



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*

**Signature Requirements for Initiative Proposals**

Updated July 2014

	Statutory Initiatives			Constitutional Initiatives		
	Signature Formula	2014 Actual Requirement	Geographic Distribution	Signature Formula	2014 Actual Requirement	Geographic Distribution
<a href="#">Alaska</a>	10% of total votes cast in last general election	23,831 (not updated since 2008)	Signatures from 7% of those who voted in the previous general election in at least ¾ of the state's 40 house districts	N/A		
<a href="#">Arizona</a>	10% of votes cast for governor in last election	172,809	None	15% of votes cast for governor in last election	259,213	None
<a href="#">Arkansas</a>	8% of votes cast for governor in last election	62,507	Signatures equal to 4% of votes cast for governor in each of at least 15 of the state's 75 counties	10% of votes cast for governor in last election	78,133	Signatures equal to 5% of votes cast for governor in each of at least 15 of the state's 75 counties
<a href="#">California</a>	5% of votes cast for governor at last election	504,760	None	8% of votes cast for governor at last election	807,615	None
<a href="#">Colorado</a>	5% of votes cast for sec. state at last election	86,105	None	5% of votes cast for sec. state at last election	86,105	None
<a href="#">Florida</a>	N/A			8% of total votes cast statewide in last presidential election	683,149	8% in at least 13 of the state's 23 congressional districts

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures  
July 2014

For more information, contact Wendy Underhill at 303-856-1379.

	Statutory Initiatives			Constitutional Initiatives		
	Signature Formula	2008 Actual Requirement	Geographic Distribution	Signature Formula	2008 Actual Requirement	Geographic Distribution
<a href="#">Idaho</a>	6% of qualified electors at previous election	53,571	None (a)	N/A		
<b>Illinois</b> (not updated since 2008)	N/A			8% of total votes cast for governor in last election	279,039	None
<a href="#">Maine</a>	10% of votes cast for governor in last election	57,277	None	N/A		
<a href="#">Massachusetts</a>	<i>To place before the legislature:</i> 3% of votes cast for governor in last election <i>To place on the ballot if the legislature fails to pass:</i> 0.5% of votes cast for governor in last election	68,911 + 11,485	No more than 25% of signatures may be from one county	3% of votes cast for governor in last election	68,911	No more than 25% of signatures may be from one county
<b>Michigan</b> (not updated since 2008)	8% of votes cast for governor in last election	304,101	None	10% of votes cast for governor in last election	380,126	None
<a href="#">Mississippi</a>	N/A			12% of votes cast for governor in last election	107,216	At least 21,444 signatures from each of the 5 congressional districts
<a href="#">Missouri</a>	See geographic distribution -- no total signature requirement	98,618- 104,934 <sup>b</sup>	5% of votes cast for governor in last election from 6 of the 9 congressional districts	See geographic distribution -- no total signature requirement	157,815 – 167,892 <sup>b</sup>	8% of votes cast for governor in last election from 6 of the 9 congressional districts

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures  
July 2014

For more information, contact Wendy Underhill at 303-856-1379.

	Statutory Initiatives			Constitutional Initiatives		
	Signature Formula	2008 Actual Requirement	Geographic Distribution	Signature Formula	2008 Actual Requirement	Geographic Distribution
<a href="#">Montana</a>	5% of qualified electors in state at large	24,175	5% of qualified voters in each of 34 legislative districts	10% of qualified electors in state at large	48,349	10% of qualified voters in each of 40 legislative districts
<a href="#">Nebraska</a>	7% of registered voters at the filing deadline	80,386	5% of registered voters in 38 of the 93 counties	10% of registered voters at the filing deadline	115,479	5% of registered voters in 38 of the 93 counties
<a href="#">Nevada</a>	10% of total votes cast in last general election	101,667	25% of the minimum from each of the four petition districts (new since 2011)	10% of total votes cast in last general election	101,667	25% of the minimum from each of the four petition districts (new since 2011)
<a href="#">North Dakota</a>	2% of resident population of the state at the last decennial census	13,452	None	4% of resident population of the state at the last decennial census	26,904	None
<a href="#">Ohio</a>	<i>To place before the legislature:</i> 3% of votes cast for governor in last election <i>To place on the ballot if the legislature fails to pass:</i> 3% of votes cast for governor in the last election.	115,574 + 115,574	1.5% of total votes cast for governor in each of 44 of the state's 88 counties	10% of votes cast for governor in last election	385,247	5% of total votes cast for governor in each of 44 of the state's 88 counties
<a href="#">Oklahoma</a>	8% of votes highest vote cast in last state election	82,782	None	15% of votes cast for office receiving highest number of votes in last state election	155,216	None
<a href="#">Oregon</a>	6% of votes cast for governor in last election	87,213	None	8% of votes cast for governor in last election	116,284	None

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures  
July 2014

For more information, contact Wendy Underhill at 303-856-1379.

	Statutory Initiatives			Constitutional Initiatives		
	Signature Formula	2008 Actual Requirement	Geographic Distribution	Signature Formula	2008 Actual Requirement	Geographic Distribution
<a href="#">South Dakota</a>	5% of votes cast for governor in last election	15,855	None	10% of votes cast for governor in last election	31,709	None
<a href="#">Utah</a>	<p><b>Direct</b> - 10% of votes cast for president in last election</p> <p><b>Indirect</b> – <i>To place before the legislature:</i> 5% of votes cast for president in last election</p> <p><i>To place on the ballot if the legislature fails to pass:</i> 5% of votes cast for president in last election</p>	<p><b>Direct</b> – 101,744</p> <p><b>Indirect</b> – 50,872 + 50,872</p>	<p><b>Direct</b> - 10% of votes cast for president in at least 26 of 29 state senate districts</p> <p><b>Indirect</b> – 5% of votes cast for president in at least 26 of 29 state senate districts</p>	N/A		
<a href="#">Washington</a>	8% of votes cast for governor in last election	246,732	None	N/A		
<a href="#">Wyoming</a>	15% of total votes cast in last general election	37,606	15% of residents in at least 2/3 of the state's 23 counties	N/A		

(a) Idaho's geographic distribution requirement was held unconstitutional by US District Court in December 2001, and that decision was upheld by 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in September 2003. It required that signatures include 6% of the registered voters in each of 22 counties.

(b) The total number of signatures required varies depending on the combination of districts presented in petitions.

**Source:** National Conference of State Legislatures, July 2014

**Source:** National Conference of State Legislatures  
July 2014

For more information, contact Wendy Underhill at 303-856-1379.