

## Nevada Constitution

### **Article 19**

#### **Section 1. Referendum for approval or disapproval of statute or resolution enacted by legislature.**

1. A person who intends to circulate a petition that a statute or resolution or part thereof enacted by the legislature be submitted to a vote of the people, before circulating the petition for signatures, shall file a copy thereof with the secretary of state. He shall file the copy not earlier than August 1 of the year before the year in which the election will be held.

2. Whenever a number of registered voters of this state equal to 10 percent or more of the number of voters who voted at the last preceding general election shall express their wish by filing with the secretary of state, not less than 120 days before the next general election, a petition in the form provided for in section 3 of this article that any statute or resolution or any part thereof enacted by the legislature be submitted to a vote of the people, the officers charged with the duties of announcing and proclaiming elections and of certifying nominations or questions to be voted upon shall submit the question of approval or disapproval of such statute or resolution or any part thereof to a vote of the voters at the next succeeding election at which such question may be voted upon by the registered voters of the entire state. The circulation of the petition shall cease on the day the petition is filed with the secretary of state or such other date as may be prescribed for the verification of the number of signatures affixed to the petition, whichever is earliest.

3. If a majority of the voters voting upon the proposal submitted at such election votes approval of such statute or resolution or any part thereof, such statute or resolution or any part thereof shall stand as the law of the state and shall not be amended, annulled, repealed, set aside, suspended or in any way made inoperative except by the direct vote of the people. If a majority of such voters votes disapproval of such statute or resolution or any part thereof, such statute or resolution or any part thereof shall be void and of no effect.

#### **Sec. 2. Initiative petition for enactment or amendment of statute or amendment of constitution.**

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of article 4 of this constitution, but subject to the limitations of section 6 of this article, the people reserve to themselves the power to propose, by initiative petition, statutes and amendments to statutes and amendments to this constitution, and to enact or reject them at the polls.

2. An initiative petition shall be in the form required by section 3 of this article and shall be proposed by a number of registered voters equal to 10 percent or more of the number of voters who voted at the last preceding general election in not less than 75 percent of the counties in the state, but the total number of registered voters signing the initiative

petition shall be equal to 10 percent or more of the voters who voted in the entire state at the last preceding general election.

3. If the initiative petition proposes a statute or an amendment to a statute, the person who intends to circulate it shall file a copy with the secretary of state before beginning circulation and not earlier than January 1 of the year preceding the year in which a regular session of the legislature is held. After its circulation, it shall be filed with the secretary of state not less than 30 days prior to any regular session of the legislature. The circulation of the petition shall cease on the day the petition is filed with the secretary of state or such other date as may be prescribed for the verification of the number of signatures affixed to the petition, whichever is earliest. The secretary of state shall transmit such petition to the legislature as soon as the legislature convenes and organizes. The petition shall take precedence over all other measures except appropriation bills, and the statute or amendment to a statute proposed thereby shall be enacted or rejected by the legislature without change or amendment within 40 days. If the proposed statute or amendment to a statute is enacted by the legislature and approved by the governor in the same manner as other statutes are enacted, such statute or amendment to a statute shall become law, but shall be subject to referendum petition as provided in section 1 of this article. If the statute or amendment to a statute is rejected by the legislature, or if no action is taken thereon within 40 days, the secretary of state shall submit the question of approval or disapproval of such statute or amendment to a statute to a vote of the voters at the next succeeding general election. If a majority of the voters voting on such question at such election votes approval of such statute or amendment to a statute, it shall become law and take effect upon completion of the canvass of votes by the supreme court. An initiative measure so approved by the voters shall not be amended, annulled, repealed, set aside or suspended by the legislature within 3 years from the date it takes effect. If a majority of such voters votes disapproval of such statute or amendment to a statute, no further action shall be taken on such petition. If the legislature rejects such proposed statute or amendment, the governor may recommend to the legislature and the legislature may propose a different measure on the same subject, in which event, after such different measure has been approved by the governor, the question of approval or disapproval of each measure shall be submitted by the secretary of state to a vote of the voters at the next succeeding general election. If the conflicting provisions submitted to the voters are both approved by a majority of the voters voting on such measures, the measure which receives the largest number of affirmative votes shall thereupon become law.

4. If the initiative petition proposes an amendment to the constitution, the person who intends to circulate it shall file a copy with the secretary of state before beginning circulation and not earlier than September 1 of the year before the year in which the election is to be held. After its

circulation it shall be filed with the secretary of state not less than 90 days before any regular general election at which the question of approval or disapproval of such amendment may be voted upon by the voters of the entire state. The circulation of the petition shall cease on the day the petition is filed with the secretary of state or such other date as may be prescribed for the verification of the number of signatures affixed to the petition, whichever is earliest. The secretary of state shall cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation, on three separate occasions, in each county in the state, together with any explanatory matter which shall be placed upon the ballot, the entire text of the proposed amendment. If a majority of the voters voting on such question at such election votes disapproval of such amendment, no further action shall be taken on the petition. If a majority of such voters votes approval of such amendment, the secretary of state shall publish and resubmit the question of approval or disapproval to a vote of the voters at the next succeeding general election in the same manner as such question was originally submitted. If a majority of such voters votes disapproval of such amendment, no further action shall be taken on such petition. If a majority of such voters votes approval of such amendment, it shall become a part of this constitution upon completion of the canvass of votes by the supreme court.

5. If two or more measures which affect the same section of a statute or of the constitution are finally approved pursuant to this section, or an amendment to the constitution is finally so approved and an amendment proposed by the legislature is ratified which affect the same section, by the voters at the same election:

(a) If all can be given effect without contradiction in substance, each shall be given effect.

(b) If one or more contradict in substance the other or others, the measure which received the largest favorable vote, and any other approved measure compatible with it, shall be given effect. If the one or more measures that contradict in substance the other or others receive the same number of favorable votes, none of the measures that contradict another shall be given effect.

