

**CITY OF BERKELEY
CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT**

**5% AND 10% INITIATIVE PETITION
REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES**

1. Guideline for Filing
 2. Berkeley Charter – Article XIII, Section 92
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- *Petitions submitted for review must be filed during regular business hours as posted.*
 - *The total votes cast for the Office of Mayor at the Nov. 2024 Election was 52,493.*
 - *The minimum number of valid signatures for a petition to be certified as sufficient at the 5% threshold is 2,625.*
 - *The minimum number of valid signatures for a petition to be certified as sufficient at the 10% threshold is 5,250.*

Berkeley City Charter Section 92(3)

Initiative Ordinance: Ten percent petition.

If the petition accompanying the proposed ordinance be signed by electors equal in number to ten percent of the entire vote cast for all candidates for Mayor at the last preceding general municipal election at which a Mayor was elected, and contain a request that said ordinance be submitted forthwith to the vote of the people at the next occurring regular statewide or general municipal election, then the Council shall either:

(a) Pass said ordinance without alteration within twenty days after the attachment of the City Clerk's certificate of sufficiency to the accompanying petition (subject to a referendary vote, under the provision of Article XIV of this Charter); or

(b) Within twenty-five days after the City Clerk shall have attached to the petition accompanying such ordinance the certificate of sufficiency, the Council shall cause said ordinance without alteration to be submitted to a vote of the people at the next occurring regular statewide or general or special municipal election providing no posting, publication or other legal deadline as set forth in the California Elections Code and Government Code, has expired at the time the City Clerk reports verification of the petition to the City Council.

Berkeley City Charter Section 92(4)

Initiative Ordinance: Five percent petition.

If the petition be signed by electors in number to at least five but less than ten percent of the entire vote cast for all candidates for Mayor at the last preceding general municipal election at which a Mayor was elected, and said ordinance be not passed by the Council as provided in the preceding subdivision, then such ordinance, without alteration, shall be submitted by the Council to a vote of the people at the next general municipal election providing no posting, publication or other legal deadline as set forth in the California Elections Code and Government Code, has expired at the time the City Clerk reports verification of the petition to the City Council.

CAUTION

The following information is intended to be a preliminary guide for those interested in circulating a petition. You are cautioned that it is the responsibility of the petition proponent(s) to ensure that all legal and procedural steps are taken and that all requirements as to form are met.

CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT
GUIDELINE FOR FILING INITIATIVE PETITIONS
FOR THE
NOVEMBER 3, 2026 BERKELEY GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The calendar below is a guide. Contact the City Clerk Department at (510) 981-6900 or visit the City's website at <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/elections/> for additional information.

Date	Election Activity
Early May	Recommended date for proponents to file initiative petitions. (Code allows 30 business days for signature verification.)
Late June	Deadline for verification of signatures.
Mid July	Last Council Meeting in July before Summer Recess. Council must adopt Resolution calling Election for Ballot Measure or adopt the measure as-is. (Charter allows 25 days for Council to act on sufficient initiatives.)
8/07/2026	Council must take action on all measures prior to this date.
	The period for filing ballot arguments will begin after the final date for Council to take action on measures to be placed on the ballot.
10/05/2026	Vote By Mail ballot period opens.
10/19/2026	Deadline to register to vote for this election.
11/03/2026	Election Day – Voting open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY
Article XIII, Section 92

ARTICLE XIII
THE INITIATIVE

Section 92. Direct legislation.

The qualified voters of the City shall have power through the initiative and otherwise, as provided by this Charter and the general laws of the State, to enact appropriate legislation to carry out and enforce any of the powers of the City or any of the powers of the Council.

(1) Any proposed ordinance or charter amendment may be submitted to the Council by a petition signed by registered electors of the City equal in number to the percentage hereinafter required.

(2) Provisions of Article III apply.

The provisions of Article III respecting the forms and conditions of the petition and the mode of verification and certification and filing shall be substantially followed, with such modification as the nature of the case requires.

(3) Initiative Ordinance: Ten percent petition.

If the petition accompanying the proposed ordinance be signed by electors equal in number to ten percent of the entire vote cast for all candidates for Mayor at the last preceding general municipal election at which a Mayor was elected, and contain a request that said ordinance be submitted forthwith to the vote of the people at the next occurring regular statewide or general municipal election, then the Council shall either:

(a) Pass said ordinance without alteration within twenty days after the attachment of the City Clerk's certificate of sufficiency to the accompanying petition (subject to a referendary vote, under the provision of Article XIV of this Charter); or

(b) Within twenty-five days after the City Clerk shall have attached to the petition accompanying such ordinance the certificate of sufficiency, the Council shall cause said ordinance without alteration to be submitted to a vote of the people at the next occurring regular statewide or general or special municipal election providing no posting, publication or other legal deadline as set forth in the California Elections Code and Government Code, has expired at the time the City Clerk reports verification of the petition to the City Council.

(4) Initiative Ordinance: Five percent petition.

If the petition be signed by electors in number to at least five but less than ten percent of the entire vote cast for all candidates for Mayor at the last preceding general municipal election at which a Mayor was elected, and said ordinance be not passed by the Council as provided in the preceding subdivision, then such ordinance, without alteration, shall be submitted by the Council to a vote of the people at the next general municipal election providing no posting, publication or other legal deadline as set forth in the California Elections Code and Government Code, has expired at the time the City Clerk reports verification of the petition to the City Council

CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY
Article XIII, Section 92

(6) Publicizing of Popular Ordinance or Charter Amendment.

Whenever any ordinance, charter amendment, or proposition is required by this Charter to be submitted to the voters of the City at any election, (a) the Council shall cause the ordinance, charter amendment, or proposition to be printed and it shall be the duty of the City Clerk to enclose a printed copy thereof in an envelope with a sample ballot and mail the same to each voter prior to the election, and (b) the Council shall order such ordinance, charter amendment, or proposition to be printed in the official newspaper of the City and publicized in the like manner as ordinances adopted by the Council are required to be publicized.

(8) Several ordinances or charter amendments at one election.

Any number of proposed ordinances, charter amendments, or both may be voted upon at the same election, in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

(9) Repeal of popular ordinance or charter amendment.

The Council may submit a proposition for the repeal of any such ordinance, charter amendment, or for amendments thereto, to be voted on at any succeeding general municipal election; and should such proposition, so submitted, receive a majority of the votes cast thereon at such election, such ordinance or charter amendment shall be repealed or amended accordingly. An ordinance or charter amendment proposed by petition, or adopted by a vote of the people, cannot be repealed or amended except by a vote of the people.

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

Division 9. Measures Submitted to the Voters, Chapter 3. Municipal Elections, Article 1. Initiative

9200. Scope of article.

Ordinances may be enacted by and for any incorporated city pursuant to this article.
(Enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)

9201. Proposed ordinance submitted by petition with city elections official.

Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the legislative body of the city by a petition filed with the elections official of the legislative body, in the manner hereinafter prescribed, after being signed by not less than the number of voters specified in this article. The petition may be in separate sections, providing that the petition complies with this article. The first page of each section shall contain the title of the petition and the text of the measure. The petition sections shall be designated in the manner set forth in Section 9020.

(Enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)

9202. Notice of intent to circulate petition; form of notice, filing with elections official, fee

(a) Before circulating an initiative petition in any city, the proponents of the matter shall file with the elections official a notice of intention to do so, which shall be accompanied by the written text of the initiative and may be accompanied by a written statement not in excess of 500 words, setting forth the reasons for the proposed petition. The notice shall be signed by at least one, but not more than three, proponents and shall be in substantially the following form:

Notice of Intent to Circulate Petition

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

(b) Any person filing a notice of intent with the elections official shall pay a fee to be established by the legislative body not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200)* to be refunded to the filer if, within one year of the date of filing the notice of intent, the elections official certifies the sufficiency of the petition.

(Enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)

**The City of Berkeley does not charge a fee to file a notice of intent.*

9202.5. City elections official to retain materials and provide copies.

From the time materials pertaining to an initiative petition are filed pursuant to Section 9202 until the day after the elections official determines that the initiative petition does not contain the minimum number of signatures required, the day after the election at which the initiative measure is put before the voters, or the day after the proposed ordinance is adopted by the legislative body of the city after being submitted to the legislative body of the city pursuant to Section 9201, as applicable, the elections official shall do both of the following:

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

(a) Keep on file at his or her office the notice of intention, written text of the initiative, and written statement setting forth the reasons for the proposed petition, if any, that the proponents of the initiative measure filed with the elections official pursuant to Section 9202.

(b) Furnish copies of the materials he or she is required to keep on file pursuant to subdivision (a) to any person upon request. The elections official may charge a fee to a person obtaining copies pursuant to this subdivision. The fee may not exceed the actual cost incurred by the elections official in providing the copies.

(Added by Stats. 2012, Ch. 240, Sec. 2. Effective January 1, 2013.)

9203. Proposed measure; title and summary; placement on petition.

(a) Any person who is interested in any proposed measure shall file a copy of the proposed measure with the elections official with a request that a ballot title and summary be prepared. This request shall be accompanied by the address of the person proposing the measure. The elections official shall immediately transmit a copy of the proposed measure to the city attorney. Within 15 days after the proposed measure is filed, the city attorney shall provide and return to the city elections official a ballot title for and summary of 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 city attorney 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.

(b) The elections official shall furnish a copy of the ballot title and summary to the person filing the proposed measure. The person proposing the measure shall, prior to its circulation, place 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 type not smaller than 11 point, the ballot title prepared by the city attorney. 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 DIRECTLY SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS

The city attorney 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 city attorney. This title and summary must also be printed across the top of each page of the petition whereon signatures are to appear.)

(Amended by Stats. 2022, Ch. 887, Sec. 7. (SB 1360) Effective January 1, 2023.)

9204. Title or summary; writ of mandate.

Any elector of the city may seek a writ of mandate requiring the ballot title or summary prepared by the city attorney to be amended. The court shall expedite hearing on the writ. A peremptory writ of mandate shall be issued only upon clear and convincing proof that the ballot title or summary is false, misleading, or inconsistent with the requirements of Section 9203.

(Amended by Stats. 2002, Ch. 237, Sec. 2. Effective January 1, 2003.)

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

9205. Publication or posting of notice.

A notice of intention and the title and summary of the proposed measure shall be published or posted or both as follows:

(a) If there is a newspaper of general circulation, as described in Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 6000) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, adjudicated as such, the notice, title, and summary shall be published therein at least once.**

(b) If the petition is to be circulated in a city in which there is no adjudicated newspaper of general circulation, the notice, title, and summary shall be published at least once, in a newspaper circulated within the city and adjudicated as being of general circulation within the county in which the city is located and the notice, title, and summary shall be posted in three (3) public places within the city, which public places shall be those utilized for the purpose of posting ordinances as required in Section 36933 of the Government Code.

(c) If the petition is to be circulated in a city in which there is no adjudicated newspaper of general circulation, and there is no newspaper of general circulation adjudicated as such within the county, circulated within the city, then the notice, title, and summary shall be posted in the manner described in subdivision (b).

This section does not require the publication or posting of the text of the proposed measure. *(Amended by Stats. 2011, Ch. 248, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 2012.)*

*** At the present time the only two newspapers in the City of Berkeley that meet this standard are Berkeley Voice and The Daily Californian.*

9206. Filing of publication affidavit.

Within 10 days after the date of publication or posting, or both, of the notice of intention and title and summary, the proponents shall file a copy of the notice and title and summary as published or posted together with an affidavit made by a representative of the newspaper in which the notice was published or, if the notice was posted, by a voter of the city, certifying to the fact of publication or posting.

If the notice and title and summary are both published and posted pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 9205, the proponents shall file affidavits as required by this section made by a representative of the newspaper in which the notice was published certifying to the fact that the notice was published and by a voter of the city certifying to the fact that the notice was posted.

These affidavits, together with a copy of the notice of intention and title and summary, shall be filed with the elections official of the legislative body of the city in his or her office during normal office hours as posted.

(Enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)

9207. When petition may be circulated; form of petition.

The proponents may commence to circulate the petitions among the voters of the city for signatures by any registered voter of the city after publication or posting, or both, as required by Section 9205, of the title and summary prepared by the city attorney. Each section of the petition shall bear a copy of the notice of intention and the title and summary prepared by the city attorney.

(Enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

9208. Time period for securing signatures.

Signatures upon petitions and sections of petitions shall be secured, and the petition, together with all sections of the petition, shall be filed 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 Section 9204, and, if applicable, after receipt of an amended title or summary or both, whichever occurs later. Petitions and sections thereof shall be filed in the office of the elections official during normal office hours as posted. If the petitions are not filed within the time permitted by this section, the petitions shall be void for all purposes.

(Enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)

9209. Affidavit of circulator.

Each section shall have attached thereto the declaration of the person soliciting the signatures. This declaration shall be substantially in the same form as set forth in Section 9022.

(Amended by Stats. 2013, Ch. 278, Sec. 20. Effective January 1, 2014)

9210. Filing of 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. Once filed, a petition section shall not be amended except by order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

When the petition is presented for filing, the elections official shall do all of the following:

~~(a) Ascertain the number of registered voters of the city last reported by the county elections official to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 2187 effective at the time the notice specified in Section 9202 was published.~~ **** Article XIII, Section 92 of the City Charter dictates the number of signatures required.**

(b) Determine the total number of signatures affixed to the petition. If, from this examination, the elections official determines that the number of signatures, prima facie, equals or is in excess of the minimum number of signatures required, he or she shall accept the petition for filing. The petition shall be deemed as filed on that date. If, from this examination, the elections official determines that the number of signatures, prima facie, does not equal or exceed the minimum number of signatures required, the official shall not take further action.

(Amended by Stats. 2018, Ch. 58, Sec. 10 (AB 3259) Effective January 1, 2019.)

9211. Examination of signatures.

After the petition has been filed, as herein provided, the elections official shall examine the petition in the same manner as are county petitions in accordance with Sections 9114 and 9115, except that for the purposes of this section, references to the board of supervisors shall be treated as references to the legislative body of the city.

(Enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

9212. Legislative body may request report of effect of proposed initiative.

(a) During the circulation of the petition, or before taking either action described in subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 9215, the legislative body may refer the proposed initiative measure to a city agency or agencies for a report on any or all of the following:

- (1) Its fiscal impact.
- (2) Its effect on the internal consistency of the city's general and specific plans, including the housing element, the consistency between planning and zoning, and the limitations on city actions under Section 65008 of the Government Code and Chapters 4.2 (commencing with Section 65913) and 4.3 (commencing with Section 65915) of Division 1 of Title 7 of the Government Code.
- (3) Its effect on the use of land, the impact on the availability and location of housing, and the ability of the city to meet its regional housing needs.
- (4) Its impact on funding for infrastructure of all types, including, but not limited to, transportation, schools, parks, and open space. The report may also discuss whether the measure would be likely to result in increased infrastructure costs or savings, including the costs of infrastructure maintenance, to current residents and businesses.
- (5) Its impact on the community's ability to attract and retain business and employment.
- (6) Its impact on the uses of vacant parcels of land.
- (7) Its impact on agricultural lands, open space, traffic congestion, existing business districts, and developed areas designated for revitalization.
- (8) Any other matters the legislative body requests to be in the report.

(b) The report shall be presented to the legislative body within the time prescribed by the legislative body, but no later than 30 days after the elections official certifies to the legislative body the sufficiency of the petition.

(Amended by Stats. 2017, Ch. 748, Sec. 5. (AB 765) Effective January 1, 2018.)

9213. Report on municipal initiatives submitted to Secretary of State; time.

On or before April 1 of each odd-numbered year, the elections official of each legislative body shall file a report with the Secretary of State containing the following information:

(a) The number of municipal initiative petitions circulated during the preceding two calendar years which did not qualify for the ballot, and the number of these proposed initiatives for which reports were prepared pursuant to Section 9212.

(b) With respect to municipal initiative measures that qualified for the ballot in the preceding two calendar years, the number that were approved by the voters, and the number of these ballot measures for which reports were prepared pursuant to Section 9212.

(c) With respect to municipal initiative measures that qualified for the ballot in the preceding two calendar years, the number that were not approved by the voters, and the number of these ballot measures for which reports were prepared pursuant to Section 9212.

(Enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

9215.5. Withdrawal by proponent.

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.

(Approved by Stats. 2018, Ch. 155, Sec. 2. (SB 1153) Effective January 1, 2019.)

9217. Valid ordinance if majority.

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 city. The ordinance shall be considered as adopted upon the date that the vote is declared by the legislative body, and shall go into effect 10 days after that date. No ordinance that is either proposed by initiative petition and adopted by the vote of the legislative body of the city 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.

(Enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)

9218. More than one ordinance at same election.

Any number of proposed ordinances may be voted upon at the same election, but the same subject matter shall not be voted upon twice within any 12-month period at a special election under the provisions of this article.

(Enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)

9221. 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.

(Enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)

9222. Legislative body may submit proposed ordinance to voters.

The legislative body of the city may submit to the voters, without a petition therefor, a proposition for the repeal, amendment, or enactment of any ordinance, to be voted upon at any succeeding regular or special city election, and if the proposition submitted receives a majority of the votes cast on it at the election, the ordinance shall be repealed, amended, or enacted accordingly. A proposition may be submitted, or a special election may be called for the purpose of voting on a proposition, by ordinance or resolution. The election shall be held not less than 88 days after the date of the order of the election.

(Amended by Stats. 2002, Ch. 371, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 2003.)

9223. Copy of ordinance made available to voter.

Whenever any ordinance or measure is required by this article to be submitted to the voters of a city at any election, the elections official of the legislative body shall cause the ordinance or measure to be printed. A copy of the ordinance or measure shall be made available to any voter upon request.

(Enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

9224. Form of enacting clause.

The enacting clause of an ordinance submitted to the voters of a city shall be substantially in the following form:

“The people of the City of _____ do ordain as follows:”.

(Enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)

Division 9. Measures Submitted to the Voters, Chapter 3. Municipal Elections, Article 4. Arguments Concerning City Measures

9282. Written arguments.

(a) For measures placed on the ballot by petition, the persons filing an initiative petition pursuant to this article may file a written argument in favor of the ordinance, and the legislative body may submit an argument against the ordinance.

(b) For measures placed on the ballot by the legislative body, the legislative body, or a member or members of the legislative body authorized by that body, or an individual voter who is eligible to vote on the measure, or bona fide association of citizens, or a combination of voters and associations, may file a written argument for or against any city measure.

(c) An argument shall not exceed 300 words in length.

(d) The city elections official shall include the following statement on the front cover, or if none, on the heading of the first page, of the printed arguments:

“Arguments in support or opposition of the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.”

(e) The city elections official shall enclose a printed copy of both arguments with each voter information guide, but only those arguments filed pursuant to this section shall be printed and enclosed with the voter information guide. The printed arguments are “official matter” within the meaning of Section 13303.

(f) Printed arguments submitted to voters in accordance with this section shall be titled either “Argument In Favor Of Measure _____” or “Argument Against Measure _____,” accordingly, the blank spaces being filled in only with the letter or number, if any, designating the measure. At the discretion of the elections official, the word “Proposition” may be substituted for the word “Measure” in these titles.

(Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 422, Sec. 46. Effective January 1, 2017.)

9285. Rebuttal arguments.

(a) (1) When an argument in favor and an argument against a measure have been selected to be printed in the voter information guide, the elections official shall send a copy of the argument in favor of the measure to the authors of the argument against the measure and a copy of an argument against the measure to the authors of the argument in favor of the measure.

(2) The author or a majority of the authors of an argument relating to a city measure may prepare and submit a rebuttal argument or may authorize in writing another person or persons to prepare, submit, or sign the rebuttal argument.

(3) A rebuttal argument shall not exceed 250 words.

(4) A rebuttal argument relating to a city measure shall be filed with the elections official no later than 10 days after the final filing date for primary arguments.

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

(5) A rebuttal argument relating to a city measure shall not be signed by more than five persons, shall be printed in the same manner as a direct argument, and shall immediately follow the direct argument which it seeks to rebut.

(b) Subdivision (a) applies only if, not later than the day on which the legislative body calls an election, the legislative body adopts its provisions by majority vote, in which case subdivision (a) applies at the next ensuing municipal election and at each municipal election thereafter, unless later repealed by the legislative body in accordance with the procedures of this subdivision.

(Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 422, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2017.)

Division 9. Measures Submitted to the Voters, Chapter 7. General Provisions

9602.

A voter who has signed an initiative or referendum petition, and who subsequently wishes their name withdrawn, may do so by filing a written request for the withdrawal with the appropriate elections official that includes the name or title of the petition and the voter's name, residence address, and signature. This request shall be filed in the elections official's office prior to the date the petition is filed. A written request made under this section shall not constitute a petition or paper for purposes of Section 104.
(Amended by Stats. 2022, Ch. 166, Sec. 3. (AB 2967) Effective January 1, 2023.)

9604.

(a) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, any person may engage in good faith bargaining between competing interests to secure legislative approval of matters embraced in a statewide or local initiative or referendum measure, and the proponents may, as a result of these negotiations, withdraw the measure at any time before filing the petition with the appropriate elections official.

(2) Withdrawal of a statewide initiative or referendum measure pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be effective upon receipt by the Secretary of State of a written notice of withdrawal, signed by all proponents of the measure.

(3) Withdrawal of a local initiative or referendum measure pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be effective upon receipt by the appropriate local elections official of a written notice of withdrawal, signed by all proponents of the measure.

