

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT
TO
2 ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 1027 By: Bullard, Paxton, Jett,
3 McIntosh, Deevers,
4 Grellner, Hines, Hamilton,
Prieto, Alvord, and
Gillespie of the Senate
5 and
6 Hilbert of the House
7

8 An Act relating to initiative and referendum;
amending 34 O.S. 2021, Sections 3, 6, 8, as amended
9 by Section 1, Chapter 364, O.S.L. 2024, and 9 (34
O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 8), which relate to
10 signatures for petitions and ballot title; making
language gender neutral; establishing requirements
11 for gist of proposition; requiring inclusion of
certain statement on petition; requiring Secretary of
12 State to make affirmation about certain language;
authorizing certain removal for violation; adding
13 qualification for persons circulating petition for
signatures; requiring certain notice; providing that
14 signature serves as certain attestation; requiring
Secretary of State to establish procedures for
15 removal of certain signatures; requiring certain
disclosures; establishing requirements for certain
16 contributions or compensation; requiring report of
certain expenditures; requiring publication of
17 certain reports on Secretary of State website;
modifying requirements for certain signatures;
18 updating certain vote requirement; updating statutory
reference; adding requirement for ballot title;
19 updating statutory language; specifying applicability
of provisions; providing for noncodification; and
20 declaring an emergency.

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1 AUTHORS: Add the following House Coauthors: West (Kevin), Adams,
2 Steagall, Moore, Townley, Duel, Turner, Burns, and Maynard

3 AMENDMENT NO. 1. Strike the title, enacting clause, and entire bill
4 and insert:

5
6 "An Act relating to initiative and referendum;
7 amending 34 O.S. 2021, Sections 3, 6, 8, as amended
8 by Section 1, Chapter 364, O.S.L. 2024, and 9 (34
9 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 8), which relate to
10 signatures for petitions and ballot title; making
11 language gender neutral; establishing requirements
12 for gist of proposition; requiring inclusion of
13 certain statement on petition; requiring Secretary of
14 State to make affirmation about certain language;
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17 signatures; requiring certain notice; providing that
18 signature serves as certain attestation; requiring
19 Secretary of State to establish procedures for
20 removal of certain signatures; requiring certain
21 disclosures; establishing requirements for certain
22 contributions or compensation; requiring report of
23 certain expenditures; requiring publication of
24 certain reports on Secretary of State website;
 modifying requirements for certain signatures;
 updating certain vote requirement; updating statutory
 reference; adding requirement for ballot title;
 updating statutory language; specifying applicability
 of provisions; providing for severability; providing
 for noncodification; providing for codification; and
 declaring an emergency.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

22 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 34 O.S. 2021, Section 3, is
23 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 3. A. Each initiative petition and each referendum
2 petition shall be duplicated for the securing of signatures. The
3 Secretary of State shall design a form, subject to change, for
4 signatures that shall be used by proponents of initiatives or
5 referendums when collecting signatures, and each sheet for
6 signatures shall be attached to a copy of the petition. Each copy
7 of the petition and sheets for signatures is hereinafter termed a
8 pamphlet. On the outer page of each pamphlet shall be printed the
9 word "Warning", and underneath this in ten-point type the words, "It
10 is a felony for anyone to sign an initiative or referendum petition
11 with any name other than his or her own, or knowingly to sign his or
12 her name more than once for the measure, or to sign such petition
13 when he or she is not a legal voter of this state." A ~~simple~~
14 statement of the gist of the proposition shall be printed on the top
15 margin of each signature sheet and shall:

16 1. Explain in basic words, which can be easily found in
17 dictionaries of general usage, the effect of the proposition;

18 2. Not contain any words which have a special meaning for a
19 particular profession or trade not commonly known to the citizens of
20 this state;

21 3. Not contain euphemisms, words, or phrases regarded in
22 popular parlance as code words, or an apparent attempt to deceive
23 voters;

1 4. Not reflect partiality in its composition or contain any
2 argument for or against the measure; and

3 5. Indicate whether a proposed measure will have a fiscal
4 impact on the state and if so, the potential source of funding
5 including, but not limited to, federal funding or legislative
6 appropriation which may require imposition of a new tax, increase of
7 an existing tax, or elimination of existing services.

8 B. A statement shall be printed under the gist of the
9 proposition that provides notice that a copy of the petition and all
10 signatures on such petition are public records subject to the
11 Oklahoma Open Records Act.