6. If, at the same election as the first approval of a constitutional amendment pursuant to this section, another amendment is finally approved pursuant to this section, or an amendment proposed by the legislature is ratified, which affects the same section of the constitution but is compatible with the amendment given first approval, the secretary of state shall publish and resubmit at the next general election the amendment given first approval as a further amendment to the section as amended by the amendment given final approval or ratified. If the amendment finally approved or ratified contradicts in substance the amendment given first approval, the secretary of state shall not submit the amendment given first approval to the voters again.

**Sec. 3. Referendum and initiative petitions: Contents and form; signatures; enacting clause; manner of verification of signatures.**

1. Each referendum petition and initiative petition shall include the full text of the measure proposed. Each signer shall affix thereto his or her signature, residence address and the name of the county in which he or she is a registered voter. The petition may consist of more than one document, but each document shall have affixed thereto an affidavit made by one of the signers of such document to the effect that all of the signatures are genuine and that each individual who signed such document was at the time of signing a registered voter in the county of his or her residence. The affidavit shall be executed before a person authorized by law to administer oaths in the State of Nevada. The enacting clause of all statutes or amendments proposed by initiative petition shall be: "The People of the State of Nevada do enact as follows:"

2. The legislature may authorize the secretary of state and the other public officers to use generally accepted statistical procedures in conducting a preliminary verification of the number of signatures submitted in connection with a referendum petition or an initiative petition, and for this purpose to require petitions to be filed no more than 65 days earlier than is otherwise required by this article.

**Sec. 4. Powers of initiative and referendum of registered voters of counties and municipalities.** The initiative and referendum powers provided for in this article are further reserved to the registered voters of each county and each municipality as to all local, special and municipal legislation of every kind in or for such county or municipality. In counties and municipalities initiative petitions may be instituted by a number of registered voters equal to 15 percent or more of the voters who voted at the last preceding general county or municipal election. Referendum petitions may be instituted by 10 percent or more of such voters.

**Sec. 5. Provisions of article self-executing; legislative procedures.** The provisions of this article are self-executing but the legislature may provide by law for procedures to facilitate the operation thereof.

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**Chapter 293 Circulation and Sufficiency of Certain Petitions**

**NRS 293.12756 Informational pamphlet concerning petitions; fee.**

1. The secretary of state shall prepare an informational pamphlet describing the requirements for filing and circulating petitions. The pamphlet must also contain a sample of a petition to demonstrate an acceptable format for a petition.

2. The pamphlets must be made available to the public and must be distributed to any person who requests a pamphlet upon payment of the applicable fee, if any. The secretary of state may impose a fee for the pamphlet in an amount not to exceed the cost to produce the pamphlet.

(Added to NRS by 1993, 2664)

**NRS 293.12757 Qualification to sign petition.**

A person may sign a petition required under the election laws of this state on or after the date he is deemed to be registered to vote pursuant to subsection 5 of NRS 293.517 or subsection 5 of NRS 293.5235.

(Added to NRS by 1999, 3546)

**NRS 293.12758 Receipt issued by county clerk; requirements for petition.**

1. The county clerk shall issue a receipt to any person who submits a petition for the verification of signatures or a petition, declaration of or acceptance of candidacy. The receipt must state:

(a) The number of documents submitted;

(b) The number of pages of each document; and

(c) The number of signatures which the person declares are on the petition.

2. If a petition consists of more than one document, all of the documents must be submitted to the county clerk for verification at the same time.

3. The county clerk shall not accept a petition unless each page of the petition is numbered.

4. Each signature on the petition must be signed in ink. The county clerk shall disregard any signature which is not signed in ink.

5. As used in this section, "document" includes material which is separately compiled and bound together and may consist of one or more sheets of paper.

(Added to NRS by 1993, 2664)

**NRS 293.1276 County clerk to forward number of signatures to secretary of state; notice of failure to file required number of signatures; handling of petition.**

1. Within 4 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, after the submission of a petition containing signatures which are required to be verified pursuant to NRS 293.128, 293.165, 293.172, 293.200, 295.056, 298.109, 306.035 or 306.110, the county clerk shall determine the total number of signatures affixed to the documents and forward that information to the secretary of state.

2. If the secretary of state finds that the total number of signatures filed with all the county clerks is less than 100 percent of the required number of registered voters, he shall so notify the person who submitted the petition and the county clerks and no further action may be taken in regard to the petition. If the petition is a petition to recall a county, district or municipal officer, the secretary of state shall also notify the officer with whom the petition is to be filed.

3. After the petition is submitted to the county clerk, it must not be handled by any other person except by an employee of the county clerk's office until it is filed with the secretary of state.

**NRS 293.1277 Verification of signatures by county clerks.**

1. If the secretary of state finds that the total number of signatures submitted to all the county clerks is 100 percent or more of the number of registered voters needed to declare the petition sufficient, he shall

immediately so notify the county clerks. Within 9 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, after notification, each of the county clerks shall determine the number of registered voters who have signed the documents submitted in his county.

2. If more than 500 names have been signed on the documents submitted to him, a county clerk shall examine the signatures by sampling them at random for verification. The random sample of signatures to be verified must be drawn in such a manner that every signature which has been submitted to the county clerk is given an equal opportunity to be included in the sample. The sample must include an examination of at least 500 or 5 percent of the signatures, whichever is greater.

3. In determining from the records of registration the number of registered voters who signed the documents, the county clerk may use the signatures contained in the file of applications to register to vote. If the county clerk uses that file, he shall ensure that every application in the file is examined, including any application in his possession which may not yet be entered into his records. The county clerk shall rely only on the appearance of the signature and the address and date included with each signature in making his determination.

