

**The Basic Steps To Do An Initiative In Nevada
Amendments And Statutes – Indirect Initiative Process (Statutes)
Direct Initiative Process (Amendments)**

Basic Procedures: Filing an initiative is a very simple process in Nevada. Prior to circulating a petition for signatures, a copy of the petition must be filed with the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State reviews the petition for acceptable format – but does not review or approve the legality of the language contained on the petition. Proponents are advised to obtain their own legal counsel to review the measure's language and content.

When the measure qualifies for the ballot, the Secretary of State writes the Ballot Summary and Ballot Question; and the Attorney General reviews and comments on both. While writing them, the Secretary of State holds public gathering to obtain input from proponents, opponents and the general public. There is no official process for challenging the Secretary of State's Title and Summary, other than challenging them in court.

Date Initiative language can be submitted to state for November 2002: For amendments, no sooner than early September 2001 for 2002 ballot. For statutes, no sooner than early January 2002 for 2004 ballot.

Signatures are tied to vote of which office: Votes cast in the last general election.

Next general election: 2002

Votes cast in last general election: 613,360

Net number of signatures required: For statutes and amendments, 10% of the total votes cast at the last general election. (61,366 signatures.) If the measure is a statute and enough valid signatures have been gathered, the Secretary of State transmits the petition to the legislature as soon as the legislature convenes. The Legislature has 40 days to enact or reject it. If the proposed statute is enacted by the legislature and approved by the Governor, it shall become law. If rejected, the Secretary of State submits the question of approval or disapproval of the statute to a vote at the next general election. If the measure is an amendment and enough valid signatures have been gathered, the Secretary of State submits the question of approval or disapproval the amendment to a vote at the next general election.

Distribution Requirement: 10% of total number of votes cast in the last general election in at least 13 out of the 17 counties.

Circulation period: 10 months for statutes, 11 months for constitutional amendments.

Do circulators have to be residents: Yes

Date when signatures are due for certification: For amendment, 90 days prior to the election (June 2002 for 2002 ballot). For statutes, 30 days prior to the convening of the legislature. (November 2000 for 2002 ballot, November 2002 for 2004 ballot.)

Signature verification process: Random Sampling

Single-subject restriction: No

Legislative tampering: Legislature can only repeal or amend after three years of enactment.

General Comments: Nevada requires that constitutional amendments adopted by initiative be voted on twice by the people before it can become law.

The Nevada Constitution does not permit the proposal of any statute or statutory amendment which makes an appropriation or otherwise requires the expenditure of money, unless such statute or amendment also imposes a sufficient tax, not prohibited by the constitution, or otherwise constitutionally provides for raising the necessary revenue.