12 C. The Secretary of State shall affirm that any gist conforms
13 with the requirements of this section. The Secretary may remove any
14 gist that violates the requirements of this section and direct the
15 proponents of the petition to submit a gist that complies with all
16 the requirements of this section.

17 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 34 O.S. 2021, Section 6, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Section 6. Any person who circulates a sheet of ~~said~~ the
20 petition shall be a registered voter of this state and shall verify
21 the signatures included on any signature sheets he or she circulates
22 by executing his or her affidavit thereon and as a part thereof.
23 The Secretary of State shall cause to be affixed onto the back of
24

1 the signature form an affidavit, subject to change, for the
2 circulator to verify the signatures.
3 State of Oklahoma,)
4) ss.
5 County of _____)
6 I, _____, being first duly sworn, say: That I am at least
7 eighteen (18) years old, a registered voter of this state, and that
8 all signatures on the signature sheet were signed in my presence; I
9 believe that each has stated his or her name, mailing address,
10 county of residence, and date of birth associated with his or her
11 Oklahoma voter registration record, and that each signer is a legal
12 voter of the State of Oklahoma and county of _____ or of the city
13 of _____ (as the case may be). (Signature and complete address of
14 affiant.)

15 Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____ A.D.
16 20__.

17 (Signature and title of the Oklahoma notarial officer before
18 whom oath is made, and his or her complete address, commission
19 number and expiration date, and official Oklahoma notary public
20 seal.

21 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 34 O.S. 2021, Section 8, as
22 amended by Section 1, Chapter 364, O.S.L. 2024 (34 O.S. Supp. 2024,
23 Section 8), is amended to read as follows:
24

1 Section 8. A. When a citizen or citizens desire to circulate a
2 petition initiating a proposition of any nature, whether to become a
3 statute law or an amendment to the Oklahoma Constitution, or for the
4 purpose of invoking a referendum upon legislative enactments, such
5 citizen or citizens shall, when such petition is prepared, and
6 before the same is circulated or signed by electors, file a true and
7 exact copy of same in the office of the Secretary of State and shall
8 at the same time file a separate ballot title, which shall not be
9 part of or printed on the petition.

10 B. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to cause to
11 be published, in at least one newspaper of general circulation in
12 the state, a notice of such filing and the apparent sufficiency or
13 insufficiency of the petition, and shall include notice that any
14 citizen or citizens of the state may file a protest as to the
15 constitutionality of the petition, by a written notice to the
16 Supreme Court and to the proponent or proponents filing the
17 petition. Any such protest ~~must~~ shall be filed within ninety (90)
18 days after publication. A copy of the protest shall be filed with
19 the Secretary of State.

20 C. Upon the filing of a protest to the petition, the Supreme
21 Court shall then fix a day, not less than ten (10) business days
22 thereafter, at which time it will hear testimony and arguments for
23 and against the sufficiency of such petition.
24

1 D. A protest filed by anyone hereunder may, if abandoned by the
2 party filing same, be revived within five (5) business days by any
3 other citizen. After such hearing the Supreme Court shall decide
4 whether such petition is in the form required by the statutes. If
5 the Court is at the time adjourned, the Chief Justice shall
6 immediately convene the same for such hearing. No objection to the
7 sufficiency shall be considered unless it has been made and filed as
8 herein provided.

9 E. Signature-gathering Deadline for Initiative Petitions. When
10 an initiative petition has been filed in the office of the Secretary
11 of State and all appeals, protests, and rehearings have been
12 resolved or the period for such has expired, the Secretary of State
13 shall set the date for circulation of signatures for the petition to
14 begin but in no event shall the date be less than fifteen (15) days
15 nor more than thirty (30) days from the date when all appeals,
16 protests, and rehearings have been resolved or have expired.
17 Notification shall be sent to the proponents specifying the date on
18 which circulation of the petition shall begin and that the
19 signatures are due within ninety (90) days of the date set. Any
20 person who circulates the petition to collect signatures shall be a
21 registered voter in this state and shall display a conspicuous
22 notice in any location where the person is collecting signatures
23 whether the person is being paid to circulate the petition and if
24 so, by what person or entity. Each elector shall sign his or her

1 name and legibly print his or her name, birth date ~~and~~, address, and
2 county of residence associated with his or her Oklahoma voter
3 registration record. An elector's signature shall serve as an
4 attestation that the elector read the gist in full or that the
5 person who solicited the elector's signature read the gist in full
6 to the elector. The Secretary of State shall establish procedures
7 by which an elector can request to have his or her signature removed
8 from the petition. Any petition not filed in accordance with this
9 provision shall not be considered. The proponents of an initiative
10 petition, any time before the final submission of signatures, may
11 withdraw the initiative petition upon written notification to the
12 Secretary of State.

