

County of Sacramento
Voter Registration and Elections
Guide to Initiatives and Referenda
2021



PREFACE

This guide has been prepared to assist voters in the Initiative and Referendum process. It contains a summary of procedures for preparing and qualifying County, and Special District Initiatives and Referenda.

This guide contains general information and does not have the force and effect of law, regulation or rule. In case of conflict, the law, regulation or rule will apply.

Anyone contemplating either process should seek legal counsel, who is familiar with local government, for wording or any legal questions.

If the Initiative or Referendum concerns a City, that City must be contacted for information.

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Registrar of Voters
County of Sacramento

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GENERAL INFORMATION

INITIATIVES

An Initiative is the power of the electors to propose a new ordinance by which they will be governed. An Initiative is placed on the ballot after its proponents have successfully met a series of deadlines.

REFERENDA

A referendum is the submission of an ordinance, proposed or already in effect, to a direct vote of the people. By using referendum powers, the legislative board of a jurisdiction (e.g., Board of Supervisors) may ask registered voters to decide on the enactment, repeal, or amendment of any ordinance. Additionally, voters may independently circulate a petition protesting the adoption of an ordinance and request that the issue be put up for a popular vote.

COUNTY INITIATIVES

A. ORDINANCES

1. Notice of Intention

Before circulating any initiative petition in a county, its proponents shall file with the county elections official a notice of intention to do so. The notice shall include the names and business or residence addresses of at least one but not more than five proponents of the petition, and shall be accompanied by the written text, not exceeding 500 words in length, stating the reasons for the proposed petition, and a request that a ballot title and summary be prepared. The notice shall be in substantially the following form:

Notice of Intention to Circulate Petition

Notice is hereby given by the persons whose names appear hereon of their intention to circulate the petition within the County of _____ for the purpose of _____. A statement of the reasons of the proposed action as contemplated in the petition is as follows: EC §§ 9103(a), 9104

2. Deposit of Fee

Any person filing a notice of intention with the county elections official shall pay a fee to be established by the Board of Supervisors not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200.00) to be refunded to the filer if, within one year of the date of filing the notice of intention, the county elections official certifies the sufficiency of the petition. EC § 9103(b)

3. Ballot Title and Summary

The county elections official shall immediately transmit a copy of any proposed measure to the county counsel. Within 15 days after the proposed measure is filed, the county counsel shall provide and return to the county elections official a ballot title and summary for the proposed measure. The ballot title may differ from any other title of the proposed measure and shall express in 500 words or less the purpose of the proposed measure. In providing the ballot title, the county counsel shall give a true and impartial statement of the purpose of the proposed measure in such language that the ballot title shall neither be an argument, nor be likely to create prejudice, for or against the proposed measure. EC § 9105(a)

4. Publication of the Notice of Intention

The county elections official shall furnish a copy of the ballot title and summary to the proponents of the proposed measure. The proponents shall, prior to the circulation of the petition, publish the Notice of Intention, and the ballot title and summary of the proposed measure in a newspaper of general circulation published in that county, and file proof of publication with the county elections official. EC § 9105(b)

5. Petition Preparation

Initiative proponents are responsible for the preparation and printing of the petition. The ballot title and summary prepared by the county counsel shall appear upon each section of the petition, above the text of the proposed measure and across the top of each page of the petition on which signatures are to appear, in roman boldface type not smaller than 11 point. The ballot title and summary shall be clearly separated from the text of the measure. The text of the measure shall be printed in type not smaller than 8 point. The heading of the proposed measure shall be in a boldface type in substantially the following form:

INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS

(Petition Preparation continued)

The county counsel has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

(Here set forth the title and summary prepared by the county counsel. This title and summary must also be printed across the top of each page of the petition whereon signatures are to appear.) EC § 9105(c)

6. Petition Notice to the Public

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any state or local initiative petition required to be signed by voters shall contain in 11-point type, before that portion of the petition for voters’ signatures, printed names, and residence addresses, the following language, in order:

“NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC” - (This text shall be in a boldface font) EC § 101

If the petition does not include the disclosure statement described by subdivision (b) of Section 107, the text **“YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SEE AN “OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS” SHEET”**. (this text shall be in a boldface font). EC § 101 (SB 47 *2019)

“THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR A VOLUNTEER. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK.”