4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, upon completing the examination, the county clerk shall immediately attach to the documents a certificate properly dated, showing the result of his examination and transmit the documents with the certificate to the secretary of state. A copy of this certificate must be filed in the clerk's office.

5. A person who submits a petition to the county clerk which is required to be verified pursuant to NRS 293.128, 293.165, 293.172, 293.200, 295.056, 298.109, 306.035 or 306.110 must be allowed to witness the verification of the signatures. A public officer who is the subject of a recall petition must also be allowed to witness the verification of the signatures on the petition.

6. For any petition containing signatures which are required to be verified pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.165, 293.200, 306.035 or 306.110 for any county, district or municipal office within one county, the county clerk shall not transmit to the secretary of state the documents containing the signatures of the registered voters.

7. The secretary of state may by regulation establish further procedures for carrying out the provisions of this section.

(Added to NRS by 1985, 1090; A 1987, 1361; 1993, 2665; 1995, 2257; 1997, 750; 1999, 2147)

**NRS 293.1278 Qualification or disqualification of petition upon receipt of certificates by secretary of state.**

1. If the certificates received by the secretary of state from all the county clerks establish that the number of valid signatures is less than 90 percent of the required number of registered voters, the petition shall be deemed to have failed to qualify, and the secretary of state shall immediately so notify the petitioners and the county clerks.

2. If those certificates establish that the petitioners have more than 100 percent of the number of registered voters needed to make the petition sufficient, the petition shall be deemed to qualify as of the date of receipt by the secretary of state of certificates showing the petition to have reached 100 percent, and the secretary of state shall immediately so notify the petitioners and the county clerks.

(Added to NRS by 1985, 1091; A 1993, 2666)

**NRS 293.1279 Qualification or disqualification of petition upon verification of signatures.**

1. If the statistical sampling shows that the number of valid signatures filed is 90 percent or more but less than 100 percent of the number of signatures of registered voters needed to declare the petition sufficient, the secretary of state shall order the county clerks to examine the signatures for verification. The county clerks shall examine the signatures for verification until they determine that 100 percent of the number of signatures of registered voters needed to declare the petition sufficient are valid.

2. If the statistical sampling shows that the number of valid signatures filed in any county is 90 percent or more but less than 100 percent of the number of signatures of registered voters needed to constitute 10 percent of the number of voters who voted at the last preceding general election in that county, the secretary of state may order the county clerk in that county to examine every signature for verification.

3. Within 12 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, after receipt of such an order, the clerk shall determine from the records of registration what number of registered voters have signed the petition. If necessary, the board of county commissioners shall allow the county clerk additional assistants for examining the signatures and provide for their compensation. In determining from the records of registration what number of registered voters have signed the petition, the clerk may use any file or list of registered voters maintained by his office or facsimiles of voters' signatures. The county clerk may rely on the appearance of the signature and the address and date included with each signature in determining the number of registered voters that signed the petition.

4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, upon completing the examination, the county clerk shall immediately attach to the documents of the petition an amended certificate properly dated, showing the result of the examination and shall immediately forward the documents with the amended certificate to the secretary of state. A copy of the amended certificate must be filed in the county clerk's office.

5. For any petition containing signatures which are required to be verified pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.165, 293.200, 306.035 or 306.110 for any county, district or municipal office within one county, the county clerk shall not forward to the secretary of state the documents containing the signatures of the registered voters.

6. Except for a petition to recall a county, district or municipal officer, the petition shall be deemed filed with the secretary of state as of the date on which he receives certificates from the county clerks showing the petition to be signed by the requisite number of voters of the state.

7. If the amended certificates received from all county clerks by the secretary of state establish that the petition is still insufficient, he shall immediately so notify the petitioners and the county clerks. If the petition is a petition to recall a county, district or municipal officer, the secretary of state shall also notify the officer with whom the petition is to be filed.

(Added to NRS by 1985, 1091; A 1985, 551; 1987, 1362; 1993, 2666; 1997, 751; 1999, 2148)

**NRS 293.12793 Appeal with secretary of state contesting verification of votes; notification of public officer who is subject of petition to recall; consideration and investigation of allegations.**

1. If the secretary of state determines that the total number of signatures that the county clerks have certified pursuant to NRS 293.1277 or 293.1279 is less than 100 percent of the number of registered voters needed to make the petition sufficient, the person who submitted the petition may contest the verification of the signatures by filing an appeal with the secretary of state. The appeal must:

(a) Be filed within 5 working days after receipt of notification of the determination of the secretary of state;

(b) Include each reason for the appeal; and

(c) Include a statement of the number of signatures, if any, that the county clerk determined were invalid.

2. The secretary of state shall:

(a) If the petition was circulated pursuant to chapter 306 of NRS, immediately notify the public officer who is the subject of the petition of the appeal by the person who submitted the petition; and

(b) Consider the allegations and conduct an investigation, if necessary.

(Added to NRS by 1993, 2664; A 1997, 752; 1999, 3546)

**NRS 293.12795 Action by secretary of state upon review of appeal; judicial review of decision of secretary of state.**

1. If an appeal is based upon the results of the verification of signatures on a petition performed pursuant to NRS 293.1277 or 293.1279, the secretary of state shall:

(a) If he finds for the appellant, order the county clerk to recertify the petition, including as verified signatures all contested signatures which the secretary of state determines are valid.

(b) If he does not find for the appellant, notify the appellant and the county clerk that the petition remains insufficient.

2. If the secretary of state is unable to make a decision on the appeal based upon the documents submitted to him, the secretary of state may order the county clerk to reverify the signatures.

3. The decision of the secretary of state is a final decision for the purposes of judicial review. The decision of the secretary of state may only be appealed in the first judicial district court.