13 F. Signature-gathering Deadline for Referendum Petitions. All
14 signed signatures supporting a referendum petition shall be filed
15 with the Secretary of State not later than ninety (90) days after
16 the adjournment of the legislative session in which the measure_T
17 which is the subject of the referendum petition_T was enacted.

18 G. 1. Any person who circulates the petition to collect
19 signatures shall disclose to the Secretary of State any employer or
20 entity that is compensating the person for the circulation of the
21 petition. No compensation shall be based on number of signatures
22 collected, number of signature sheets submitted, or any other
23 similar incentives. No person or entity who does not reside or do
24 business in this state shall contribute to or compensate a person

1 for circulation of a petition. Any person or entity that employs a
2 person for circulation of a petition shall follow federal labor
3 standards; and

4 2. Any person or entity expending funds on the circulation of a
5 petition shall submit a weekly report to the Secretary of State that
6 details such expenditures and that attests that all donated funds
7 were received from sources in this state. The Secretary of State
8 shall publish such reports on the Secretary's website until the vote
9 on the measure has occurred.

10 H. 1. The total number of signatures collected to meet the
11 requirements for an initiative petition or referendum petition,
12 amending the Oklahoma Statutes, from a single county shall not
13 exceed eleven and five-tenths percent (11.5%) of the number of votes
14 cast in that county during the most recent statewide general
15 election for Governor. The State Election Board shall determine the
16 number of votes cast in each county; and

17 2. The total number of signatures collected to meet the
18 requirements for an initiative petition or referendum petition,
19 amending the Oklahoma Constitution, from a single county shall not
20 exceed twenty and eight-tenths percent (20.8%) of the number of
21 votes cast in that county during the most recent statewide general
22 election for Governor. The State Election Board shall determine the
23 number of votes cast in each county.

1 I. The proponents of a referendum or an initiative petition may
2 terminate the circulation period any time during the ninety-day
3 circulation period by certifying to the Secretary of State that:

4 1. All signed petitions have already been filed with the
5 Secretary of State;

6 2. No more petitions are in circulation; and

7 3. The proponents will not circulate any more petitions.

8 If the Secretary of State receives such a certification from the
9 proponents, the Secretary of State shall begin the counting and
10 review process.

11 ~~H.~~ J. When the signed copies of a petition pamphlet are timely
12 filed, the Secretary of State shall file a copy of the proponent's
13 ballot title with the Attorney General and, after conducting a count
14 and review of the filed, signed petition pamphlets, the Secretary of
15 State shall certify to the Supreme Court of the state:

16 1. The total number of signatures counted pursuant to
17 procedures set forth in this title; and

18 2. The total number of votes cast for the ~~state~~ office
19 ~~receiving the highest number of votes cast~~ Governor at the last
20 general election.

21 The Supreme Court shall make the determination of the numerical
22 sufficiency or insufficiency of the signatures counted and reviewed
23 by the Secretary of State.

1 ~~F.~~ K. Upon order of the Supreme Court it shall be the duty of
2 the Secretary of State to forthwith cause to be published, in at
3 least one newspaper of general circulation in the state, a notice of
4 the filing of the signed petitions and the apparent sufficiency or
5 insufficiency thereof, and shall also publish the text of the ballot
6 title as reviewed and approved or, if applicable, as rewritten by
7 the Attorney General pursuant to the provisions of subsection D of
8 Section 9 of this title and notice that any citizen or citizens of
9 the state may file an objection to the count made by the Secretary
10 of State, by a written notice to the Supreme Court and to the
11 proponent or proponents filing the petition. Any such objection
12 ~~must~~ shall be filed within ninety (90) days after publication and
13 ~~must~~ shall relate only to the validity or number of the signatures
14 or a challenge to the ballot title. A copy of the objection to the
15 count or ballot title shall be filed with the Supreme Court, the
16 Attorney General, and the Secretary of State.

17 ~~J.~~ L. Upon appeal and if ordered or directed by the Supreme
18 Court, the Secretary of State shall deliver the bound volumes of
19 signatures to the Supreme Court.

