

The Basic Steps To Do An Initiative In Missouri Statutes And Amendments – Direct Initiative Process

Basic Procedures: After forming their committee, proponents file the full text of their initiative with the Secretary of State (SOS), along with a sample petition form. The Secretary of State reviews the petition for form and also writes a ballot title and summary based on the full text. The SOS will take a suggested title and summary from proponents – but are not obligated to use it. Once the SOS writes the title and summary, it is forwarded to the Attorney General for final approval. After the initiative is filed, the State Auditor writes a fiscal impact statement.

Once the ballot title, summary and fiscal impact statements are written, proponents can begin circulating. The Secretary of State, Attorney General and State Auditor are required to have everything completed within 30 days of when an initiative is filed. There is no statutory procedure for appealing the title, summary or fiscal impact statement. Proponents can, however, sue through normal legal channels.

Date Initiative language can be submitted to state for 2002: Any time.

Signatures are tied to vote of which office: Governor

Next Gubernatorial election: 2004

Votes cast for governor in last election: 2,346,830

Net number of signatures required: For a statute, proponents must collect signatures equal to 5% of votes cast for governor in 6 out of 9 Congressional districts and 8% for constitutional amendments. The actual total number varies, depending on which 6 counties are chosen. A statute initiative circulated in 2000 in the 6 districts with the highest votes cast for governor would require 75,356 signatures. An amendment would require 120,571 in 2000.

Distribution requirement: 5% in 6 out of 9 congressional districts.

Circulation period: 18 months

Do circulators have to be residents of the state: Yes and they must register with the Secretary of State's office.

Date when signatures are due for certification: May 5, 2002

Signature verification process: Secretary of State verifies signatures by use of random sampling.

Single Subject: Missouri has a single subject requirement.

Legislative tampering: The legislature can both repeal and amend initiative statutes.