

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFYING INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PETITIONS IN 2003, 2004, 2005, AND 2006

(Based on the Number of Persons who Voted for the Office of Governor at the 2002 General Election)

INITIATIVE

Often called "direct democracy", the initiative is the power of the people to propose statutes, amendments to the state constitution or general obligation bond measures for voter approval or rejection. An initiative statute requires the signatures of registered voters equal in number to 5% of the votes cast for all candidates for governor in the last general election to qualify for the ballot; an initiative constitutional amendment requires signatures equaling 8% of the gubernatorial vote. A qualified initiative is placed on the ballot at a regularly scheduled statewide election that occurs at least 131 days after the measure qualifies, or at a special election called by the Governor. Any initiative that qualifies after the 131-day deadline is placed on the next ensuing statewide ballot. The Legislature may amend or repeal initiative statutes, but must submit the amendment/repeal to a vote of the people, unless the initiative statute permits amendment or repeal without voter approval.

Number of Signatures Required for an Initiative Constitutional Measure: **598,105**
[8 percent of 7,476,311 Cal. Constitution, Art. II, §8(b)]

Number of Signatures Required for an Initiative Statutory Measure: **373,816**
[5 percent of 7,476,311 Cal. Constitution, Art. II, §8(b)]

REFERENDUM

Referendum is the power of the people to approve or reject statutes adopted by the Legislature, except those that are urgency, that call for elections, or that provide for tax levies or appropriations for usual current expenses of the state. Citizens wishing to block implementation of a legislatively adopted statute must gather and have verified within 90 days of enactment of the bill signatures equal in number to at least 5% of the votes cast for all candidates for governor in the last gubernatorial election. A qualified referendum is placed on the ballot at a statewide election that occurs at least 31 days after the measure qualifies, or at a special election called by the Governor. The Legislature may amend or repeal referendum statutes.

Number of Signatures Required for a Referendum Measure: **373,816**
[5 percent of 7,476,311 Cal. Constitution, Art. II, §9(b)]