(b) (1) In addition to the procedure under subdivision (a), the proponents of a statewide initiative or referendum measure may withdraw the measure after filing the petition with the appropriate elections official at any time before the Secretary of State certifies that the measure has qualified for the ballot pursuant to Section 9033.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (c), withdrawal of a statewide initiative or referendum measure after filing the petition with the appropriate elections official shall be effective upon receipt by the Secretary of State of a written notice of withdrawal, signed by a majority of the proponents of the measure.

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

(c) (1) After filing the petition with the appropriate elections official at any time before the Secretary of State certifies that a statewide initiative or referendum measure has qualified for the ballot pursuant to Section 9033, the proponents may file with the Secretary of State a written notice of withdrawal that is contingent on the enactment of a particular legislative measure. In the written notice, the proponents shall identify the publication date of the most recent version of the legislative measure. The Secretary of State shall reject any notice of contingent withdrawal that is contingent on any action other than the enactment of a particular legislative measure.

(2) The Secretary of State shall deem a written notice of contingent withdrawal of a statewide initiative or referendum measure to be effective if the legislative measure identified in the notice is enacted and given a chapter number by the Secretary of State before the Secretary of State certifies that the statewide initiative or referendum measure has qualified for the ballot pursuant to Section 9033.

(3) (A) If the legislative measure is not given a chapter number by the Secretary of State before the Secretary of State certifies that the statewide initiative or referendum measure has qualified for the ballot pursuant to Section 9033, or if it is amended after the notice is filed with the Secretary of State, the notice of contingent withdrawal shall not be effective.

(B) If the contingent withdrawal fails pursuant to subparagraph (A), the proponents may file a new notice of contingent withdrawal at any time before the Secretary of State certifies that the initiative or referendum measure has qualified for the ballot.

(4) The proponents may file a written notice with the Secretary of State to cancel the contingent withdrawal at any time before the legislative measure is enacted and given a chapter number by the Secretary of State.

(5) A contingent withdrawal, or a cancellation of a contingent withdrawal, filed with the Secretary of State pursuant to this subdivision shall be signed by at least a majority of the proponents of the initiative or referendum measure.

(6) Notwithstanding any provision of this subdivision, the proponents of a statewide initiative or referendum measure may file a written notice pursuant to subdivision (b) to withdraw the measure at any time before the Secretary of State certifies that the measure has qualified for the ballot. A notice of withdrawal filed pursuant to subdivision (b) shall take precedence over any notice of contingent withdrawal on file with the Secretary of State pursuant to this subdivision.

(d) The proponents of a statewide initiative or referendum measure may file a written notice of withdrawal pursuant to subdivisions (b) or (c) with the Secretary of State no later than 5 p.m. on the day the Secretary of State certifies that the statewide initiative or referendum measure has qualified for the ballot pursuant to Section 9033.

(Amended by Stats. 2023, Ch. 483, Sec. 1. (SB 297) Effective January 1, 2024.

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

9607. Instructions on requirements and prohibitions of state law.

The proponents of an initiative measure shall ensure that any person, company, or other organization that is paid, or who volunteers, to solicit signatures to qualify the proposed measure for the ballot shall receive instruction on the requirements and prohibitions imposed by state law with respect to circulation of the petition and signature gathering thereon, with an emphasis on the prohibition on the use of signatures on an initiative petition for a purpose other than qualification of the proposed measure for the ballot.

(Added by Stats. 2005, Ch. 726, Sec. 9. Effective January 1, 2006.)

9608. Signed statement to accompany request for title and summary.

(a) A proponent of an initiative measure shall execute and submit, along with the request for a title and summary for the proposed measure, a signed statement that reads as follows:

I, ____, acknowledge that it is a misdemeanor under state law (Section 18650 of the Elections Code) to knowingly or willfully allow the signatures on an initiative petition to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the proposed measure for the ballot. I certify that I will not knowingly or willfully allow the signatures for this initiative to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the measure for the ballot.

(Signature of Proponent) ____

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20__

(b) The certification required by subdivision (a) shall be kept on file by the agency authorized to prepare the title and summary for the proposed initiative measure for not less than eight months after the certification of the results of the election for which the measure qualified, or if the measure, for any reason, is not submitted to the voters, eight months after the deadline for submission of the petition to the elections official.

(c) Failure to comply with this section shall not invalidate any signatures on a state or local initiative petition.

(Added by Stats. 2005, Ch. 726, Sec. 10. Effective January 1, 2006.)

9609. Signed statement of circulator

(a) Prior to allowing a person to circulate an initiative petition for signatures, the person, company official, or other organizational officer who is in charge of signature gathering shall execute and submit to the proponents a signed statement that reads as follows:

I, ____, acknowledge that it is a misdemeanor under state law (Section 18650 of the Elections Code) to knowingly or willfully allow the signatures on an initiative petition to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the proposed measure for the ballot. I certify that I will not knowingly or willfully allow the signatures for this initiative to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the measure for the ballot.

(Signature of Official) ____

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20__

(b) The certification required by subdivision (a) shall be kept on file by the proponents

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

of the proposed initiative measure for not less than eight months after the certification of the results of the election for which the measure qualified, or if the measure, for any reason, is not submitted to the voters, eight months after the deadline for submission of the petition to the elections official.

(c) Failure to comply with this section shall not invalidate any signatures on a state or local initiative petition.

(Added by Stats. 2005, Ch. 726, Sec. 11.)

9610. Signed statement of circulator

(a) Prior to soliciting signatures on an initiative petition, a circulator shall execute and submit to the person, company official, or other organizational officer who is in charge of signature gathering a signed statement that reads as follows:

I, ____, acknowledge that it is a misdemeanor under state law (Section 18650 of the Elections Code) to knowingly or willfully allow the signatures on an initiative petition to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the proposed measure for the ballot. I certify that I will not knowingly or willfully allow the signatures for this initiative to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the measure for the ballot.

(Signature of Circulator) _____

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20____

(b) The certification required by subdivision (a) shall be kept on file by the person, company official, or other organizational officer who is in charge of signature gathering for the proposed initiative measure for not less than eight months after the certification of the results of the election for which the measure qualified, or if the measure, for any reason, is not submitted to the voters, eight months after the deadline for submission of the petition to the elections official.

(c) This section shall not apply to unpaid circulators of state or local initiative petitions.

(d) Failure to comply with this section shall not invalidate any signatures on a state or local initiative petition.

(Added by Stats. 2005, Ch. 726, Sec. 12. Effective January 1, 2006.)

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

Division 0.5. Preliminary Provisions, Chapter 2. Petitions and Petition Signers

100. Petitions and Petition Signers; Form of Petition; Only registered voter entitled to sign petition; printed name and place of residence; form of petition.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, whenever an initiative, referendum, recall, nominating petition or paper, or any other petition or paper, is required to be signed by voters of a county, city, school district, or special district subject to petitioning, only a person who is an eligible registered voter at the time of signing the petition or paper is entitled to sign the petition or paper. A person who submits his or her affidavit of registration pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 2102 is not eligible to sign a petition or paper unless at the time of the signing of the petition or paper he or she is 18 years of age.

(b) A signer shall at the time of signing the petition or paper personally affix his or her signature, printed name, and place of residence, including the street and number of the place of residence, and if no street or number for the place of residence exists, then a designation of the place of residence that will enable the location to be readily ascertained. An incomplete or inaccurate apartment or unit number in the signer's residence address shall not invalidate his or her signature pursuant to Section 105. A space at least one inch wide shall be left blank after each name for the use of the elections official in verifying the petition or paper.

