

REFERENDUMS

Table 6.17
STATE REFERENDUMS: VOTING ON THE CITIZEN PETITION REFERENDUM

State or other jurisdiction	Ballot (a)		Election where referendum voted on	Effective date of approved referendum (b)	Days to contest election results (c)
	Title by:	Summary by:			
Alabama .....	...	...	...	...	...
Alaska	LG	LG	1st statewide election 180 days after LS	30 days	10
Arizona	SS, AG	LC	GE	(d)	5
Arkansas	AG	...	GE	...	20
California	AG	AG	GE or PR	1 day	5 (e)
Colorado .....	...	...	...	...	...
Connecticut .....	...	...	...	...	...
Delaware .....	...	...	...	...	...
Florida .....	...	...	...	...	...
Georgia .....	...	...	...	...	...
Hawaii .....	...	...	...	...	...
Idaho	AG	AG	GE	30 days	20 (e)
Illinois .....	...	...	GE	Advisory only	30
Indiana .....	...	...	...	...	...
Iowa .....	...	...	...	...	...
Kansas .....	...	...	...	...	...
Kentucky .....	...	...	GE or SP	IM	...
Louisiana .....	...	...	...	...	...
Maine .....	...	...	GE or statewide election more than 60 days after filing	30 days	5
Maryland	SS	LSS	GE	(f)	...
Massachusetts	SS, AG	AG	GE more than 60 days after filing	30 days	10
Michigan	BSC	BSC	GE	10 days	2 (e)
Minnesota .....	...	...	...	...	...
Mississippi .....	...	...	...	...	...
Missouri	SS, AG	SS	GE	IM	30
Montana	AG	AG	GE	(g)	1 yr.
Nebraska	AG	AG	GE	...	...
Nevada	SS, AG	SS, AG	GE	Nov., 4th Tues.	14
New Hampshire .....	...	...	...	...	...
New Jersey .....	...	...	...	...	...
New Mexico .....	...	...	...	...	...
New York .....	...	...	...	...	...
North Carolina .....	...	...	...	...	...
North Dakota	SS, AG	SS	PR	30 days	14 (e)
Ohio .....	...	...	GE more than 60 days after filing.	IM	15 (h)
Oklahoma	LLS, AG	LLS	GE or SP	...	...
Oregon	AG	AG	GE (i)	30 days	40
Pennsylvania .....	...	...	...	...	...
Rhode Island .....	...	...	...	...	...
South Carolina .....	...	...	...	...	...
South Dakota	AG	AG	GE	1 day	...
Tennessee .....	...	...	...	...	...
Texas .....	...	...	...	...	...
Utah	LLS	LLS	GE	5 days	40
Vermont .....	...	...	...	...	...
Virginia .....	...	...	...	...	...
Washington	AG	AG	GE	30 days	10
West Virginia .....	...	...	...	...	...
Wisconsin .....	...	...	...	...	...
Wyoming	SS	SS, AG	GE more than 120 days after LS	90 days	15
American Samoa .....	...	...	...	...	...
No. Mariana Islands	AG	AG	GE or special election if specified	(j)	30 days
Puerto Rico .....	...	...	...	...	...
U.S. Virgin Islands .....	...	...	...	...	...

See footnotes at end of table.

STATE REFERENDUMS: VOTING ON THE CITIZEN PETITION REFERENDUM— Continued

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

Key:

- ... — Not applicable.
- LG — Lieutenant Governor.
- AG — Attorney General.
- SS — Secretary of State.
- BSC — Board of State Canvassers.
- LC — Legislative Counsel.
- LSS — Legislative Legal Services.
- SBE — State Board of Elections.
- GE — General election.
- PR — Primary election.
- REG — Regular election.
- SP — Special election.
- IM — Immediately.
- LS — Legislative session.

(a) In some states, the ballot title and summary will differ from that on the petition.

(b) A majority of the popular vote is required to enact a measure in every state. In Arizona, a referendum approved by the voters becomes effective upon the governor's proclamation. In Nebraska, a referendum may be put into effect immediately after the approving votes have been canvassed by the Board of State Canvassers and upon the governor's proclamation. In Massachusetts the measure must also receive at least 30 percent of the total ballots cast in the last election. In Oklahoma, put into effect upon certification of election results by state election board. In Utah, after proclamation by governor and date specified in petition.

(c) Individuals may contest the results of a vote on a referendum within a certain number of days after the election including this matter. In Alaska, five

days to request recount with appeal to the court within five days after recount.

(d) Upon proclamation of the governor after the canvass. (AZ Const. Article 4, Part 1, Section 13).

(e) After election is certified.

(f) After the certification of election results. Depends on date Board of State Canvassers meets. They must meet within 35 days after General Election.

(g) Unless specifically provided by the legislature in an act referred by it to the people or until suspended by a petition signed by at least 15% of the qualified electors in a majority of the legislative representative districts, an act referred to the people is in effect as provided by law until it is approved or rejected at the election. An act that is rejected is repealed effective the date the result of the canvass is filed by the secretary of state under 13-27-503. An act referred to the people that was in effect at the time of the election and is approved by the people remains in effect. An act that was suspended by a petition and is approved by the people is effective the date the result of the canvass is filed by the secretary of state under 13-27-503. An act referred by the legislature that contains an effective date following the election becomes effective on that date if approved by the people. An act that provides no effective date and whose substantive provisions were delayed by the legislature pending approval at an election and that is approved is effective October 1 following the election.

(h) After election is certified or if recount conducted, 10 days after recount.

(i) Special election can be held at the request of the Legislative Assembly.

(j) Upon approval by voters and certification of election results by Election Commission, usually 15 days after date of election if no contest.