7. Form of the Petition

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, whenever any initiative or referendum is required to be signed by voters of any county, school district, or special district subject to petitioning, only a person who is an eligible registered voter at the time of signing the petition is entitled to sign it. Each signer shall at the time of signing the petition personally affix his or her signature, printed name, residence address, giving street and number, or if no street or number exists, then a designation of the residence address which will enable the location to be readily ascertained and the name of the unincorporated community. EC § 9020

A blank space at least one inch wide to the right of each name must be included for the use of the elections official in verifying the petition. The part of a petition for the voters’ signatures, printed names, and residence addresses and for the blank spaces for verification purposes shall be numbered consecutively commencing with the number one and continuing through the number of signature spaces allotted to each section. The number of signatures attached to each section shall be at the discretion of the person soliciting the signatures. EC § 100

The petition format shall be substantially in the following form: EC § 100

Official
Use
Only

1.	(Print Name)	(Residence Address ONLY)	
	(Signature)	(City)	
2.	(Print Name)	(Residence Address ONLY)	
	(Signature)	(City)	

(Petition Preparation continued)

Official Top Funders Disclosure Requirements:

For any local initiative, referendum, or recall petition for which the circulation is paid for by a committee formed pursuant to Government Code 82013, an Official Top Funders disclosure shall be included on the petition or in a separate document presented to a prospective signer of the petition (E.C. § 107 (b)).

Elections officials are not required to verify the accuracy of the information or to reapprove the petition upon any updates the committee makes (E.C. § 107(g))

Each section of the petition shall bear a copy of the notice of intention, and the title and summary prepared by the county counsel. EC § 9108

8. Circulation of Petition

A person who is 18 years of age or older may circulate an initiative or referendum petition anywhere within the state. EC §§ 102, 104

The proponents may commence to circulate the petitions among the voters of the county for signatures by any registered voter of the county after publication of the title and summary prepared by the county counsel. EC § 9108

9. Declaration of Circulator

a.) Whenever any petition is submitted to the elections official, each section of the petition shall have attached to it a declaration signed by the circulator of the petition, setting forth, in the circulator's own hand, the following:

- i.) The printed name of the circulator.
- ii.) The residence address of the circulator, giving street and number, or if no street or number exists adequate designation of residence so that the location may be readily ascertained.
- iii.) The dates between which all the signatures to the petition were obtained.

b.) Each declaration submitted pursuant to this section shall also set forth the following:

- i.) That the circulator circulated that section and witnessed the appended signatures being written.
- ii.) That according to the best information and belief of the circulator, each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be.
- iii.) That the circulator is 18 years of age or older.

c.) The circulator shall certify the content of the declaration as to its truth and correctness, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, with the signature of the circulator's name. The circulator shall state the date and the place of execution on the declaration immediately preceding the circulator's signature. EC §§ 104, 9022, 9307

10. When to Circulate the Petition

The proponents may commence to circulate the petition among the voters of the county for signatures by any registered voter of the county after publication of the title and summary prepared by the county counsel. Each section of the petition shall bear a copy of the notice of intention, and the title and summary prepared by the county counsel. EC § 9108

(When to Circulate the Petition continued)

During the circulation of the petition or before taking any action to either submit the initiative to the voters or enact the ordinance, the Board of Supervisors may refer the initiative to any county agency or agencies for review and a report on its effect and fiscal impact. The report shall be presented to the Board of Supervisors no later than 30 days after certification of the petition's sufficiency by the county elections official to the Board of Supervisors. EC § 9111

11. Who May Sign the Petition?

Each section of the petition shall bear the name of the county. Only persons who are eligible registered voters of the county at the time of signing the petition are entitled to sign it. The circulator may sign the section he or she is circulating. The signature of the circulator shall be given the same effect as that of any other qualified signer. EC §§ 100, 106, 9020, 9021