(Added to NRS by 1993, 2664)

### **Chapter 295 – Initiative and Referendum**

#### **NRS 295.015 Copy of petition for initiative to be filed with secretary of state before presentation of petition to voters for signatures.**

A copy of a petition for initiative must be placed on file in the office of the secretary of state before it may be presented to the registered voters for their signatures.

(Added to NRS by 1963, 1384; A 1981, 12; 1985, 1112)

#### **NRS 295.035 Petition for initiative proposing amendment to constitution: Secretary of state to use same number for identification of petition when submitted at successive elections.**

If the initiative petition proposes an amendment to the constitution, in resubmitting the initiative to the voters, the secretary of state shall use the same identifying number or other identification used for the first submission.

(Added to NRS by 1963, 1384; A 1973, 332; 1985, 550)

#### **NRS 295.045 Petition for referendum: Filing; submission to voters at general election.**

1. A copy of a petition for referendum must be placed on file in the office of the secretary of state before it may be presented to the registered voters for their signatures.

2. A petition for referendum must be filed with the secretary of state not less than 120 days before the date of the next succeeding general election.

3. The secretary of state shall certify the questions to the county clerks, and they shall publish them in accordance with the provisions of law requiring county clerks to publish questions and proposed constitutional amendments which are to be submitted for popular vote.

4. The title of the statute or resolution must be set out on the ballot, and the question printed upon the ballot for the information of the voters must be as follows: "Shall the statute (setting out its title) be approved?"

5. Where a mechanical voting system is used, the title of the statute must appear on the list of offices and candidates and the statements of measures to be voted on and may be condensed to no more than 25 words.

6. The votes cast upon the question must be counted and canvassed as the votes for state officers are counted and canvassed.

(Added to NRS by 1963, 1383; A 1977, 247; 1979, 268; 1981, 13; 1985, 1112)

#### **NRS 295.055 Petition for initiative or referendum: Regulations specifying format; each document of petition limited to voters of single county; removal of name from petition.**

1. The secretary of state shall by regulation specify:

(a) The format for the signatures on a petition for an initiative or referendum and make free specimens of the format available upon request. Each signature must be dated.

(b) The manner of fastening together several sheets circulated by one person to constitute a single document.

2. Each document of the petition must bear the name of a county, and only registered voters of that county may sign the document.

3. A person who signs a petition may remove his name from it by transmitting his request in writing to the county clerk at any time before the petition is filed with the county clerk.

(Added to NRS by 1963, 1385; A 1985, 550; 1987, 1374)

**NRS 295.056 Petition for initiative or referendum: Requirements for submission of signatures to county clerk.**

1. Before a petition for initiative or referendum is filed with the secretary of state, the petitioners must submit to each county clerk for verification pursuant to NRS 293.1276 to 293.1279, inclusive, the document or documents which were circulated for signature within his county. The clerks shall give the person submitting a document or documents a receipt stating the number of documents and pages and the person's statement of the number of signatures contained therein.

2. If a petition for initiative proposes a statute or an amendment to a statute, the document or documents must be submitted not later than the second Tuesday in November of an even-numbered year.

3. If a petition for initiative proposes an amendment to the constitution, the document or documents must be submitted not later than the third Tuesday in June of an even-numbered year.

4. If the petition is for referendum, the document or documents must be submitted not later than the third Tuesday in May of an even-numbered year.

5. All documents which are submitted to a county clerk for verification must be submitted at the same time.

(Added to NRS by 1983, 923; A 1985, 551, 1113; 1991, 2226; 1993, 2669; 1999, 3560)

**NRS 295.061 Challenge to legal sufficiency of petition.**

The legal sufficiency of a petition filed pursuant to NRS 295.015 to 295.061, inclusive, may be challenged by filing a complaint in district court not later than 5 days, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excluded, after the petition is filed with the secretary of state. All affidavits and documents in support of the challenge must be filed with the complaint. The court shall set the matter for hearing not later than 30 days after the complaint is filed and shall give priority to such a complaint over all other matters pending with the court, except for criminal proceedings.

(Added to NRS by 1999, 3560)

**County Initiative and Referendum**

**NRS 295.075 "Board" defined.**

As used in NRS 295.075 to 295.125, inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires, "board" means the board of county commissioners.

(Added to NRS by 1967, 380; A 1999, 2120)

**NRS 295.085 Registered voters' power of initiative and referendum concerning county ordinances.**

The registered voters of a county may:

1. Propose ordinances to the board and, if the board fails to adopt an ordinance so proposed without change in substance, to adopt or reject it at a primary or general election.
2. Require reconsideration by the board of any adopted ordinance and, if the board fails to repeal an ordinance so reconsidered, to approve or reject it at a primary or general election.

(Added to NRS by 1967, 380; A 1993, 1032)

**NRS 295.095 Commencement of proceedings: Petitioners' committee; form and requirements of petition; circulator's affidavit; receipt for petition issued by clerk.**

1. Any five registered voters of the county may commence initiative or referendum proceedings by filing with the county clerk an affidavit stating they will constitute the petitioners' committee and be responsible for circulating the petition and filing it in proper form, stating their names and addresses and specifying the address to which all notices to the committee are to be sent, and setting out in full the proposed initiative ordinance or citing the ordinance sought to be reconsidered.
2. Initiative petitions must be signed by a number of registered voters of the county equal to 15 percent or more of the number of voters who voted at the last preceding general election in the county.
3. Referendum petitions must be signed by a number of registered voters of the county equal to 10 percent or more of the number of voters who voted at the last preceding general election in the county.
4. A petition must be filed not later than:
  - (a) One hundred and eighty days after the date that the affidavit required by subsection 1 is filed with the county clerk; or
  - (b) One hundred days before the election, whichever is earlier.
5. A petition may consist of more than one document, but all documents of a petition must be uniform in size and style, numbered and assembled as one instrument for filing. Each signature must be executed in ink or indelible pencil and followed by the address of the person signing and the date on which he signed the petition. All signatures on a petition must be obtained within the period specified in paragraph (a) of subsection 4. Each document must contain or have attached thereto throughout its circulation the full text of the ordinance proposed or sought to be reconsidered.
6. Each document of a petition must have attached to it when filed an affidavit executed by the circulator thereof stating:
  - (a) That he personally circulated the document;

- (b) The number of signatures thereon;
- (c) That all the signatures were affixed in his presence;
- (d) That he believes them to be genuine signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be; and
- (e) That each signer had an opportunity before signing to read the full text of the ordinance proposed or sought to be reconsidered.

