

**INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM
QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2011 - 2014**

(Based on the total number of votes cast for the office of Governor at the 2010 General Election)

Initiative

The initiative process is the power of the people to place laws and constitutional amendments on the ballot. These measures can either create or change laws (including general obligation bonds) or amend the California Constitution. If the initiative proposes to create or change California laws, the proponents must gather petition signatures of registered voters equal to five percent of the total votes cast for Governor in the most recent gubernatorial election. If the initiative proposes to amend the California Constitution, the signature requirement is eight percent of the total votes cast for Governor in the most recent gubernatorial election. A qualified initiative is placed on the ballot for a regularly scheduled statewide election that occurs at least 131 days after the measure qualifies or for a special election called by the Governor.

To be enacted, an initiative requires a simple majority of the total votes cast. A “yes” vote approves and a “no” vote rejects a proposed law or constitutional amendment placed on the ballot through the initiative process.

Number of Signatures Required for an Initiative Statute: 504,760
[5% of 10,095,185 per California Constitution, Article II, Section 8(b)]

Number of Signatures Required for an Initiative Constitutional Amendment: 807,615
[8% of 10,095,185 per California Constitution, Article II, Section 8(b)]

Referendum

Referendum is the power of the people to approve or reject laws already adopted by the Legislature. However, this does not apply to laws that have urgency clauses, call for elections, or provide for tax levies or appropriations for current expenses of the state. Voters wishing to prevent a legislatively adopted law from taking effect must – within 90 days of enactment of the legislation – gather signatures of registered voters equal to five percent of the total votes cast for Governor in the most recent gubernatorial election. A qualified referendum is placed on the ballot for a regularly scheduled statewide election that occurs at least 31 days after the measure qualifies or for a special election called by the Governor.

A “yes” vote approves the law previously adopted by the Legislature and allows it to take effect. A “no” vote rejects the law previously adopted by the Legislature and prevents it from taking effect.

Number of Signatures Required for a Referendum Measure: 504,760
[5% of 10,095,185 per California Constitution, Article II, Section 9(b)]