A voter who is unable to personally affix on a petition the information required may request another person to print the voter's name and place of residence on the appropriate spaces of the petition, but the voter shall personally affix his or her mark or signature on the appropriate space of the petition, which shall be witnessed by one person by subscribing his or her name thereon. EC § 100.5

12. When to File the Petition

Signatures shall be secured and the petition shall be presented to the county elections official for filing within 180 days from the date of receipt of the title and summary, or after termination of any action for a writ of mandate, pursuant to Elections Code 9106 and, if applicable, after receipt of an amended title or summary, or both, whichever occurs later. EC § 9110

13. Filing the Petition

The petition shall be filed by the proponents, or by any person or persons authorized in writing by the proponents. All sections of the petition shall be filed at one time. Any sections of the petition not so filed shall be void for all purposes. Once filed, no petition section shall be amended except by order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

When the petition is filed, the county elections official shall determine the total number of signatures affixed to the petition. If, from this examination, the county elections official determines that the number of signatures, prima facie, equals or is in excess of the minimum number of signatures required, the county elections official shall examine the petition in accordance with Elections Code 9114 or 9115. If, from this examination, the county elections official determines that the number of signatures, prima facie, does not equal or exceed the minimum number of signatures required, no further action shall be taken. EC § 9113

14. Examination of Signatures

Unless a random sampling technique is used as provided in Elections Code 9115, within 30 days from the date of filing of the petition, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, the elections official shall examine the petition, and from the records of registration ascertain whether or not the petition is signed by the requisite number of voters. A certificate showing the results of this examination shall be attached to the petition.

The elections official shall notify the proponents of the petition as to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the petition. If the petition is found insufficient, no further action shall be taken. However, the failure to secure sufficient signatures, shall not preclude the filing of a new petition on the same subject, at a later date.

(Petition Preparation continued)

If the petition is found sufficient, the elections official shall certify the results of the examination to the Board of Supervisors at the next regular meeting of the board. EC § 9114

Pursuant to Elections Code 9114, if the petition contains more than 500 signatures, the elections official may use a random sampling technique for verification of signatures. The random sampling shall include an examination of at least 500, or 3 percent of the signatures, whichever is greater. EC § 9115

15. Disposition of Sufficient Petition

a.) If the initiative petition is signed by voters not less in number than 10 percent of the entire vote cast within the county for all candidates for Governor at the last gubernatorial election preceding the publication of the notice of intention to circulate an initiative petition, the Board of Supervisors shall do one of the following:

(i.) Adopt the ordinance, without alteration, at the regular meeting at which the certification of the petition is presented, or within 10 days after it is presented.

(ii.) Submit the ordinance, without alteration, to the voters pursuant to Section 1405.

(ii.) Order a report pursuant to Section 9111 at the regular meeting at which the certification of the petition is presented. When the report is presented to the Board of Supervisors, the board shall either adopt the ordinance within 10 days or order an election pursuant to subdivision (b).

16. Requirements for Ordinance to Become Effective

If a majority of the voters voting on a proposed ordinance vote in its favor, the ordinance shall become a valid and binding ordinance of the county. The ordinance shall be considered as adopted upon the date the vote is declared by the Board of Supervisors, and shall go into effect 10 days after that date.

EC § 9122

17. Conflicting Ordinances

If the provisions of two or more ordinances adopted at the same election conflict, the ordinance receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall control. EC § 9123

18. Repeal of Ordinance

No ordinance proposed by initiative petition and adopted either by the Board of Supervisors without submission to the voters or adopted by the voters shall be repealed or amended except by a vote of the people, unless provision is otherwise made in the original ordinance. In all other respects, an ordinance proposed by initiative petition and adopted shall have the same force and effect as any ordinance adopted by the Board of Supervisors. EC § 9125

19. Withdrawing the Petition

The Proponent of an initiative may withdraw the initiative at any time before the 88th day before the Election, whether or not the petition has already been found sufficient by the Elections Official.