7. The county clerk shall issue a receipt to any person who submits a petition pursuant to this section. The receipt must set forth the number of:

- (a) Documents included in the petition;
- (b) Pages in each document; and
- (c) Signatures that the person declares are included in the petition.

(Added to NRS by 1967, 380; A 1989, 1182; 1997, 2787)

**NRS 295.105 Filing, examination, certification and amendment of petition; court and board to review sufficiency of petition.**

1. Within 20 days after the petition is filed, the county clerk shall complete a certificate as to its sufficiency, specifying, if it is insufficient, the particulars wherein it is defective and shall promptly send a copy of the certificate to the petitioners' committee by registered or certified mail.

2. A petition must not be certified insufficient for lack of the required number of valid signatures if, in the absence of other proof of disqualification, any signature on the face thereof does not exactly correspond with the signature appearing on the official register of voters and the identity of the signer can be ascertained from the face of the petition. A petition certified insufficient for lack of the required number of valid signatures may be amended once if the petitioners' committee files a notice of intention to amend it with the county clerk within 2 days after receiving the copy of his certificate and files a supplementary petition upon additional papers within 10 days after receiving the copy of the certificate. A supplementary petition must comply with the requirements of subsections 5 and 6 of NRS 295.095, and within 5 days after it is filed the county clerk shall complete a certificate as to the sufficiency of the petition as amended and promptly send a copy of the certificate to the petitioners' committee by registered or certified mail.

3. If a petition or amended petition is certified sufficient, or if a petition or amended petition is certified insufficient and the petitioners' committee does not elect to amend or request board review under subsection 4 within the time required, the county clerk shall promptly present his certificate to the board and the certificate is a final determination as to the sufficiency of the petition.

4. If a petition has been certified insufficient and the petitioners' committee does not file notice of intention to amend it or if an amended petition has been certified insufficient, the committee may, within 2 days after receiving a copy of the certificate, file a request that it be reviewed by the board. The board shall review the certificate at its next meeting following the filing of the request and approve or disapprove it, and the

determination of the board is a final determination as to the sufficiency of the petition.

5. A final determination as to the sufficiency of a petition is subject to court review. A final determination of insufficiency, even if sustained upon court review, does not prejudice the filing of a new petition for the same purpose.

(Added to NRS by 1967, 380; A 1989, 1183)

**NRS 295.115 Consideration by board; submission to registered voters; withdrawal of petition.**

1. When an initiative or referendum petition has been finally determined sufficient, the board shall promptly consider the proposed initiative ordinance in the manner provided by law for the consideration of ordinances generally or reconsider the referred ordinance by voting its repeal. If the board fails to adopt a proposed initiative ordinance without any change in substance within 60 days or fails to repeal the referred ordinance within 30 days after the date the petition was finally determined sufficient, it shall submit the proposed or referred ordinance to the registered voters of the county.

2. The vote of the county on a proposed or referred ordinance must be held at the next primary or general election. Copies of the proposed or referred ordinance must be made available at the polls.

3. An initiative or referendum petition may be withdrawn at any time before the 30th day preceding the day scheduled for a vote of the county or the deadline for placing questions on the ballot, whichever is earlier, by filing with the county clerk a request for withdrawal signed by at least four members of the petitioners' original committee. Upon the filing of that request, the petition has no further effect and all proceedings thereon must be terminated.

(Added to NRS by 1967, 381; A 1969, 896; 1993, 1032)

**NRS 295.121 Appointment of committee to prepare arguments advocating and opposing approval of ballot questions for county; duties of committee; regulations; review of arguments; placement of arguments in sample ballot.**

1. In a county whose population is 50,000 or more, for each initiative, referendum or other question to be placed on the ballot by the board or county clerk, including, without limitation, pursuant to NRS 293.482, 295.115 or 295.160, the board shall, in consultation with the county clerk, pursuant to subsection 2, appoint a committee of six persons, three of whom are known to favor approval by the voters of the initiative, referendum or other question and three of whom are known to oppose approval by the voters of the initiative, referendum or other question. A person may serve on more than one committee. Members of the committee serve without compensation. The term of office for each member commences upon appointment and expires upon the publication of the sample ballot containing the initiative, referendum or other question.

2. Before the board appoints a committee pursuant to subsection 1, the county clerk shall:

(a) Recommend to the board persons to be appointed to the committee; and

(b) Consider recommending pursuant to paragraph (a):

(1) Any person who has expressed an interest in serving on the committee; and

(2) A person who is a member of an organization that has expressed an interest in having a member of the organization serve on the committee.

3. If the board of a county whose population is 50,000 or more fails to appoint a committee as required by subsection 1, the county clerk shall appoint the committee.

4. A committee appointed pursuant to this section:

(a) Shall elect a chairman for the committee;

(b) Shall meet and conduct its affairs as necessary to fulfill the requirements of this section;

(c) May seek and consider comments from the general public;

(d) Shall prepare an argument advocating approval by the voters of the initiative, referendum or other question, and prepare a rebuttal to that argument;

(e) Shall prepare an argument opposing approval by the voters of the initiative, referendum or other question, and prepare a rebuttal to that argument; and

(f) Shall submit the arguments and rebuttals prepared pursuant to paragraphs (d) and (e) to the county clerk not later than the date prescribed by the county clerk pursuant to subsection 5.