20 ~~K.~~ M. Upon the filing of an objection to the signature count or
21 ballot title, the Supreme Court shall resolve the objection with
22 dispatch. The Supreme Court shall adopt rules to govern proceedings
23 to apply to the challenge of a measure on the grounds that the
24 proponents failed to gather sufficient signatures.

1 ~~L.~~ N. If in the opinion of the Supreme Court, any objection to
2 the count or protest to the petition is frivolous, the Court may
3 impose appropriate sanctions, including an award of costs and
4 ~~attorneys~~ attorney fees to either party as the Court deems
5 equitable.

6 ~~M.~~ O. Whenever reference is made in this act to the Supreme
7 Court, such reference shall include the members of the Supreme
8 Court, or any officer constitutionally designated to perform the
9 duties herein prescribed.

10 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 34 O.S. 2021, Section 9, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 Section 9. A. When a referendum is ordered by petition of the
13 people against any measure passed by the Legislature or when any
14 measure is proposed by initiative petition, whether as an amendment
15 to the Oklahoma Constitution or as a statute, it shall be the duty
16 of the parties submitting the measure to prepare and file one copy
17 of the measure with the Secretary of State and one copy with the
18 Attorney General.

19 B. The parties submitting the measure shall also submit a
20 suggested ballot title to the Secretary of State which shall be
21 filed on a separate sheet of paper and shall not be part of or
22 printed on the petition. The suggested ballot title:

23 1. Shall not exceed two hundred words, or three hundred words
24 if the proposed measure will have a fiscal impact on the state;

1 2. Shall explain in basic words, which can be easily found in
2 dictionaries of general usage, the effect of the proposition;

3 3. Shall not contain any words which have a special meaning for
4 a particular profession or trade not commonly known to the citizens
5 of this state;

6 4. Shall not contain euphemisms, words, or phrases regarded in
7 popular parlance as code words, or an apparent attempt to deceive
8 voters;

9 5. Shall not reflect partiality in its composition or contain
10 any argument for or against the measure;

11 ~~5.~~ 6. Shall contain language which clearly states that a "yes"
12 vote is a vote in favor of the proposition and a "no" vote is a vote
13 against the proposition;

14 ~~6.~~ 7. Shall not contain language whereby a "yes" vote is, in
15 fact, a vote against the proposition and a "no" vote is, in fact, a
16 vote in favor of the proposition; and

17 ~~7.~~ 8. Shall indicate if a proposed measure will have a fiscal
18 impact on the state and if so, the potential source of funding
19 including, but not limited to, federal funding or legislative
20 appropriation which may require imposition of a new tax, increase of
21 an existing tax, or elimination of existing services.

22 C. When a measure is proposed as a constitutional amendment by
23 the Legislature or when the Legislature proposes a statute
24 conditioned upon approval by the people:

1 1. After final passage of a measure, the Secretary of State
2 shall submit the proposed ballot title to the Attorney General for
3 review as to legal correctness. Within five (5) business days after
4 receipt from the Secretary of State, the Attorney General shall, in
5 writing, notify the Secretary of State, the President Pro Tempore of
6 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the
7 principal authors of the bill whether or not the proposed ballot
8 title complies with applicable laws. The Attorney General shall
9 state with specificity any and all defects found and, if necessary,
10 within ten (10) business days of determining that the proposed
11 ballot title is defective, prepare a preliminary ballot title which
12 complies with the law and furnish a copy of such ballot title to the
13 Secretary of State, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the
14 Speaker of the House of Representatives and the principal authors of
15 the bill. The Attorney General may consider any comments made by
16 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate or the Speaker of the House
17 of Representatives submitted within five (5) business days of their
18 being furnished a copy of the preliminary ballot title. The
19 Attorney General shall respond in writing to the comments and shall
20 file a final ballot title with the Secretary of State no later than
21 fifteen (15) business days after furnishing the preliminary ballot
22 title; and

23 2. After receipt of the measure and the official ballot title,
24 as certified by the Attorney General, the Secretary of State shall

1 within five (5) days transmit to the Secretary of the State Election
2 Board an attested copy of the measure, including the official ballot
3 title.