EC § 9118.5

ENACTING, AMENDING, REVISING OR REPEALING THE COUNTY CHARTER

All provisions of law relative to the initiative may be invoked by the electors of this County, and all ordinances that may be passed by the Board of Supervisors, shall be subject to referendum whenever the use of initiative or referendum is permitted by law. (Sacramento County Charter Section 73)

Any proposal to enact, amend, or otherwise revise a county charter by initiative petition may be submitted to the Board of Supervisors and shall be subject to Article 1, commencing with 9100 of the Elections Code. However, nothing in this article shall be construed to allow a Board of Supervisors to enact, amend, or otherwise revise a county charter without submitting the proposal to the voters. EC § 9102

1. Methods

A county charter may be amended by proposals submitted by the governing body or by a petition signed by 10 percent of the qualified electors of the county, computed upon the total number of votes cast in the county for all candidates for Governor at the last general election at which a Governor was elected, filed in the office of the county elections official, petitioning the governing body to submit a proposed amendment or amendments to the charter of the county to the qualified electors of the county, which amendment or amendments are set forth in full in the petition.

A county charter may be repealed by proposals submitted by the governing body or by a petition signed by 10 percent of the qualified electors of the county computed upon the total number of votes cast in the county for all candidates for Governor at the last general election at which a Governor was elected. The petition, petitioning the governing body to submit the question of charter repeal to the qualified electors of the county, shall be filed in the office of the county elections official.

Petitions to amend or repeal a county charter shall be subject to Article 1 (commencing with Section 9100) of Chapter 2 of Division 9 of the Elections Code. CA GOV § 23720

2. Submission to Voters and Alternative Proposals

Upon the presentation of a petition, or upon its own submission of a proposal to amend or repeal the charter, the governing body shall submit the amendment or amendments proposed, or the question of the repeal of the charter to the eligible registered voters of the county at a special election held on the next established election date not less than 88 days after the presentation of the petition, or submission of the proposal. In submitting the question of charter repeal or amendment, any alternative article or proposition may be presented for the choice of the voters, and may be voted on separately without prejudice to others.

The county elections official shall cause the complete text of the proposed amendment or amendments to be printed. A copy of the proposed amendment or amendments shall be made available to any voter upon request.

The impartial analysis prepared pursuant to 9160 of the Elections Code shall include a statement notifying voters that they may call the county elections official's office and request that a copy of the proposed amendment or amendments to the charter be mailed to them at no cost. CA GOV § 23722

3. Ratification

If a majority of electors voting, at a general or special election, shall vote in favor of the proposed amendment or amendments or in favor of charter repeal, the amendment or amendments or charter repeal shall be deemed to be ratified but shall not take effect until accepted and filed by the Secretary of State, pursuant to the provisions of Government Code 23724. CAGOV § 23723

NOTE: Please see the "County Initiatives" section of this guide for further information on petition format and other procedural processes.

DISTRICT INITIATIVES

1. Overview

In addition to any other method provided by law, ordinances may be enacted by any district pursuant to Article 1 commencing with 9300 of the Elections Code. However, the provisions of Article 1 shall not apply to irrigation districts, to a district formed under a law which does not provide a procedure for elections, to a district formed under a law which does not provide for action by ordinance, to a district governed by an election procedure that permits voters, in electing the district's directors or trustees, to cast more than one vote per voter, or to a district in which the directors are empowered to cast more than one vote per director when acting on any matter. EC § 9300

Initiatives powers for county water districts, county drainage districts, and community services districts are to be exercised in accordance with the procedure established by law for the exercise of those powers in relation to counties. WAT 30830, 56042.

NOTE: Consult the "County Initiatives" section in this guide when considering an initiative proposal for these types of districts.