5. The county clerk of a county whose population is 50,000 or more shall provide, by rule or regulation:

(a) The maximum permissible length of an argument or rebuttal prepared pursuant to this section; and

(b) The date by which an argument or rebuttal prepared pursuant to this section must be submitted by the committee to the county clerk.

6. Upon receipt of an argument or rebuttal prepared pursuant to this section, the county clerk shall reject each statement in the argument or rebuttal that he believes is libelous or factually inaccurate. Not later than 5 days after the county clerk rejects a statement pursuant to this subsection, the committee may appeal that rejection to the district attorney. The district attorney shall review the statement and the reasons for its rejection and may receive evidence, documentary or testimonial, to aid him in his decision. Not later than 3 business days after the appeal by the committee, the district attorney shall issue his decision rejecting or accepting the statement. The decision of the district attorney is a final decision for the purposes of judicial review.

7. The county clerk shall place in the sample ballot provided to the registered voters of the county each argument and rebuttal prepared pursuant to this section, containing all statements that were not rejected

pursuant to subsection 6. The county clerk may revise the language submitted by the committee so that it is clear, concise and suitable for incorporation in the sample ballot, but shall not alter the meaning or effect without the consent of the committee.

8. In a county whose population is less than 50,000:

(a) The board may appoint a committee pursuant to subsection 1.

(b) If the board appoints a committee, the county clerk shall provide for rules or regulations pursuant to subsection 5.

(Added to NRS by 1999, 2118)

**NRS 295.125 Results of election.**

1. If a majority of the registered voters voting on a proposed initiative ordinance vote in its favor, it shall be considered adopted upon certification of the election results and shall be treated in all respects in the same manner as ordinances of the same kind adopted by the council. If conflicting ordinances are approved at the same election, the one receiving the greatest number of affirmative votes shall prevail to the extent of such conflict.

2. If a majority of the registered voters voting on a referred ordinance vote against it, it shall be considered repealed upon certification of the election results.

(Added to NRS by 1967, 382)

**County Referendum Concerning Specific Legislative Acts or Resolutions**

**NRS 295.140 Petition for referendum: Required signatures; filing.**

Whenever 10 percent or more of the registered voters of any county of this state, as shown by the number of registered voters who voted at the last preceding general election, express their wish that any act or resolution enacted by the legislature, and pertaining to that county only, be submitted to the vote of the people, they shall file with the county clerk, not less than 4 months before the time set for the next succeeding general election, a petition, which must contain the names and residence addresses of at least 10 percent of the registered voters of that county, demanding that a referendum vote be had by the people of the county at the next primary or general election upon the act or resolution on which the referendum is demanded.

(Added to NRS by 1960, 280; A 1993, 1033)

**NRS 295.150 Names of registered voters may be contained in more than one petition; verification of petition.**

1. The names of the registered voters petitioning need not be all upon one petition, but may be contained on one or more petitions; but each petition shall be verified by at least one of the voters who has signed such petition.

2. The voter making the verification shall swear, on information and belief, that the persons signing the petition are registered voters of the county and state, and that such signatures are genuine and were executed in his presence.

(Added to NRS by 1960, 280)

**NRS 295.160 Submission of question to people; publication.**

1. The county clerk shall file the petition upon its receipt by him. At the next primary or general election he shall submit the act or resolution, by appropriate questions on the ballot, for the approval or disapproval of the people of that county.

2. The county clerk shall publish those questions in accordance with the provisions of law requiring county clerks to publish questions and proposed constitutional amendments which are to be submitted for popular vote.

(Added to NRS by 1960, 280; A 1993, 1033)

**NRS 295.170 Form of question on ballot; count and canvass of votes.**

1. The subject matter of such questions must be stated concisely on the ballot, and the question printed upon the ballot for the information of the voter must be as follows: "Shall the act (setting out the title thereof) be approved?"

2. Where a mechanical voting system is used, the title of the act must appear on the list of offices and candidates and the statements of measures to be voted on and may be condensed by the district attorney to 20 words.

3. The district attorney shall prepare an explanation of each such question, which must be placed on the ballot or the list of offices and candidates and the statements of measures to be voted on, or posted in the polling place.

4. The votes cast upon such question must be counted and canvassed as the votes for county officers are counted and canvassed.

(Added to NRS by 1960, 281; A 1967, 1226; 1977, 248; 1985, 1114)

**NRS 295.180 Effect of approval or disapproval of majority of registered voters.**

1. When a majority of the registered voters of the county voting upon the question submitted, by their vote, approve the act or resolution, it is the law of the state, and may not be repealed, overruled, annulled, set aside or in any way made inoperative, except by a direct vote of the registered voters of that county.

2. When a majority of the registered voters of that county voting upon the question submitted disapproves, the act or resolution is void.

(Added to NRS by 1960, 281; A 1987, 1374)

**Municipal Initiative and Referendum**

**NRS 295.195 Definitions.**

As used in NRS 295.195 to 295.220, inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "City" means an incorporated city.

2. "Council" means the governing body of a city.

(Added to NRS by 1967, 377; A 1987, 1719; 1999, 2120)

**NRS 295.200 Registered voters' power of initiative and referendum concerning city ordinances.**

The registered voters of a city may:

1. Propose ordinances to the council and, if the council fails to adopt an ordinance so proposed without change in substance, adopt or reject it at the next primary or general city election or primary or general election.
2. Require reconsideration by the council of any adopted ordinance and, if the council fails to repeal an ordinance so reconsidered, approve or reject it at the next primary or general city election or primary or general election.

