

<p style="text-align: center;">The Basic Steps To Do An Initiative In South Dakota Statutes And Amendments – Direct Initiative Process</p>

Basic Procedures: The sponsors of any initiated measure or constitutional amendment must submit that text to the director of the Legislative Research Council who will within 15 days provide written comments on the measure to the sponsors and the secretary of state. The comments must be received by the Secretary of State prior to filing the measure's full text.

The full text of any petition to be circulated to put a question on the general election ballot complete with names and addresses of the petition sponsors must be filed with the Secretary of State prior to circulation for signatures. No signatures obtained before that filing date will be counted.

All sections of any completed ballot question petition shall be filed simultaneously together with a sworn affidavit prescribed by the State Board of Elections signed by two-thirds of the sponsors.

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

Signatures are tied to vote of which office: Governor

Next gubernatorial election: 2002

Votes cast for governor in last election: 260,187

Net number of signatures required: For statutes, 5% of the total vote for governor in the last gubernatorial election (13,010). For amendments, 10%. (26,019)

Distribution Requirement: None.

Circulation period: 1 year.

Do circulators have to be residents: No.

Date when signatures are due for certification: For Statutes, May 7, 2002. For Amendment, November 5, 2001.

Signature verification process: Each signature is verified until reaching the minimum number of valid signatures needed to qualify an issue for the ballot.

Single-subject restriction: No.

Legislative tampering: Legislature can both repeal and amend statute initiatives.

General Comments: The secretary of state, at least twelve weeks prior to the general election, will deliver to each county auditor in this state four certified copies of each initiated measure together with the statement, title and attorney general's explanation to be published preceding the text of the proposed amendment. In the publication of initiated measures and on official ballots upon which the initiated measures are submitted, initiated measures must be preceded by a statement in the form prescribed by the state board of elections. Not later than the fourth Tuesday in July, the Attorney General will prepare and deliver to the Secretary of State the explanatory statement required by § 12-13-1 of the purpose and legal effect of proposed or initiated amendments to the Constitution and of initiated measures and referred laws. This explanatory statement shall not exceed two hundred words. The explanatory statement shall be followed by a recitation of the effect of a 'Yes' or 'No' vote and shall be in the form prescribed by the state board of elections. The explanatory statement shall immediately follow the title on the printed ballots.