(c) The part of a petition for the signatures, printed names, and residence addresses of the voters 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 petition format shall be substantially in the following form:

Official
Use
Only

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

(d) A county elections official who verifies signatures on an initiative, referendum, recall, nominating petition or paper, or any other petition or paper that is required to be signed by voters of a county, city, school district, or special district subject to petitioning may establish and require the use of a standardized petition form for distribution within and submission to the county.

(Amended by Stats. 2024, Ch. 120, Sec. 1. (AB 3197) Effective January 1, 2025.)

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

100.5. Allow another person to print name and residence for those unable to do so.

Notwithstanding Section 100, a voter who is unable to personally affix on a petition or paper the information required by Section 100 may request another person to print the voter's name and place of residence on the appropriate spaces of the petition or paper, but the voter shall personally affix his or her mark or signature on the appropriate space of the petition or paper, which shall be witnessed by one person by subscribing his or her name thereon.

(Amended by Stats. 2001, c. 922, §2. Effective January 1, 2002.)

101. Petition notice to the public.

(a) Notwithstanding any other law, a state or local initiative, referendum, or recall 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:

(1) "NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:". This text shall be in a boldface type.

(2) If the petition includes the disclosure statement described by subdivision (b) of Section 107, the text "SIGN ONLY IF IT IS THE SAME MONTH SHOWN IN THE OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS OR YOU SAW AN "OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS" SHEET FOR THIS MONTH." This text shall be in a boldface type.

(3) "THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR A VOLUNTEER. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK." This text shall be in a non-boldface type.

(b) A state initiative petition shall contain, in the same location and type size described in subdivision (a), the following language in a non-boldface type: "THE PROPONENTS OF THIS PROPOSED INITIATIVE MEASURE HAVE THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW THIS PETITION AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE MEASURE QUALIFIES FOR THE BALLOT."

(Amended by Stats. 2022, Ch. 887, Sec. 2. (SB 1360) Effective January 1, 2023.)

102. Voter may circulate petition. Age of circulator.

A person shall not circulate a state or local initiative, referendum, or recall petition or nominating paper unless the person is 18 years of age or older.

(Amended by Stats. 2013, Ch. 278, Sec. Effective January 1, 2014)

103. Signature withdrawn from petition.

A voter who has signed an initiative, referendum, or recall petition pursuant to the Constitution or laws of this state shall have their signature withdrawn from the petition upon filing a written request that includes the name or title of the petition and the voter's name, residence address, and signature with the appropriate county elections official or city elections official prior to the day the petition is filed. A written request made under this section shall not constitute a petition or paper for purposes of Section 104.

(Amended by Stats. 2022, Ch. 166, Sec. 1. (AB 2967) Effective January 1, 2023.)

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104. Declaration of circulator attached to petition; form.

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

(1) The printed name of the circulator.

(2) 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.

(3) The dates between which all the signatures to the petition or paper were obtained.

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

(1) That the circulator circulated that section and witnessed the appended signatures being written.

(2) 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.

(3) That the circulator is 18 years of age or older.

(4) If the petition does not include the disclosure statement described by subdivision (b) of Section 107, that the circulator showed each signer a valid and unfalsified "Official Top Funders" sheet, as required by Section 107.

(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.

(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 563, Sec. 2. (SB 47) Effective January 1, 2020.)

105. Examination of petitions; residence address verification

(a) (1) For purposes of verifying a signature on an initiative, referendum, recall, nomination, or other election petition or paper, the elections official shall determine that the residence address on the petition or paper is the same as the residence address on the affidavit of registration. If the addresses are different, or if the petition or paper does not specify the residence address, or, in the case of an initiative or referendum petition, the information specified in Section 9020 is not contained in the petition, the affected signature shall not be counted as valid.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the elections official shall not invalidate a signature for an incomplete or inaccurate apartment or unit number in the signer's residence address.

(b) A signature invalidated pursuant to this section shall not affect the validity of another valid signature on the particular petition or paper.

(Amended by Stats. 2014, Ch. 909, Sec. 4. Effective January 1, 2015.)

106. Nomination papers' signatures.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law:

(a) Any registered voter who is a candidate for any office may obtain signatures to and sign his or her own nomination papers. The candidate's signature shall be given the same effect as that of any other qualified signer.

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

(b) Any person engaged in obtaining signatures to the nomination papers of a candidate for any office or to any recall, initiative or referendum petition, may, if otherwise qualified to sign the papers or petition, sign the papers or petition. The signature of the person shall be given the same effect as that of any other qualified signer.

(Enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)

107. Official Top Funders Sheet

(a) (1) A committee formed pursuant to Section 82013 of the Government Code that pays for the circulation of a state or local initiative, referendum, or recall petition shall create an Official Top Funders sheet as follows, with all text in a black roman type with a type size of 14 point on a plain, contrasting background, and centered horizontally, except as described below. None of the text shall have its type condensed or have the spacing between characters reduced to be narrower than a normal roman type. Unless otherwise specified, the text shall not be boldface type.

(2) At the top of the sheet shall appear the text "OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS. Valid only for", followed by a month and year that starts at most seven days after the date the top contributors as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 84501 of the Government Code were last confirmed. This text shall be boldface type and with a type size of at least 16 point.

(3) Next, separated by a blank horizontal line from the text in paragraph (2), shall appear the title of the initiative, referendum, or recall as it appears on the petition, in all capital letters.

(4) (A) Next, separated by a blank horizontal line from the text in paragraph (3), shall appear a disclosure statement in a printed or drawn box with a black border.

(B) At the top of the disclosure statement shall appear the text "Petition circulation paid for by" in boldface text.

(C) Next, on a separate horizontal line, shall appear the name of the committee as it appears on the most recent Statement of Organization filed pursuant to Section 84101 of the Government Code. If the committee has any top contributors as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 84501 of the Government Code, it shall be followed by a blank horizontal line and then the underlined text "Committee major funding from:".

(D) The top contributors as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 84501 of the Government Code, if any, shall each be disclosed in boldface text on a separate horizontal line separate from any other text, in descending order, beginning with the top contributor who made the largest cumulative contributions, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 84501 of the Government Code, on the first line.

(E) The committee, in its discretion, may include the underlined text "Endorsed by:", followed by a list, not underlined, of up to three endorsers. The text pursuant to this subparagraph shall be separated from the text above and below it by a blank horizontal line.

(F) The following line shall include the text "Latest Official Top Funders:" followed by either (i) the internet web page on the Secretary of State's internet website that lists the "Official Top Funders" statements that are reported pursuant to subdivision (f), or (ii) the internet website described in subdivision (c).

(5) If the petition is a state initiative petition, next, separated by at least two blank horizontal lines from the disclosures of paragraphs (4) and (5), shall appear the text

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

“OFFICIAL TITLE AND SUMMARY (SAME AS ON PETITION)”, in boldface text in all capital letters.

(6) If the petition is a state initiative petition, next, starting on a separate horizontal line, shall appear the text “The Attorney General of California has prepared the following circulating title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:”, in boldface text with a type size of 11 point.