2. Definitions

"District," for the purposes of initiative and referendum, commencing with Elections Code 9300, includes any regional agency that has the power to tax, to regulate land use, or to condemn and purchase land. EC § 317

"District elections official," for the purposes of initiative and referendum, under Article 1 (commencing with Elections Code 9300) of Chapter 4 of Division 9, includes the county elections official or other officer or board charged with performing the duties required of the clerk of the district by that chapter. EC § 308

3. Publication of Notice of Intention

Before circulating an initiative petition in any district, the proponents of that measure shall publish a notice of intention. The notice shall be accompanied by a printed statement stating the reasons for the proposed petition. The printed statement shall not exceed 500 words. The notice shall be signed by at least one, but not more than five, proponents, and shall be in substantially the following form:

Notice of Intention to Circulate Initiative Petition

Notice is hereby given of the intention of the persons whose names appear hereon of their intention to circulate the petition within the _____ district for the purpose of _____. A statement of the reasons for the proposed action as contemplated in the petition is as follows:
EC § 9302

A notice of intention and statement as referred to in Elections Code 9302 shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the district. EC § 9303

4. Filing of Notice of Intention and Statement

Within 10 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention and statement, the proponents shall file a copy of the notice and statement as published, together with an affidavit made by a representative of the newspaper in which the notice was published, certifying to the fact of publication. The affidavit, together with a copy of the notice of intention and statement, shall be filed with the district elections official. EC § 9304

5. Petition Notice to the Public

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any state or local initiative petition required to be signed by voters shall contain in 11-point type, before that portion of the petition for voters' signatures, printed

(Petition Notice to the Public continued)

names, and residence addresses, the following language in order:

“NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC” This text shall be in a boldface font.

If the petition does not include the disclosure statement described by subdivision (b) of Section 107,
the text

“YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SEE AN “OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS” SHEET.” This text shall be in a
boldface font

**“THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR A VOLUNTEER.
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK.”** EC § 101

6. Form of the Petition

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, whenever any initiative or referendum is required to be signed by voters of any county, school district, or special district subject to petitioning, only a person who is an eligible registered voter at the time of signing the petition is entitled to sign it. Each signer shall at the time of signing the petition personally affix his or her signature, printed name, and place of residence, giving street and number, or if no street or number exists, then a designation of the place of residence which will enable the location to be readily ascertained and the name of the unincorporated community.
EC § 9020

A blank space at least one inch wide shall be left blank after each name for the use of the elections official in verifying the petition. The part of a petition for the voters’ signatures, printed names, and residence addresses and for the blank spaces for verification purposes shall be numbered consecutively commencing with the number one and continuing through the number of signature spaces allotted to each section. The number of signatures attached to each section shall be at the discretion of the person soliciting the signatures. The petition format shall be substantially in the following form: EC § 100

			Official Use Only
1.	(Print Name)	(Residence Address ONLY)	
	(Signature)	(City)	
2.	(Print Name)	(Residence Address ONLY)	
	(Signature)	(City)	

7. Who May Circulate the Petition?

A person who is 18 years of age or older may circulate an initiative or referendum petition anywhere within the state. EC §§ 102, 104

8. Declaration of Circulator

a.) Whenever any petition is submitted to the elections official, each section of the petition shall have attached to it a declaration signed by the circulator of the petition, setting forth, in the circulator’s own hand, the following:

i.) the printed name of the circulator

(Declaration of Circulator continued)

- ii.) the residence address of the circulator, giving street and number, or if no street or number exists, adequate designation of residence so that the location may be readily ascertained.
 - iii.) the dates between which all the signatures to the petition were obtained.
- b.) Each declaration submitted pursuant to this section shall also set forth the following:
- i.) that the circulator circulated that section and witnessed the appended signatures being written.
 - ii.) that according to the best information and belief of the circulator, each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be.
 - iii.) that the circulator is 18 years of age or older.
- c.) The circulator shall certify to the content of the declaration as to its truth and correctness, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, with the signature of his or her name. The circulator shall state the date and the place of execution on the declaration immediately preceding his or her signature. EC §§ 104, 9022, 9307

