★	...	...	★	★
Louisiana.....	...	...	★	...	...	...	...
Maine.....	...	...	★	...	★	★	★
Maryland.....	...	...	★	...	...	...	★
Massachusetts.....	...	★	★	...	★	★	★
Michigan.....	★	...	★	...	★	★	★
Minnesota.....	...	...	★	...	...	...	...
Mississippi.....	...	★	★	...	★	...	...
Missouri.....	★	...	★	★	...	★	★
Montana.....	★	...	★	★	...	★	★
Nebraska.....	★	...	★	★	...	...	★
Nevada.....	★	...	★	★	★	...	★
New Hampshire.....	...	...	★	...	...	...	...
New Jersey.....	...	...	★	...	...	...	...
New Mexico.....	...	...	★	...	...	...	...
New York.....	...	...	...	...	...	★	...
North Carolina.....	...	...	★ (f)	...	...	...	...
North Dakota.....	★	...	★	★	...	★	★
Ohio.....	★	...	...	...	★	...	★
Oklahoma.....	★	...	★	★	...	★	★
Oregon.....	★	...	★	★	...	★	...
Pennsylvania.....	...	...	★	...	...	★	★(e)
Rhode Island.....	...	...	★	...	...	...	...
South Carolina.....	...	...	★	...	...	...	...
South Dakota.....	★	...	★	★	...	★	★
Tennessee.....	...	...	★	...	...	★	...
Texas.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Utah.....	...	...	★	★	★	...	★
Vermont.....	...	...	★	...	...	★ (limited)	...
Virginia.....	...	...	★	...	...	...	...
Washington.....	...	...	...	★	★	★	★
West Virginia.....	...	...	★	...	...	★	...
Wisconsin.....	...	...	★	...	...	...	...
Wyoming.....	...	...	★	...	★	...	★
American Samoa.....	...	...	★	...	...	...	...
No. Mariana Islands ...	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Puerto Rico.....	...	...	★	...	...	★	...
U.S. Virgin Islands.....	★	...	★	...	...	★	...

See footnotes at end of table.

STATEWIDE INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM — Continued

*Source:* The Council of State Governments' survey of state election administration offices, January 2007 and state web sites March 2010.

*Note:* This table summarizes state provisions for initiatives and referenda. Initiatives may propose constitutional amendments or develop state legislation 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 citizen petition. The indirect initiative must be submitted to the legislature for a decision after the required number of signatures has been secured on a petition and prior to placing the proposed measure on the ballot. Referendum refers to the process whereby a state law or constitutional amendment passed by the legislature may be referred to the voters before it goes into effect. Three forms of referenda exist: (1) citizen petition, whereby the people may petition for a referendum on legislation which has been considered by the legislature; (2) submission by the legislature (designated in table as "Legislative"), whereby the legislature may voluntarily submit laws to the voters for their approval; and (3) constitutional

requirement, whereby the state constitution may require that certain questions be submitted to the voters.

*Key:*

- ★ — State Provision.
- ... — No state provision.
- (a) See Table 1.3, "Constitutional Amendment Procedure: By Initiative," for more detail.
- (b) See Table 1.2, "Constitutional Amendment Procedure: By the Legislature," for more detail.
- (c) See Chapter 6 tables on State Initiatives, for more detail.
- (d) See Chapter 6 tables on State Referendums, for more detail.
- (e) No provision for statewide referenda initiated by citizen petition. There are several county/local referenda that can be initiated by citizen petition.
- (f) Only the legislature can make statutory changes while in session. Proposed constitutional changes must be passed by the legislature and then are submitted to the citizens to be voted on.