

The Basic Steps To Do An Initiative In Maine Statutes Only – Indirect Initiative Process

Basic procedures: Filing an initiative is a very simple process in Maine. All you need to do is take your initiative language to the Secretary of State – it doesn't have to be in petition format. The Secretary of State then submits the language to the Reviser of Statutes who puts it in the format that is consistent with state law and gives it back to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then returns the initiative to the proponent. Once this occurs, the proponent of the initiative will take the language and put it into petition format. Once it is in petition format, it is submitted to the Secretary of State for final approval. This whole process will take approximately six weeks.

Date initiative language can be submitted to the state for the November 2001 or 2002 election: Anytime, but you have only one year from the time the Secretary of State gives the final approval to collect the signatures. Based on this, you shouldn't submit the language until you are ready to go forward.

Signatures tied to vote of which office: Governor

Next Gubernatorial election: 2002

Votes cast for governor in last election: 421,010 (1998)

Net number of signatures required: 10% of votes cast for Governor for a statute (42,101). If proponents have enough signatures, the measure is sent to the Legislature. If the Legislature does not approve the measure, it is placed on the next statewide election.

Distribution requirement: None

Circulation period: One year from date the Secretary of State grants approval.

Do circulators have to be residents and/or registered voters: Yes

Date when signatures are due for certification: January 25, 2001 to be on the November 2001 general election ballot. No later than late January 2002 to be on the November 2002 general election ballot.

Signature verification process: Full certification

Single-subject restriction: Yes (advisory only)

Legislative tampering: By common practice, the legislature can both repeal and amend initiatives.