4 D. The following procedure shall apply to ballot titles of
5 referendums ordered by a petition of the people or any measure
6 proposed by an initiative petition:

7 1. After the filing of the signed referendum petitions or the
8 signed initiative petitions, the Secretary of State shall submit the
9 proposed separate ballot title to the Attorney General for review as
10 to legal correctness. Within five (5) business days after the
11 receipt of the ballot title, the Attorney General shall, in writing,
12 notify the Secretary of State whether or not the proposed ballot
13 title complies with applicable laws. The Attorney General shall
14 state with specificity any and all defects found and, if necessary,
15 within ten (10) business days of determining that the proposed
16 ballot title is defective, prepare and file a ballot title which
17 complies with the law; and

18 2. Within ten (10) business days after completion of the review
19 and, if necessary, the filing of a ballot title in compliance with
20 law, by the Attorney General, the Secretary of State shall, if no
21 appeal is filed, transmit to the Secretary of the State Election
22 Board an attested copy of the measure, including the official ballot
23 title, and a certification that the requirements of this section
24 have been met. If an appeal is taken from such ballot title within

1 the time specified in Section 10 of this title, then the Secretary
2 of State shall certify to the Secretary of the State Election Board
3 the ballot title which is finally approved by the Supreme Court.

4 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
5 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 28 of Title 34, unless there is
6 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

7 The provisions of this act shall be severable and if any
8 section, subsection, sentence, or clause of this act is for any
9 reason held to be invalid such holding shall not affect the validity
10 of the remaining portions thereof.

11 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
12 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

13 Upon the effective date of this act, the provisions shall be
14 applicable to all initiative petitions for which the Secretary of
15 State has not previously set the date for circulation of the
16 petition for signatures pursuant to subsection E of Section 8 of
17 Title 34 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

18 SECTION 7. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
19 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
20 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
21 be in full force from and after its passage and approval."
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1 Passed the House of Representatives the 7th day of May, 2025.

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4 Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives
5

6 Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2025.

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9 Presiding Officer of the Senate
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1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 1027

By: Bullard, Paxton, Jett,
McIntosh, Deevers,
Grellner, Hines, Hamilton,
Prieto, Alvord, and
Gillespie of the Senate

and

Hilbert of the House

8 An Act relating to initiative and referendum;
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11 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 8), which relate to
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18 qualification for persons circulating petition for
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20 signature serves as certain attestation; requiring
Secretary of State to establish procedures for
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reference; adding requirement for ballot title;
updating statutory language; specifying applicability
of provisions; providing for noncodification; and
declaring an emergency.

21
22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

23 SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 34 O.S. 2021, Section 3, is
24 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 3. A. Each initiative petition and each referendum
2 petition shall be duplicated for the securing of signatures. The
3 Secretary of State shall design a form, subject to change, for
4 signatures that shall be used by proponents of initiatives or
5 referendums when collecting signatures, and each sheet for
6 signatures shall be attached to a copy of the petition. Each copy
7 of the petition and sheets for signatures is hereinafter termed a
8 pamphlet. On the outer page of each pamphlet shall be printed the
9 word "Warning", and underneath this in ten-point type the words, "It
10 is a felony for anyone to sign an initiative or referendum petition
11 with any name other than his or her own, or knowingly to sign his or
12 her name more than once for the measure, or to sign such petition
13 when he or she is not a legal voter of this state." A ~~simple~~
14 statement of the gist of the proposition shall be printed on the top
15 margin of each signature sheet and shall:

16 1. Explain in basic words, which can be easily found in
17 dictionaries of general usage, the effect of the proposition;

18 2. Not contain any words which have a special meaning for a
19 particular profession or trade not commonly known to the citizens of
20 this state;

21 3. Not contain euphemisms, words, or phrases regarded in
22 popular parlance as code words, or an apparent attempt to deceive
23 voters;

1 4. Not reflect partiality in its composition or contain any
2 argument for or against the measure; and

3 5. Indicate whether a proposed measure will have a fiscal
4 impact on the state and if so, the potential source of funding
5 including, but not limited to, federal funding or legislative
6 appropriation which may require imposition of a new tax, increase of
7 an existing tax, or elimination of existing services.

8 B. A statement shall be printed under the gist of the
9 proposition that provides notice that a copy of the petition and all
10 signatures on such petition are public records subject to the
11 Oklahoma Open Records Act.

12 C. The Secretary of State shall affirm that any gist conforms
13 with the requirements of this section. The Secretary may remove any
14 gist that violates the requirements of this section.