(7) If the petition is a state initiative petition, next, starting on a separate horizontal line, shall appear the Attorney General summary of the initiative as it appears on the initiative petition, in plain text with a type size of 11 point.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, a state or local initiative, referendum, or recall petition that requires voter signatures and for which the circulation is paid for by a committee formed pursuant to Section 82013 of the Government Code shall either include a disclosure statement on the petition that is displayed as follows or the circulator for the petition shall present as a separate document the Official Top Funders sheet described in subdivision (a) to a prospective signer of the petition

(1) The disclosure statement shall have a solid white background and shall be in a printed or drawn box with a black border and shall appear before that portion of the petition for voters’ signatures, printed names, and residence addresses. The text in the disclosure area shall be in a black Arial equivalent type with a type size of at least 10 point, with all lines centered horizontally in the disclosure area.

(2) The top of the disclosure shall include the text “OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS. Valid only for”, followed by a month and year that starts at most seven days after the date the top contributors as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 84501 of the Government Code were last confirmed. The text of this paragraph shall be boldface.

(3) Next shall appear, on a separate horizontal line, the text “Petition circulation paid for by”, followed by the name of the committee as it appears on the most recent Statement of Organization filed pursuant to Section 84101 of the Government Code. If the committee has any top contributors as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 84501 of the Government Code, it shall be followed by, on a separate horizontal line, the underlined text “Committee major funding from:”.

(4) The top contributors as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 84501 of the Government Code, if any, shall each be disclosed in boldface text on a separate horizontal line separate from any other text, in descending order, beginning with the top contributor who made the largest cumulative contributions, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 84501 of the Government Code, on the first line.

(5) The committee, in its discretion, may include the underlined text “Endorsed by:”, followed by a list, not underlined, of up to three endorsers. The text in this paragraph shall be separated from the text above and below it by a blank horizontal line.

(6) The following line shall include the text “Latest info:” followed by the URL for either (A) the internet web page on the Secretary of State’s internet website that lists the “Official Top Funders” statements that are reported pursuant to subdivision (f), or (B) the internet website described in subdivision (c). The text specified in this paragraph shall be underlined.

(c) Any committee formed pursuant to Section 82013 of the Government Code that pays for the circulation of a state or local initiative, referendum, or recall petition may create a page on an internet website that includes both of the following:

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

(1) A prominent link to the most recent Official Top Funders sheet as described in subdivision (a). The Official Top Funders sheet that the page links to shall be in a format that allows it to be viewed on an internet website and printed out on a single page of paper.

(2) A prominent link to the full text of the initiative or referendum.

(d) The disclosure of a top contributor or endorser pursuant to this section need not include terms such as “incorporated,” “committee,” “political action committee,” or “corporation,” or abbreviations of these terms, unless the term is part of the contributor’s or endorser’s name in common usage or parlance.

(e) If this section requires the disclosure of the name of a top contributor that is a committee pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 82013 of the Government Code and is a sponsored committee pursuant to Section 82048.7 of the Government Code with a single sponsor, only the name of the single sponsoring organization shall be disclosed.

(f) A committee that circulates a state initiative, referendum, or recall petition shall submit the Official Top Funders sheet required by subdivision (a), and any updates to that statement, to the Secretary of State, who shall post that statement on the Secretary of State’s internet website along with the previous versions the committee submitted.

(g) This section does not require a local elections official to verify the accuracy of the information required by this section or to re-approve the petition upon any updates the committee makes.

(h) Signatures collected on an initiative, referendum, or recall petition are not invalid solely because the information required by this section was absent or inaccurate.

(i) For purposes of this section, “endorser” means:

(1) A business that has been in existence for at least two years and has had at least one full-time staffer during that period.

(2) A non-profit organization that was not originally created for the purposes of serving as a committee, that has been in existence for at least two years, and either has received contributions from more than 50 donors in that period or has had at least one full-time staffer during that period.

(3) A political party.

(4) An individual, whose name may include their title if they are an elected official or represent one of the organizations described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

(Amended by Stats. 2022, Ch. 887, Sec. 3. (SB 1360) Effective January 1, 2023.)

108. Binding of petition Pages

Notwithstanding any other law, the pages of a petition may be bound together by any reasonable method, including the use of staples.

(Added by Stats. 2019, Ch. 563, Sec. 4. (SB 47) Effective January 1, 2020.)

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

Division 9. Measures Submitted to the Voters, Chapter 1. State Elections, Article 2. Petition Signatures

9020. Form of petition; name, signature and address.

(a) The petition sections shall be designed so that each signer shall personally affix all of the following:

- (1) The signer's signature.
- (2) The signer's printed name.
- (3) The signer's residence address, giving street and number, or if no street or number exists, adequate designation of residence so that the location may be readily ascertained. An incomplete or inaccurate apartment or unit number in the signer's residence address shall not invalidate their signature pursuant to Section 105.
- (4) The name of the signer's incorporated city or unincorporated community.
- (5) If the petition does not include the disclosure statement described by subdivision (b) of Section 107, the following text on a separate horizontal line below the signer's printed name and above the signer's signature:

"DO NOT SIGN UNLESS you have seen Official Top Funders sheet and its month is still valid." The text "DO NOT SIGN UNLESS" shall be in all capitals and in boldface. The other text shall be capitalized as shown and shall not be in boldface.

(b) Only a person who is a qualified registered voter at the time of signing the petition is entitled to sign it.

(c) The number of signatures attached to each section shall be at the pleasure of the person soliciting the signatures.

(Amended by Stats. 2022, Ch. 887, Sec. 5. (SB 1360) Effective January 1, 2023.)

9022. Declaration of circulator.

(a) Each section shall have attached thereto the declaration of the person soliciting the signatures setting forth the information required by Section 104.

(b) 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.

(c) Another declaration shall not be required.

(d) Petitions so verified shall be prima facie evidence that the signatures are genuine and that the persons signing are qualified voters. Unless and until otherwise proven upon official investigation, it shall be presumed that the petition presented contains the signatures of the requisite number of qualified voters.

(Amended by Stats. 2013, Ch. 278, Sec. 19. Effective January 1, 2014)

STATE ELECTIONS CODE PROVISIONS

Division 9. Measures Submitted to the Voters, Chapter 2. County Elections, Article 1. Initiative

9114. Examination of signatures and certification; full check.

Except as provided in Section 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.

In determining the number of valid signatures, the elections official may check the signatures against facsimiles of voters' signatures provided that the method of preparing and displaying the facsimiles complies with law. A signature shall not be invalidated because of a variation of the signature caused by the substitution of initials for the first or middle name, or both, of the person signing 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.

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.

(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 14, Sec. 3. (AB 698) Effective January 1, 2020.)

9115. Examination of signatures and certification; random sample.

(a) Within 30 days from the date of filing of the petition, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, if, from the examination of petitions pursuant to Section 9114 shows that more than 500 signatures have been signed on the petition, the elections official may use a random sampling technique for verification of signatures. The random sample of signatures to be verified shall be drawn so that every signature filed with the elections official shall be given an equal opportunity to be included in the sample. The random sampling shall include an examination of at least 500, or 3 percent of the signatures, whichever is greater. A signature shall not be invalidated because of a variation of the signature caused by the substitution of initials for the first or middle name, or both, of the person signing the petition.

(b) If the statistical sampling shows that the number of valid signatures is within 95 to 110 percent of the number of signatures of qualified voters needed to declare the petition sufficient, the elections official shall, within 90 days from the date of the filing of the petition, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, examine and verify the signatures filed. If the elections official determines, prior to completing the examination of each signature filed, that the petition is signed by the requisite number of qualified voters to declare the petition sufficient, the elections official may terminate the verification of the remaining unverified signatures.

