

APPENDIX A

Suggested Deadlines to Qualify Initiatives

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The following suggested deadlines are not substitutes for California election laws, regulations, or policy. Other factors, such as amending the proposed initiative measure before circulation or the length of time for circulation, will affect the time it takes to complete the process.

Initiative and referendum measures can only qualify to appear on general election ballots. (Cal. Const., art. II, § 8(c); Elections Code § 9016(a).)

A proposed initiative measure may qualify using the “random sample” method if the projected number of valid signatures is over 110% of the required amount of signatures needed to qualify. The “full check” method must be used if the number of valid signatures falls between 95% and 110% and will add to the time it takes for the proposed initiative measure to qualify for the ballot. The time frames for both qualification methods are set forth below.

November 6, 2018, General Election Qualifying Using the Random Sample Method

If the statewide raw count total equals 100% or more of the total number of signatures needed to qualify the initiative measure, each elections official is required to verify at least 500 signatures or 3% of the number of signatures filed in their office, whichever is greater. This process is referred to as a random sample. A county receiving less than 500 petition signatures is required to verify all the signatures filed in their office. (Elections Code § 9030.)

August 22, 2017 - Suggested last day for proponent(s) to submit proposed measure to the Attorney General and request a circulating title and summary.

October 26, 2017 - Attorney General prepares and issues the circulating title and summary (includes time allotted for fiscal estimate); proponent(s) may begin circulation of the petition.

April 24, 2018 - Last day for proponent(s) to file the petition with county elections officials.

May 4, 2018 - Last day for county elections officials to complete raw count totals and certify raw numbers to the Secretary of State.

May 11, 2018 - Last day for Secretary of State to receive raw count totals from each county elections official, determine whether the initiative petition meets the minimum signature requirement, generate the random sample, and notify each county elections official of the results.

June 25, 2018 - Last day for county elections officials to verify and certify results of the random sampling of signatures to the Secretary of State.

June 28, 2018 (E-131) - Last day for Secretary of State to determine whether the Secretary of State will be able to certify that the measure qualifies for the ballot or 100% signature verification is necessary. At this point, if a 100% signature verification is necessary, the measure would not qualify for the November 6, 2018, General Election ballot.

November 6, 2018, General Election Qualifying Using the Full Check Method

If the result of the random sample indicates that the number of valid signatures represents between 95% and 110% of the required number of signatures to qualify the initiative measure for the ballot, the Secretary of State directs the county elections officials to verify every signature on the petition. Within 30 working days of receipt of this notification, the county elections officials determine the total number of qualified signatures and transmit this information to the Secretary of State. This process is referred to as a full check. (Elections Code § 9031.)

July 5, 2017 - Suggested last day for proponent(s) to submit proposed measure to the Attorney General and request a circulating title and summary.

September 8, 2017 - Attorney General prepares and issues the circulating title and summary (includes time allotted for fiscal estimate); and proponent(s) may begin circulation of the petition.

March 7, 2018 - Last day for proponent(s) to file the petition with county elections officials.

March 19, 2018 - Last day for county elections officials to complete raw count totals and certify raw numbers to the Secretary of State.

March 23, 2018 - Last day for Secretary of State to receive raw count totals from each county elections official, determine whether the initiative petitions meet the minimum signature requirement, generate the random sample, and notify each county elections official of the results.

May 4, 2018 - Last day for county elections officials to verify and certify results of the random sampling of signatures to the Secretary of State.

May 11, 2018 - Last day for Secretary of State to determine whether the Secretary of State will be able to certify that the measure qualifies for the ballot or 100% signature verification is necessary.

June 25, 2018 – If 100% signature verification is necessary, last day for county elections officials to certify to the Secretary of State the results of the 100% signature verification.

June 28, 2018 (E-131) - Last day for the Secretary of State to determine whether the Secretary of State will be able to certify that the measure qualifies for the ballot.