15 SECTION 9. AMENDATORY 34 O.S. 2021, Section 6, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 Section 6. Any person who circulates a sheet of ~~said~~ the
18 petition shall be a qualified elector of this state and shall verify
19 the signatures included on any signature sheets he or she circulates
20 by executing his or her affidavit thereon and as a part thereof.
21 The Secretary of State shall cause to be affixed onto the back of
22 the signature form an affidavit, subject to change, for the
23 circulator to verify the signatures.

24 State of Oklahoma,)

1) ss.
2 County of _____)
3 I, _____, being first duly sworn, say: That I am at least
4 eighteen (18) years old, a qualified elector of this state, and that
5 all signatures on the signature sheet were signed in my presence; I
6 believe that each has stated his or her name, mailing address,
7 county of residence, and date of birth associated with his or her
8 Oklahoma voter registration record, and that each signer is a legal
9 voter of the State of Oklahoma and county of _____ or of the city
10 of _____ (as the case may be). (Signature and complete address of
11 affiant.)

12 Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____ A.D.
13 20__.

14 (Signature and title of the Oklahoma notarial officer before
15 whom oath is made, and his or her complete address, commission
16 number and expiration date, and official Oklahoma notary public
17 seal.)

18 SECTION 10. AMENDATORY 34 O.S. 2021, Section 8, as
19 amended by Section 1, Chapter 364, O.S.L. 2024 (34 O.S. Supp. 2024,
20 Section 8), is amended to read as follows:

21 Section 8. A. When a citizen or citizens desire to circulate a
22 petition initiating a proposition of any nature, whether to become a
23 statute law or an amendment to the Oklahoma Constitution, or for the
24 purpose of invoking a referendum upon legislative enactments, such

1 citizen or citizens shall, when such petition is prepared, and
2 before the same is circulated or signed by electors, file a true and
3 exact copy of same in the office of the Secretary of State and shall
4 at the same time file a separate ballot title, which shall not be
5 part of or printed on the petition.

6 B. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to cause to
7 be published, in at least one newspaper of general circulation in
8 the state, a notice of such filing and the apparent sufficiency or
9 insufficiency of the petition, and shall include notice that any
10 citizen or citizens of the state may file a protest as to the
11 constitutionality of the petition, by a written notice to the
12 Supreme Court and to the proponent or proponents filing the
13 petition. Any such protest ~~must~~ shall be filed within ninety (90)
14 days after publication. A copy of the protest shall be filed with
15 the Secretary of State.

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17 Court shall then fix a day, not less than ten (10) business days
18 thereafter, at which time it will hear testimony and arguments for
19 and against the sufficiency of such petition.

20 D. A protest filed by anyone hereunder may, if abandoned by the
21 party filing same, be revived within five (5) business days by any
22 other citizen. After such hearing the Supreme Court shall decide
23 whether such petition is in the form required by the statutes. If
24 the Court is at the time adjourned, the Chief Justice shall

1 immediately convene the same for such hearing. No objection to the
2 sufficiency shall be considered unless it has been made and filed as
3 herein provided.

4 E. Signature-gathering Deadline for Initiative Petitions. When
5 an initiative petition has been filed in the office of the Secretary
6 of State and all appeals, protests, and rehearings have been
7 resolved or the period for such has expired, the Secretary of State
8 shall set the date for circulation of signatures for the petition to
9 begin but in no event shall the date be less than fifteen (15) days
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23 attestation that the elector read the gist in full or that the
24 person who solicited the elector's signature read the gist in full

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2 by which an elector can request to have his or her signature removed
3 from the petition. Any petition not filed in accordance with this
4 provision shall not be considered. The proponents of an initiative
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6 withdraw the initiative petition upon written notification to the
7 Secretary of State.

8 F. Signature-gathering Deadline for Referendum Petitions. All
9 signed signatures supporting a referendum petition shall be filed
10 with the Secretary of State not later than ninety (90) days after
11 the adjournment of the legislative session in which the measure₇
12 which is the subject of the referendum petition₇ was enacted.

13 G. 1. Any person who circulates the petition to collect
14 signatures shall disclose to the Secretary of State any employer or
15 entity that is compensating the person for the circulation of the
16 petition. No compensation shall be based on number of signatures
17 collected or any other incentives. No person or entity who does not
18 reside or do business in this state shall contribute to or
19 compensate a person for circulation of a petition. Any person or
20 entity that employs a person for circulation of a petition shall
21 follow federal labor standards.

