

## National Conference of State Legislatures

The Forum for America's Ideas

## **Signature Requirements for Initiative Proposals**Updated August 2008

		Statutory Initiative	es	Constitutional Initiatives		
	Signature Formula	2008 Actual Requirement	Geographic Distribution	Signature Formula	2008 Actual Requirement	Geographic Distribution
Alaska	10% of total votes cast in last general election	23,831	Signatures from 7% of those who voted in the previous general election in at least 3/4 of the state's 40 house districts		N/A	
Arizona	10% of votes cast for governor in last election	153,365	None	15% of votes cast for governor in last election	230,047	None
Arkansas	8% of votes cast for governor in last election	61,974	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	77,468	Signatures equal to 5% of votes cast for governor in each of at least 15 of the state's 75 counties
California	5% of votes cast for governor at last election	433,971	None	8% of votes cast for governor at last election	694,354	None
Colorado	5% of votes cast for sec. state at last election	76,047	None	5% of votes cast for sec. state at last election	76,047	None
Florida		N/A		8% of total votes cast statewide in last presidential election	611,009	8% in at least 13 of the state's 23 congressional districts

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures November 2006 For more information, contact Jennie Drage Bowser at 303-364-7700.

	Statutory Initiatives			Constitutional Initiatives		
	Signature Formula	2008 Actual Requirement	Geographic Distribution	Signature Formula	2008 Actual Requirement	Geographic Distribution
Idaho	6% of qualified electors at previous election	45,893	None (a)		N/A	
Illinois	N/A			8% of total votes cast for governor in last election	279,039	None
Maine	10% of votes cast for governor in last election	55,087	None		N/A	
Massachusetts	To place before the legislature: 3% of votes cast for governor in last election To place on the ballot if the legislature fails to pass: 0.5% of votes cast for governor in last election	66,593 + 11,099	No more than 25% of signatures may be from one county	3% of votes cast for governor in last election	66,593	No more than 25% of signatures may be from one county
Michigan	8% of votes cast for governor in last election	304,101	None	10% of votes cast for governor in last election	380,126	None
Mississippi	N/A			12% of votes cast for governor in last election	91,673	At least 18,355 signatures from each of the 5 congressional districts
Missouri	See geographic distribution no total signature requirement	86,989 - 94,762 <sup>d</sup>	5% of votes cast for governor in last election from 6 of the 9 congressional districts	See geographic distribution no total signature requirement	139,181 - 151,619 <sup>d</sup>	8% of votes cast for governor in last election from 6 of the 9 congressional districts

	Statutory Initiatives			C	onstitutional Initiat	Geographic Distribution  10% of qualified voters in each of 40		
	Signature Formula	2008 Actual Requirement	Geographic Distribution	Signature Formula	2008 Actual Requirement	<b>_</b>		
Montana	5% of qualified electors in state at large	22,308	5% of qualified voters in each of 34 legislative districts	10% of qualified electors in state at large	44,615			
Nebraska <sup>c</sup>	7% of registered voters at the filing deadline	79,605	5% of registered voters in 38 of the 93 counties	10% of registered voters at the filing deadline	113,721	5% of registered voters in 38 of the 93 counties		
Nevada	10% of total votes cast in last general election	58,627	See (b)	10% of total votes cast in last general election	58,627	See (b)		
North Dakota	2% of resident population of the state at the last decennial census	12,844	None	4% of resident population of the state at the last decennial census	25,688	None		
Ohio	To place before the legislature: 3% of votes cast for governor in last election To place on the ballot if the legislature fails to pass: 3% of votes cast for governor in the last election.	120,683 + 120,683	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	402,275	5% of total votes cast for governor in each of 44 of the state's 88 counties		
Oklahoma	8% of votes highest vote cast in last state election	74,117	None	15% of votes cast for office receiving highest number of votes in last state election	138,970	None		
Oregon	6% of votes cast for governor in last election	82,769	None	8% of votes cast for governor in last election	110,358	None		

	Statutory Initiatives			C	for governor in last		
	Signature Formula	2008 Actual Requirement	Geographic Distribution	0			
South Dakota	5% of votes cast for governor in last election	16,776	None	10% of votes cast for governor in last election			
Utah	Direct - 10% of votes cast for governor in last election  Indirect – To place before the legislature: 5% of votes cast for governor in last election  To place on the ballot if the legislature fails to pass: 5% of votes cast for governor in last election	Direct – 91,996  Indirect – 45,998 + 45,998	Direct - 10% of votes cast for governor in at least 26 of 29 state senate districts  Indirect – 5% of votes cast for governor in at least 26 of 29 state senate districts		N/A		
Washington	8% of votes cast for governor in last election	224,880	None		N/A		
Wyoming	15% of total votes cast in last general election	29,433	15% of residents in at least 2/3 of the state's 23 counties		N/A		

<sup>(</sup>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.

(c) 2008 requirement not yet determined. Total listed here was effective for 2006 initiatives.

<sup>(</sup>b) Nevada's geographic distribution requirement was held unconstitutional in August 2004. It required that signatures come from 10% of the total votes cast in the last general election in at least 13 of the state's 17 counties. Two new provisions were passed in the 2007 legislative session: One requires that petitions comply with a geographic distribution requirement that is still county-based, but is flexible in that each county's total required signatures is calculated by a formula based on population. This provision is currently in effect for the 2008 election. A second measure that was passed is a constitutional amendment and therefore will require voter approval in two consecutive general elections. This provision replaces the county-based geographic distribution requirement with a requirement that each petition contain the signatures of 10% of voters in each Congressional district.

(d) The total number of signatures required varies depending on the combination of districts presented in petitions.  Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, October 2007							