(Added to NRS by 1967, 378; A 1987, 364; 1993, 1033)

**NRS 295.205 Commencement of proceedings: Petitioners' committee; form and requirements of petition; circulator's affidavit; receipt for petition issued by clerk.**

1. Any five registered voters of the city may commence initiative or referendum proceedings by filing with the city clerk an affidavit:
  - (a) Stating they will constitute the petitioners' committee and be responsible for circulating the petition and filing it in proper form;
  - (b) Stating their names and addresses;
  - (c) Specifying the address to which all notices to the committee are to be sent; and
  - (d) Setting out in full the proposed initiative ordinance or citing the ordinance sought to be reconsidered.
2. Initiative petitions must be signed by a number of registered voters of the city equal to 15 percent or more of the number of voters who voted at the last preceding city election.
3. Referendum petitions must be signed by a number of registered voters of the city equal to 10 percent or more of the number of voters who voted at the last preceding city election.
4. A petition must be filed not later than:
  - (a) One hundred and eighty days after the date that the affidavit required by subsection 1 is filed with the city clerk; or
  - (b) One hundred days before the election, whichever is earlier.
5. A petition may consist of more than one document, but all documents of a petition must be uniform in size and style, numbered and assembled as one instrument for filing. Each signature must be executed in ink or indelible pencil and followed by the address of the person signing and the date on which he signed the petition. All signatures on a petition must be obtained within the period specified in paragraph (a) of subsection 4. Each document must contain or have attached thereto throughout its circulation the full text of the ordinance proposed or sought to be reconsidered.
6. Each document of a petition must have attached to it when filed an affidavit executed by the circulator thereof stating:
  - (a) That he personally circulated the document;
  - (b) The number of signatures thereon;
  - (c) That all the signatures were affixed in his presence;

(d) That he believes them to be genuine signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be; and

(e) That each signer had an opportunity before signing to read the full text of the ordinance proposed or sought to be reconsidered.

7. The city clerk shall issue a receipt to any person who submits a petition pursuant to this section. The receipt must set forth the number of:

(a) Documents included in the petition;

(b) Pages in each document; and

(c) Signatures that the person declares are included in the petition.

(Added to NRS by 1967, 378; A 1987, 364; 1989, 1184; 1997, 2788)

**NRS 295.210 Filing, examination, certification and amendment of petition; council and court to review sufficiency of petition.**

1. Within 20 days after the petition is filed, the city clerk shall examine the signatures thereon, complete a certificate as to its sufficiency, specifying, if it is insufficient, the particulars wherein it is defective and shall promptly send a copy of the certificate to the petitioners' committee by registered or certified mail.

2. If more than 500 names are signed on the documents filed with him, the city clerk must examine the signatures by sampling them randomly for verification. The random sample of signatures to be verified must be drawn in such a manner that every signature which has been submitted to the city clerk is given an equal opportunity to be included in the sample. The sample must include an examination of at least 500 signatures or 5 percent of the signatures, whichever is greater.

3. A petition must not be certified insufficient for lack of the required number of valid signatures if, in the absence of other proof of disqualification, any signature on the face thereof does not exactly correspond with the signature appearing on the official register of voters and the identity of the signer can be ascertained from the face of the petition. A petition certified insufficient for lack of the required number of valid signatures may be amended once if the petitioners' committee files a notice of intention to amend it with the city clerk within 2 days after receiving the copy of his certificate and files a supplementary petition upon additional papers within 10 days after receiving the copy of the certificate. A supplementary petition must comply with the requirements of subsections 5 and 6 of NRS 295.205, and within 5 days after it is filed the city clerk shall complete a certificate as to the sufficiency of the petition as amended and promptly send a copy of the certificate to the petitioners' committee by registered or certified mail.

4. If a petition or amended petition is certified sufficient, or if a petition or amended petition is certified insufficient and the petitioners' committee does not elect to amend or request council review under subsection 5 within the time required, the city clerk must promptly present his certificate to the council and the certificate is a final determination as to the sufficiency of the petition.

5. If a petition has been certified insufficient and the petitioners' committee does not file notice of intention to amend it or if an amended petition has been certified insufficient, the committee may, within 2 days after receiving the copy of the certificate, file a request that it be reviewed by the council. The council shall review the certificate at its next meeting following the filing of the request and approve or disapprove it, and the council's determination is a final determination as to the sufficiency of the petition.

6. A final determination as to the sufficiency of a petition is subject to court review. A final determination of insufficiency, even if sustained upon court review, does not prejudice the filing of a new petition for the same purpose.

(Added to NRS by 1967, 378; A 1989, 1184)

**NRS 295.215 Consideration by council; submission to registered voters; withdrawal of petition.**

1. When an initiative or referendum petition has been finally determined sufficient, the council shall promptly consider the proposed initiative ordinance in the manner provided by law for the consideration of ordinances generally or reconsider the referred ordinance by voting its repeal. If the council fails to adopt a proposed initiative ordinance without any change in substance within 60 days or fails to repeal the referred ordinance within 30 days after the date the petition was finally determined sufficient, it shall submit the proposed or referred ordinance to the registered voters of the city.

2. The vote of the city on a proposed or referred ordinance must be held at the next primary or general city election or primary or general election. Copies of the proposed or referred ordinance must be made available at the polls.

3. An initiative or referendum petition may be withdrawn at any time before the 30th day preceding the day scheduled for a vote of the city or the deadline for placing questions on the ballot, whichever is earlier, by filing with the city clerk a request for withdrawal signed by at least four members of the petitioners' original committee. Upon the filing of that request the petition has no further effect and all proceedings thereon must be terminated.