22 2. Any person or entity expending funds on the circulation of a
23 petition shall submit a report to the Secretary of State that
24 details such expenditures and that attests that all donated funds

1 were received from sources in this state. The Secretary of State
2 shall publish such reports on the Secretary's website until the vote
3 on the measure has occurred.

4 H. 1. No more than ten percent (10%) of the total number of
5 signatures required for an initiative petition or referendum
6 petition shall be from legal electors of a county with a population
7 of four hundred thousand (400,000) or more according to the latest
8 Federal Decennial Census.

9 2. No more than four percent (4%) of the total number of
10 signatures required for an initiative petition or referendum
11 petition shall be from legal electors of a county with a population
12 less than four hundred thousand (400,000) according to the latest
13 Federal Decennial Census.

14 I. The proponents of a referendum or an initiative petition may
15 terminate the circulation period any time during the ninety-day
16 circulation period by certifying to the Secretary of State that:

17 1. All signed petitions have already been filed with the
18 Secretary of State;

19 2. No more petitions are in circulation; and

20 3. The proponents will not circulate any more petitions.

21 If the Secretary of State receives such a certification from the
22 proponents, the Secretary of State shall begin the counting and
23 review process.
24

1 ~~H.~~ J. When the signed copies of a petition pamphlet are timely
2 filed, the Secretary of State shall file a copy of the proponent's
3 ballot title with the Attorney General and, after conducting a count
4 and review of the filed, signed petition pamphlets, the Secretary of
5 State shall certify to the Supreme Court of the state:

6 1. The total number of signatures counted pursuant to
7 procedures set forth in this title; and

8 2. The total number of votes cast for the ~~state~~ office
9 ~~receiving the highest number of votes cast~~ Governor at the last
10 general election.

11 The Supreme Court shall make the determination of the numerical
12 sufficiency or insufficiency of the signatures counted and reviewed
13 by the Secretary of State.

14 ~~I.~~ K. Upon order of the Supreme Court it shall be the duty of
15 the Secretary of State to forthwith cause to be published, in at
16 least one newspaper of general circulation in the state, a notice of
17 the filing of the signed petitions and the apparent sufficiency or
18 insufficiency thereof, and shall also publish the text of the ballot
19 title as reviewed and approved or, if applicable, as rewritten by
20 the Attorney General pursuant to the provisions of subsection D of
21 Section 9 of this title and notice that any citizen or citizens of
22 the state may file an objection to the count made by the Secretary
23 of State, by a written notice to the Supreme Court and to the
24 proponent or proponents filing the petition. Any such objection

1 ~~must~~ shall be filed within ninety (90) days after publication and
2 ~~must~~ shall relate only to the validity or number of the signatures
3 or a challenge to the ballot title. A copy of the objection to the
4 count or ballot title shall be filed with the Supreme Court, the
5 Attorney General, and the Secretary of State.

6 ~~J.~~ L. Upon appeal and if ordered or directed by the Supreme
7 Court, the Secretary of State shall deliver the bound volumes of
8 signatures to the Supreme Court.

9 ~~K.~~ M. Upon the filing of an objection to the signature count or
10 ballot title, the Supreme Court shall resolve the objection with
11 dispatch. The Supreme Court shall adopt rules to govern proceedings
12 to apply to the challenge of a measure on the grounds that the
13 proponents failed to gather sufficient signatures.

14 ~~L.~~ N. If in the opinion of the Supreme Court, any objection to
15 the count or protest to the petition is frivolous, the Court may
16 impose appropriate sanctions, including an award of costs and
17 ~~attorneys~~ attorney fees to either party as the Court deems
18 equitable.

19 ~~M.~~ O. Whenever reference is made in this act to the Supreme
20 Court, such reference shall include the members of the Supreme
21 Court, or any officer constitutionally designated to perform the
22 duties herein prescribed.

23 SECTION 11. AMENDATORY 34 O.S. 2021, Section 9, is
24 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 9. A. When a referendum is ordered by petition of the
2 people against any measure passed by the Legislature or when any
3 measure is proposed by initiative petition, whether as an amendment
4 to the Oklahoma Constitution or as a statute, it shall be the duty
5 of the parties submitting the measure to prepare and file one copy
6 of the measure with the Secretary of State and one copy with the
7 Attorney General.