(c) In determining from the records of registration, what number of valid signatures are signed on the petition, the elections official may check the signatures against facsimiles of voters' signatures, provided that the method of preparing and displaying the facsimiles complies with law.

STATE GOVERNMENT CODE PROVISIONS

(d) The elections official shall attach to the petition a certificate showing the result of this examination and shall notify the proponents of either the sufficiency or insufficiency of the petition.

(e) If the petition is found insufficient, no action shall be taken on the petition. However, the failure to secure sufficient signatures does not preclude the filing later of an entirely new petition to the same effect.

(f) If the petition is found to be sufficient, the elections official shall certify the results of the examination to the board of supervisors at the next regular meeting of the board.

(Amended by Stats. 2023, Ch. 870, Sec. 2. (SB 386) Effective January 1, 2024.)

STATE GOVERNMENT CODE PROVISIONS

Title 1. General, Division 7. Miscellaneous Chapter 1. Publications and Official Advertising, Article 1. General § 6000. Newspaper of general circulation

A “newspaper of general circulation” is a newspaper published for the dissemination of local or telegraphic news and intelligence of a general character, which has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers, and has been established, printed and published at regular intervals in the State, county, or city where publication, notice by publication, or official advertising is to be given or made for at least one year preceding the date of the publication, notice or advertisement.

(Stats.1943, c. 134, p. 987, § 6000.)

*** At the present time the only two newspapers that meet this standard in the City of Berkeley are the Berkeley Voice and the Daily Californian.*

BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.90

Chapter 2.90

BINDING REVIEW OF INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PETITIONS BY THE CITY CLERK AS TO FORM

Sections:

- 2.90.010 Findings.**
- 2.90.020 City Clerk review.**
- 2.90.030 Time of review.**
- 2.90.040 City Clerk review binding.**
- 2.90.050 Retention of copies of petitions and City Clerk's determination.**

Section 2.90.010 Findings.

The council finds as follows:

A. The initiative and referendum process provides an important method for citizens of Berkeley to propose legislation and review council enacted legislation.

B. The initiative and referendum provisions of the California Election Code specify certain requirements as to form that each petition must meet prior to acceptance of the petition by the City Clerk.

C. The California Election Code provisions are complex and difficult to interpret.

D. In order to facilitate the circulation of citizen initiatives and referenda, it is necessary for the City Clerk to provide some guidance to citizens regarding the petition requirements of the California Election Code.

E. City Charter Section 92(10) authorizes the council to enact by ordinance appropriate legislation necessary to implement Charter Section 92 regarding initiatives; Charter Section 95 authorizes the council to enact appropriate legislation to implement Article XIV of the Charter regarding referendum and Charter Section 118 authorizes the council to enact legislation which may be necessary and proper to carry out any of the provisions of the Charter.

F. Enactment of legislation providing for review of initiative or referendum petitions by the City Clerk is necessary and proper for the reasons set forth above. (Ord. 5729-NS § 1, 1986)

Section 2.90.020 City Clerk review.

The City Clerk, at the request of proponents of an initiative or referendum, shall review any referendum or initiative petition prior to circulation and advise proponents, in writing, of any violation of the California Election Code apparent on the face of the petition. (Ord. 5729-NS § 2, 1986)

BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.90

Section 2.90.030 Time of review.

A. The City Clerk shall complete any requested review of an initiative petition within three working days after a review is requested.

B. The City Clerk will complete any review of a referendum petition within one working day of submission. (Ord. 5729-NS § 3, 1986)

Section 2.90.040 City Clerk review binding.

No initiative or referendum petition shall thereafter be deemed insufficient as to form by the City Clerk if the alleged defect was present at the time of the City Clerk's review and the City Clerk failed to advise the proponents of such defect in writing. In such event, the initiative or referendum shall be deemed to have substantially followed the applicable legal requirements notwithstanding any such pre-existing defect. (Ord. 5729-NS § 4, 1986)

Section 2.90.050 Retention of copies of petitions and City Clerk's determination.

The City Clerk shall retain a copy of all petitions reviewed as well as the Clerk's written determination as to the legal sufficiency of such petitions for six months subsequent to such review. (Ord. 5729-NS § 5, 1986)

BERKELEY ELECTION REFORM ACT SEC 2.12.405

Chapter 2.12 ELECTION REFORM ACT

2.12.405 Measures--Compensation for petition circulation--Disclosure.

If compensation is received by any person for obtaining signatures or for the circulation of petitions to place a measure on the ballot, the terms of such compensation shall be clear and visible on the signature sheet of the petition. (Ord. 5895-NS § 1, 1988: Ord. 4700-NS § 517, 1974)

(Berkeley Election Reform Act Sec. 2.12.405)

Important Note: 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. Once filed, no petition section shall be amended except by order of a court of competent jurisdiction. (Elections Code 9210)

CITY OF BERKELEY - SAMPLE INITIATIVE PETITION FORM (WITH TOP FUNDER DISCLOSURE)

Please leave a 1" margin at the top, and a 1/2" margin at the bottom, left and right of the petition section.

INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE DIRECTLY SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS (EC 9203)

The city attorney 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 city attorney. This title and summary must also be printed across the top of each page of the petition whereon signatures are to appear. Title and summary must be printed in roman type not smaller than 11 point; the title must be boldface.) (EC 9203)

The first page of each section shall contain the petition title and the entire text of the measure. (EC 9201)

The text of the measure shall be printed in type not smaller than 8 point. (EC 9203)

Each section of the petition shall bear a copy of the notice of intention (EC 9207)

The enacting clause of the proposed measure shall be in substantially the following form: (EC 9224)

"The people of the City of Berkeley do ordain as follows:"

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: (EC 101)

**SIGN ONLY IF IT IS THE SAME MONTH SHOWN IN THE OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS OR YOU
SAW AN "OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS" SHEET FOR THIS MONTH
THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR A
VOLUNTEER. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK.**

If compensation is received by any person for obtaining signatures or for the circulation of petitions to place a measure on the ballot, the terms of such compensation shall be clear and visible on the signature sheet of the petition. (Berkeley Election Reform Act Sec. 2.12.405)

OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS. Valid only for [Month] [Year]. (EC 107(b)(1) & (2))

Petition circulation paid for by [followed by the name of the committee as it appears on the most recent Statement of Organization filed pursuant to Government Code Section 84101]. (EC 107(b)(3))

Committee major funding from: (EC 107(b)(3), GC 84501(c))

Largest Contributor

Second Largest Contributor

Third Largest Contributor

Endorsed by: Endorser 1, Endorser 2, Endorser 3. (Optional - EC 107(b)(5))

Latest info: [URL to committee's website]. (EC 107(b)(6), 107(c)(1), 107(c)(2))

1" space
(EC 100)

			Official Use Only
1.	Print Name _____ Signature _____	Residence Address _____ City _____	

Initiative Measure to be Directly Submitted to the Voters (EC 9203)

Here set forth the title and summary prepared by the city attorney. This title and summary must also be printed across the top of each page of the petition whereon signatures are to appear. Title and summary must be printed in roman type not smaller than 11 point; the title must be boldface. (EC 9203)

OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS. Valid only for [Month] [Year]. (EC 107(b)(1) & (2))

Petition circulation paid for by [followed by the name of the committee as it appears on the most recent Statement of Organization filed pursuant to Government Code Section 84101]. (EC 107(b)(3))

Committee major funding from: (EC 107(b)(3), GC 84501(c))

Largest Contributor
Second Largest Contributor
Third Largest Contributor

Endorsed by: Endorser 1, Endorser 2, Endorser 3. (Optional - EC 107(b)(5))

Latest info: [URL to committee's website]. (EC 107(b)(6), 107(c)(1), 107(c)(2))

2.	Print Name _____ Signature _____	Residence _____ Address _____ City _____	
3.	Print Name _____ Signature _____	Residence _____ Address _____ City _____	
4.	Print Name _____ Signature _____	Residence _____ Address _____ City _____	
5.	Print Name _____ Signature _____	Residence _____ Address _____ City _____	
6.	Print Name _____ Signature _____	Residence _____ Address _____ City _____	
7.	Print Name _____ Signature _____	Residence _____ Address _____ City _____	
8.	Print Name _____ Signature _____	Residence _____ Address _____ City _____	

Initiative Measure to be Directly Submitted to the Voters (EC 9203)

Here set forth the title and summary prepared by the city attorney. This title and summary must also be printed across the top of each page of the petition whereon signatures are to appear. Title and summary must be printed in roman type not smaller than 11 point; the title must be boldface. (EC 9203)

OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS. Valid only for [Month] [Year]. (EC 107(b)(1) & (2))

Petition circulation paid for by [followed by the name of the committee as it appears on the most recent Statement of Organization filed pursuant to Government Code Section 84101]. (EC 107(b)(3))

Committee major funding from: (EC 107(b)(3), GC 84501(c))

Largest Contributor
Second Largest Contributor
Third Largest Contributor

Endorsed by: Endorser 1, Endorser 2, Endorser 3. (Optional - EC 107(b)(5))

Latest info: [URL to committee's website]. (EC 107(b)(6), 107(c)(1), 107(c)(2))

9.	Print Name _____ Signature _____	Residence Address _____ City _____	
10.	Print Name _____ Signature _____	Residence Address _____ City _____	

DECLARATION OF PERSON CIRCULATING PETITION SECTION (EC 104, 9238c)

(To be completed in circulator's own hand)

I, _____, declare:
(Print Your Full Name)

My residence address is _____ and
(Number, Street and City)

I am 18 years of age or older.

I personally circulated this petition section and witnessed each of the appended signatures being written on the petition and to the best of my information and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be and the appended signatures were obtained between the dates of: _____ and _____, inclusive.
(Month, Day, Year) (Month, Day Year)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Executed on _____ at _____
(Month, Day, Year) (Place of Signing)

Signed _____
(Signature of Petition Circulator - First Name, Middle Name or Initial, Last Name)

Important Note: 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. Once filed, no petition section shall be amended except by order of a court of competent jurisdiction. (Elections Code 9210)

CITY OF BERKELEY - SAMPLE INITIATIVE PETITION FORM (WITHOUT TOP FUNDER DISCLOSURE)

Please leave a 1" margin at the top, and a 1/2" margin at the bottom, left and right of the petition section.

INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE DIRECTLY SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS (EC 9203)

The city attorney 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 city attorney. This title and summary must also be printed across the top of each page of the petition whereon signatures are to appear. Title and summary must be printed in roman type not smaller than 11 point; the title must be boldface.) (EC 9203)

The first page of each section shall contain the petition title and the entire text of the measure. (EC 9201)

The text of the measure shall be printed in type not smaller than 8 point. (EC 9203)

Each section of the petition shall bear a copy of the notice of intention (EC 9207)

The enacting clause of the proposed measure shall be in substantially the following form: (EC 9224)

"The people of the City of Berkeley do ordain as follows:"

EC 9020:

(5) If the petition does not include the disclosure statement described by subdivision (b) of Section 107, the following text on a separate horizontal line below the signer's printed name and above the signer's signature:

"DO NOT SIGN UNLESS you have seen Official Top Funders sheet and its month is still valid." The text "DO NOT SIGN UNLESS" shall be in all capitals and in boldface. The other text shall be capitalized as shown and shall not be in boldface.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: (EC 101)

SIGN ONLY IF IT IS THE SAME MONTH SHOWN IN THE OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS OR YOU SAW AN "OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS" SHEET FOR THIS MONTH

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

If compensation is received by any person for obtaining signatures or for the circulation of petitions to place a measure on the ballot, the terms of such compensation shall be clear and visible on the signature sheet of the petition. (Berkeley Election Reform Act Sec. 2.12.405)

1" space
(EC 100)

1.	Print Name _____ Residence Address _____ DO NOT SIGN UNLESS you have seen Official Top Funders sheet and its month is still valid. Signature _____ City _____	Official Use Only
----	--	-------------------

		Official Use Only
2.	Print Name _____ Residence Address _____ <i>DO NOT SIGN UNLESS you have seen Official Top Funders sheet and its month is still valid.</i> Signature _____ City _____	
3.	Print Name _____ Residence Address _____ <i>DO NOT SIGN UNLESS you have seen Official Top Funders sheet and its month is still valid.</i> Signature _____ City _____	
4.	Print Name _____ Residence Address _____ <i>DO NOT SIGN UNLESS you have seen Official Top Funders sheet and its month is still valid.</i> Signature _____ City _____	

DECLARATION OF PERSON CIRCULATING PETITION SECTION (EC 104, 9238c)

(To be completed in circulator's own hand)

I, _____, declare:

(Print Your Full Name)

My residence address is _____ and

(Number, Street and City)

I am 18 years of age or older.

I personally circulated this petition section and witnessed each of the appended signatures being written on the petition and to the best of my information and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be and the appended signatures were obtained between the dates of: _____ and _____, inclusive.

(Month, Day, Year)

(Month, Day Year)

I showed each signer a valid and unfalsified "Official Top Funders" sheet as required by Elections Code Section 107.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Executed on _____ at _____

(Month, Day, Year)

(Place of Signing)

Signed _____

(Signature of Petition Circulator - First Name, Middle Name or Initial, Last Name)

**SAMPLE “OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS” SHEET FOR PETITIONS
WITHOUT TOP FUNDERS DISCLOSURE PRINTED ON THEM.**

[Black roman type, contrasting background, centered horizontally; EC § 107]

OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS. Valid only for Month Year.

[16-point font; EC § 107(a)(2)]

OFFICIAL TITLE AND SUMMARY AS IS APPEARS ON THE PETITION

[CAPS, 14-point font; EC § 107(a)(3)]

Petition circulation paid for by *[Bold; EC § 107(a)(4)(A) & (B)]*

Name of the Committee as it Appears on the most recent
Statement of Organization (Form 410) Filed Pursuant to
Government Code § 84101 *[EC § 107(a)(4)(C)]*

Committee major funding from: *[EC § 107(a)(4)(C) & (D), GC 84501(c)]*

[Largest Cumulative Contributor]

[Second Largest Contributor]

[Third Largest Contributor]

[OPTIONAL; EC § 107(a)(4)(E)]

Endorsed by:

First Endorser

Second Endorser

Third Endorser

Latest Official Top Funders: www.webpage.com *[EC § 107(a)(4)(F)]*

[link to Secretary of State Top Funders Website or committee webpage]