(Added to NRS by 1967, 379; A 1969, 896; 1987, 364; 1993, 1033)

**NRS 295.217 Appointment of committee to prepare arguments advocating and opposing approval of ballot questions for city; duties of committee; regulations; review of arguments; placement of arguments in sample ballot.**

1. In a city whose population is 50,000 or more, for each initiative, referendum or other question to be placed on the ballot by the council, including, without limitation, pursuant to NRS 293.482 or 295.215, the council shall, in consultation with the city clerk, pursuant to subsection 2, appoint a committee of six persons, three of whom are known to favor approval by the voters of the initiative, referendum or other question and

three of whom are known to oppose approval by the voters of the initiative, referendum or other question. A person may serve on more than one committee. Members of the committee serve without compensation. The term of office for each member commences upon appointment and expires upon the publication of the sample ballot containing the initiative, referendum or other question.

2. Before the council appoints a committee pursuant to subsection 1, the city clerk shall:

(a) Recommend to the council persons to be appointed to the committee; and

(b) Consider recommending pursuant to paragraph (a):

(1) Any person who has expressed an interest in serving on the committee; and

(2) A person who is a member of an organization that has expressed an interest in having a member of the organization serve on the committee.

3. If the council of a city whose population is 50,000 or more fails to appoint a committee as required by subsection 1, the city clerk shall appoint the committee.

4. A committee appointed pursuant to this section:

(a) Shall elect a chairman for the committee;

(b) Shall meet and conduct its affairs as necessary to fulfill the requirements of this section;

(c) May seek and consider comments from the general public;

(d) Shall prepare an argument advocating approval by the voters of the initiative, referendum or other question, and prepare a rebuttal to that argument;

(e) Shall prepare an argument opposing approval by the voters of the initiative, referendum or other question, and prepare a rebuttal to that argument; and

(f) Shall submit the arguments and rebuttals prepared pursuant to paragraphs (d) and (e) to the city clerk not later than the date prescribed by the city clerk pursuant to subsection 5.

5. The city clerk of a city whose population is 50,000 or more shall provide, by rule or regulation:

(a) The maximum permissible length of an argument or rebuttal prepared pursuant to this section; and

(b) The date by which an argument or rebuttal prepared pursuant to this section must be submitted by the committee to the city clerk.

6. Upon receipt of an argument or rebuttal prepared pursuant to this section, the city clerk shall reject each statement in the argument or rebuttal that he believes is libelous or factually inaccurate. Not later than 5 days after the city clerk rejects a statement pursuant to this subsection, the committee may appeal that rejection to the city attorney. The city attorney shall review the statement and the reasons for its rejection and may receive evidence, documentary or testimonial, to aid him in his decision. Not later than 3 business days after the appeal by the

committee, the city attorney shall issue his decision rejecting or accepting the statement. The decision of the city attorney is a final decision for the purposes of judicial review.

7. The city clerk shall place in the sample ballot provided to the registered voters of the city each argument and rebuttal prepared pursuant to this section, containing all statements that were not rejected pursuant to subsection 6. The city clerk may revise the language submitted by the committee so that it is clear, concise and suitable for incorporation in the sample ballot, but shall not alter the meaning or effect without the consent of the committee.

8. In a city whose population is less than 50,000:

(a) The council may appoint a committee pursuant to subsection 1.

(b) If the council appoints a committee, the city clerk shall provide for rules or regulations pursuant to subsection 5.

(Added to NRS by 1999, 2119)

**NRS 295.220 Results of election.**

1. If a majority of the registered voters voting on a proposed initiative ordinance vote in its favor, it shall be considered adopted upon certification of the election results and shall be treated in all respects in the same manner as ordinances of the same kind adopted by the council. If conflicting ordinances are approved at the same election, the one receiving the greatest number of affirmative votes shall prevail to the extent of such conflict.

2. If a majority of the registered voters voting on a referred ordinance vote against it, it shall be considered repealed upon certification of the election results.

(Added to NRS by 1967, 379)

**Nevada Administrative Code**

**295.020 NAC Content of multiple documents; documents consisting of multiple sheets. (NRS 293.124, 293.247)**

If a petition for an initiative or referendum consists;

1. of more than one document, each document must contain the full text of the proposed measure and:

Include sequentially numbered spaces for:

The name of each person who signs the petition.

The signature of the person signing.

The street address of the residence where the person signing actually resides, unless a street address has not been assigned. If a street address has not been assigned, the document may contain the mailing address of the person signing.

The name of the county where the person who signs is a registered voter.

The date of the signature.

If the petition is a municipal initiative or referendum proposed pursuant to the provisions of NRS 295.195 to 295.220, inclusive, the name of the city in which the person who signs is registered to vote.

Have attached to it, when filed, an affidavit signed by the person who circulated the document in substantially the following form:

STATE OF NEVADA  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, (print name), being first duly sworn under penalty of perjury, depose and say: (1) that I reside at (print street, city and state); (2) that I am 18 years of age or older; (3) that I personally circulated this document; (4) that all signatures were affixed in my presence; (5) that I believe them to be genuine signatures; and (6) that I believe each person who signed was at the time of signing a registered voter in the county of his residence.

Subscribed and sworn to or affirmed before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of circulator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary public or other person licensed to administer an oath

A document may consist of more than one sheet. If a document consists of more than one sheet:

Each sheet must be numbered sequentially;

All the sheets must be permanently attached together in numerical order; and

The affidavit of the circulator required by NRS 295.095 or 295.205 must appear on the last sheet of the document.

As used in this section, "petition" means a petition described in article 19 of the Nevada constitution or NRS 295.015 or 295.045.

(Added to NAC by Sec'y of State, eff. 7-18-88; A by R217-97, 5-26-98; R013-00, 4-4-2000)

**295.040 NAC Disclosure of requirement for participation in constitutional convention. (NRS 293.124)**

If passage of an initiative would require this state to participate in a constitutional convention called by the Congress of the United States, that fact must be stated on the first page of each document of the petition for the initiative in at least 12-point type when the petition is presented to registered voters for their signatures.