9. Circulation and Signers of the Petition

After filing a copy of the notice of intention, statement of the reasons for the proposed petition, written text of the initiative, and affidavit of publication or posting with the district elections official pursuant to Elections Code 9304, the petition may be circulated among the voters of the district for signatures by any person who meets the requirements of Elections Code 102. Each section of the petition shall bear a copy of the notice of intention and statement. EC § 9305

10. Filing of Petition

Signatures upon petitions and sections thereof shall be secured, and the petition, together with all sections thereof, shall be filed within 180 days from the date of publication of the notice of intention and statement. Filing is with the district elections official. If the petitions are not filed within the time permitted, the petition and its sections shall be void for all purposes. EC § 9306

11. Examination of Signatures

- a.) Unless a random sampling technique is used, as provided in Elections Code 9309, within 30 days from the date of filing of the petition, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, the district elections official shall examine the petition, and from the records of registration ascertain whether the petition is signed by the requisite number of voters. A certificate showing the results of this examination shall be attached to the petition, and the proponents shall be notified of the sufficiency or insufficiency of the petition. EC § 9308
- b.) Within 30 days from the date of filing of the petition, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, if more than 500 signatures have been signed on the petition, the district elections official may use a random sampling technique for verification of signatures. The random sample of signatures to be verified shall be drawn in such a manner that every signature filed with the elections official shall be given an equal opportunity to be included in the sample. A random sampling shall include an examination of at least 500 or 3 percent of the signatures, whichever is greater. A certificate showing the results of this examination shall be attached to the petition, and the proponents shall be notified of the sufficiency or insufficiency of the petition. EC § 9309

(Examination of Signatures continued)

- c.) If the petition is found insufficient, no action shall be taken on the petition. However, the failure to secure sufficient signatures shall not preclude the filing of a new petition on the same subject at a later date. EC §§ 9308(d), 9309(e)

- d.) If the petition is found sufficient, the district elections official shall certify the results of the examination to the governing board of the district at the next regular meeting of the board. EC §§ 9308(e), 9309(f)

12. Disposition of Petition

- (a.) If the initiative petition is signed by voters not less in number than 10 percent of the voters in the district, where the total number of registered voters is less than 500,000, or not less in number than 5 percent of the voters in the district, where the total number of registered voters is 500,000 or more, and the petition contains a request that the ordinance be submitted immediately to a vote of the people at a special election, the district board shall do either of the following: EC § 9310
 - i.) Adopt the ordinance, without alteration, either at the regular meeting at which the certification of the petition is presented, or within 10 days after it is presented.
 - ii.) Submit the ordinance, without alteration, to the voters pursuant to Section 1405.
- (b) The number of registered voters referred to in subdivision (a) shall be calculated as of the time of the last report of registration by the county elections official to the Secretary of State made before publication or posting of the notice of intention to circulate the initiative petition.
 - (1) Except as provided in subdivision (b), the election for a county initiative that qualifies pursuant to Section 9118 shall be held at the next statewide election occurring not less than 88 days after the date of the order of election. The election for a municipal or district initiative that qualifies pursuant to Section 9215 or 9310 shall be held at the jurisdiction's next regular election occurring not less than 88 days after the date of the order of election. EC § 1405 (a)
 - (2) The governing body of a county, or district may call a special election for the purpose of submitting an initiative measure to the voters before the date on which the initiative measure would appear on the ballot pursuant to subdivision (a). If the governing body calls a special election pursuant to this subdivision, the election shall be held not less than 88 days nor more than 103 days after the order of the election. EC § 1405 (b)

13. Withdrawing the Petition

The Proponent of an initiative may withdraw the initiative at any time before the 88th day before the Election, whether or not the petition has already been found sufficient by the Elections Official. EC § 9311

COUNTY REFERENDA

1. Submission by Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors may submit to the voters, without a petition, an ordinance for the repeal, amendment, or enactment of any ordinance. The ordinance shall be voted upon at any succeeding regular or special election and, if it receives a majority of the votes cast, the ordinance shall be repealed, amended, or enacted accordingly. EC § 9140

2. Petition Protesting Adoption of Ordinance

If a petition protesting the adoption of an ordinance is presented to the Board of Supervisors prior to the effective date of the ordinance, the ordinance shall be suspended and the Supervisors shall reconsider the ordinance. The petition shall be signed by voters of the county equal in number to at least 10 percent of the entire vote cast within the county for all candidates for Governor at the last gubernatorial election. EC § 9144

3. Form of Petition

The heading of a proposed referendum measure shall be in substantially the following form:

Referendum Against an Ordinance Passed by the Board of Supervisors

Each section of the referendum petition shall contain the title and text of the ordinance or the portion of the ordinance that is the subject of the referendum. EC § 9147

The provisions of the Elections Code relating to the form of petitions, the duties of the county elections official, and the manner of holding elections, when an ordinance is proposed by initiative petition, govern the procedure on ordinances against which a protest is filed. EC § 9146

4. Protest of Ordinance Submitted to Voters

If the Board of Supervisors does not entirely repeal the ordinance against which a petition is filed, the Board shall submit the ordinance to the voters either at the next regularly scheduled county election occurring not less than 88 days after the date of the order, or at a special election called for that purpose not less than 88 days after the date of the order. The ordinance shall not become effective unless and until a majority of the voters voting on the ordinance vote in favor of it. EC § 9145

NOTE: Please see the “County Initiatives” section of this guide for further information on petition format and other procedural processes.

DISTRICT REFERENDA

1. Submission by Governing Board

The governing board of any district that is a local public entity as defined by 900.4 of the Government Code may refer legislative questions to the voters of the district in the same manner as the Board of Supervisors may refer county questions pursuant to Elections Code 9140. EC § 9342

NOTE: Please see the County Referenda section of this guide.

2. Petition Protesting Adoption

The voters of any district that is a local public entity as defined by 900.4 of the Government Code, and to which Elections Code 9300 applies, shall have the right to petition for referendum on legislative acts of the district in the same manner and subject to the same rules as are set forth in Elections Code 9141 through 9147 except that all computations referred to in those sections and officers of the county mentioned in those shall be construed to refer to comparable computations and officers of the district. EC § 9340

3. Form of Petition

The provisions of the Elections Code relating to the form of petitions, the duties of the county elections official, and the manner of holding elections, when an ordinance is proposed by initiative petition, govern the procedure on ordinances against which a protest is filed. EC § 9146

4. Protest of Ordinance Submitted to Voters

If the governing body does not entirely repeal the legislative act against which a petition is filed, the governing body shall submit the ordinance to the voters either at the next regularly scheduled county election, occurring not less than 88 days after the date of the order, or at a special election called for that purpose not less than 88 days after the date of the order. The act shall not become effective unless and until a majority of the voters voting on the act; vote in favor of it. EC §§ 9145, 9340

NOTE: Please see the District Initiatives section of this guide for further information on petition format and other procedural processes.

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE STATEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Political Reform Act requires all proponents of ballot measures and committees supporting or opposing ballot measures, to file campaign disclosure statements disclosing contributions received and expenditures made.

The statutory requirements of the Political Reform Act are now contained in Government Code 81000 et seq. Information and assistance relating to campaign reporting obligations under the Political Reform Act may be obtained from the Fair Political Practices Commission.

Committee Filing Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the committee to be aware of and to file the required campaign disclosure statements in a correct and timely manner.

Where to File

The location in which campaign disclosure statements are to be filed depends entirely upon the jurisdiction the committee is active.

When to File

Refer to the FPPC Filing Schedule by visiting www.fppc.ca.gov

Electronic Filing Requirements for Local Committees

Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections now requires all committees that receive contributions or make expenditures totaling more than \$1,000 in a calendar year, to electronically file campaign disclosure statements. The County, in partnership with NetFile, now has a web-based data entry filing system that allows committees to electronically create and submit campaign disclosure statements.

Visit www.elections.saccounty.gov and click on the Candidate Services link, then Campaign Disclosure Online Filing and Viewing.

**Fair Political Practices
Commission**

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