8 B. The parties submitting the measure shall also submit a
9 suggested ballot title to the Secretary of State which shall be
10 filed on a separate sheet of paper and shall not be part of or
11 printed on the petition. The suggested ballot title:

12 1. Shall not exceed two hundred words, or three hundred words
13 if the proposed measure will have a fiscal impact on the state;

14 2. Shall explain in basic words, which can be easily found in
15 dictionaries of general usage, the effect of the proposition;

16 3. Shall not contain any words which have a special meaning for
17 a particular profession or trade not commonly known to the citizens
18 of this state;

19 4. Shall not contain euphemisms, words, or phrases regarded in
20 popular parlance as code words, or an apparent attempt to deceive
21 voters;

22 5. Shall not reflect partiality in its composition or contain
23 any argument for or against the measure;

1 ~~5.~~ 6. Shall contain language which clearly states that a "yes"
2 vote is a vote in favor of the proposition and a "no" vote is a vote
3 against the proposition;

4 ~~6.~~ 7. Shall not contain language whereby a "yes" vote is, in
5 fact, a vote against the proposition and a "no" vote is, in fact, a
6 vote in favor of the proposition; and

7 ~~7.~~ 8. Shall indicate if a proposed measure will have a fiscal
8 impact on the state and if so, the potential source of funding
9 including, but not limited to, federal funding or legislative
10 appropriation which may require imposition of a new tax, increase of
11 an existing tax, or elimination of existing services.

12 C. When a measure is proposed as a constitutional amendment by
13 the Legislature or when the Legislature proposes a statute
14 conditioned upon approval by the people:

15 1. After final passage of a measure, the Secretary of State
16 shall submit the proposed ballot title to the Attorney General for
17 review as to legal correctness. Within five (5) business days after
18 receipt from the Secretary of State, the Attorney General shall, in
19 writing, notify the Secretary of State, the President Pro Tempore of
20 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the
21 principal authors of the bill whether or not the proposed ballot
22 title complies with applicable laws. The Attorney General shall
23 state with specificity any and all defects found and, if necessary,
24 within ten (10) business days of determining that the proposed

1 ballot title is defective, prepare a preliminary ballot title which
2 complies with the law and furnish a copy of such ballot title to the
3 Secretary of State, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the
4 Speaker of the House of Representatives and the principal authors of
5 the bill. The Attorney General may consider any comments made by
6 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate or the Speaker of the House
7 of Representatives submitted within five (5) business days of their
8 being furnished a copy of the preliminary ballot title. The
9 Attorney General shall respond in writing to the comments and shall
10 file a final ballot title with the Secretary of State no later than
11 fifteen (15) business days after furnishing the preliminary ballot
12 title; and

13 2. After receipt of the measure and the official ballot title,
14 as certified by the Attorney General, the Secretary of State shall
15 within five (5) days transmit to the Secretary of the State Election
16 Board an attested copy of the measure, including the official ballot
17 title.

18 D. The following procedure shall apply to ballot titles of
19 referendums ordered by a petition of the people or any measure
20 proposed by an initiative petition:

21 1. After the filing of the signed referendum petitions or the
22 signed initiative petitions, the Secretary of State shall submit the
23 proposed separate ballot title to the Attorney General for review as
24 to legal correctness. Within five (5) business days after the

1 receipt of the ballot title, the Attorney General shall, in writing,
2 notify the Secretary of State whether or not the proposed ballot
3 title complies with applicable laws. The Attorney General shall
4 state with specificity any and all defects found and, if necessary,
5 within ten (10) business days of determining that the proposed
6 ballot title is defective, prepare and file a ballot title which
7 complies with the law; and

8 2. Within ten (10) business days after completion of the review
9 and, if necessary, the filing of a ballot title in compliance with
10 law, by the Attorney General, the Secretary of State shall, if no
11 appeal is filed, transmit to the Secretary of the State Election
12 Board an attested copy of the measure, including the official ballot
13 title, and a certification that the requirements of this section
14 have been met. If an appeal is taken from such ballot title within
15 the time specified in Section 10 of this title, then the Secretary
16 of State shall certify to the Secretary of the State Election Board
17 the ballot title which is finally approved by the Supreme Court.

18 SECTION 12. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
19 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

20 Upon the effective date of this act, the provisions shall be
21 applicable to all initiative petitions for which the Secretary of
22 State has not previously set the date for circulation of the
23 petition for signatures pursuant to subsection E of Section 8 of
24 Title 34 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 13. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 18th day of March, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
2025.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives