

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 2168

By: Bullard

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to initiative petitions; amending 34 O.S. 2021, Sections 6, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 275, O.S.L. 2025, and 8, as last amended by Section 3, Chapter 275, O.S.L. 2025 (34 O.S. Supp. 2025, Sections 6 and 8), which relate to signatures; modifying requirements for persons gathering signatures; updating statutory language; updating statutory reference; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 34 O.S. 2021, Section 6, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 275, O.S.L. 2025 (34 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 6), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6. Any person who circulates a ~~sheet of the~~ petition shall be a ~~registered voter~~ bona fide resident of this state for not less than one (1) year and shall verify the signatures included on any signature sheets he or she circulates by executing his or her affidavit thereon and as a part thereof. The Secretary of State shall cause to be affixed onto the back of the signature form an affidavit, subject to change, for the circulator to verify the signatures.

State of Oklahoma,)
) ss.

I, _____, being first duly sworn, say: That I am at least eighteen (18) years old, a ~~registered voter~~ bona fide resident of this state for not less than one (1) year, and that all signatures on the signature sheet were signed in my presence; I believe that each has stated his or her name, mailing address, county of residence, and date of birth associated with his or her Oklahoma voter registration record, and that each signer is a legal voter of the State of Oklahoma and county of _____ or of the city of _____ (as the case may be). (Signature and complete address of affiant.)

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

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 34 O.S. 2021, Section 8, as last amended by Section 3, Chapter 275, O.S.L. 2025 (34 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 8) is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

1 the Court is at the time adjourned, the Chief Justice shall
2 immediately convene the same for such hearing. No objection to the
3 sufficiency shall be considered unless it has been made and filed as
4 herein provided.

5 E. Signature-gathering Deadline for Initiative Petitions. When
6 an initiative petition has been filed in the office of the Secretary
7 of State and all appeals, protests, and rehearings have been
8 resolved or the period for such has expired, the Secretary of State
9 shall set the date for circulation of signatures for the petition to
10 begin but in no event shall the date be less than fifteen (15) days
11 nor more than thirty (30) days from the date when all appeals,
12 protests, and rehearings have been resolved or have expired.

13 Notification shall be sent to the proponent or proponents specifying
14 the date on which circulation of the petition shall begin and that
15 the signatures are due within ninety (90) days of the date set. Any
16 person who circulates the petition to collect signatures shall be a
17 ~~registered voter in~~ bona fide resident of this state for not less
18 than one (1) year and shall display a conspicuous notice in any
19 location where the person is collecting signatures whether the
20 person is being paid to circulate the petition and if so, by what
21 person or entity. Each elector shall sign his or her name and
22 legibly print his or her name, birth date, address, and county of
23 residence associated with his or her Oklahoma voter registration
24 record. An elector's signature shall serve as an attestation that

1 the elector read the gist in full or that the person who solicited
2 the elector's signature read the gist in full to the elector. The
3 Secretary of State shall establish procedures by which an elector
4 can request to have his or her signature removed from the petition.
5 Any petition not filed in accordance with this provision shall not
6 be considered. The proponent or proponents of an initiative
7 petition, any time before the final submission of signatures, may
8 withdraw the initiative petition upon written notification to the
9 Secretary of State.

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

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

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

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

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

21 I. The proponent or proponents of a referendum or an initiative
22 petition may terminate the circulation period any time during the
23 ninety-day circulation period by certifying to the Secretary of
24 State that:

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

3 2. No more petitions are in circulation; and

4 3. The proponent or proponents will not circulate any more
5 petitions.

6 If the Secretary of State receives such a certification from the
7 proponent or proponents, the Secretary of State shall begin the
8 counting and review process.

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

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

16 2. The total number of votes cast for ~~the office of~~ Governor at
17 the last general election.

18 The Supreme Court shall make the determination of the numerical
19 sufficiency or insufficiency of the signatures counted and reviewed
20 by the Secretary of State.

21 K. Upon order of the Supreme Court, it shall be the duty of the
22 Secretary of State to ~~forthwith~~ cause to be published, in at least
23 one newspaper of general circulation in the state, a notice of the
24 filing of the signed petitions and the apparent sufficiency or
25

1 insufficiency thereof, and ~~shall~~ to also publish the text of the
2 ballot title as reviewed and approved or, if applicable, as
3 rewritten by the Attorney General pursuant to the provisions of
4 subsection D of Section 9 of this title and notice that any citizen
5 or citizens of the state may file an objection to the count made by
6 the Secretary of State, by a written notice to the Supreme Court and
7 to the proponent or proponents filing the petition. Any such
8 objection shall be filed within ninety (90) days after publication
9 and shall relate only to the validity or number of the signatures or
10 a challenge to the ballot title. A copy of the objection to the
11 count or ballot title shall be filed with the Supreme Court, the
12 Attorney General, and the Secretary of State.

13 L. Upon appeal and if ordered or directed by the Supreme Court,
14 the Secretary of State shall deliver the bound volumes of signatures
15 to the Supreme Court.

16 M. Upon the filing of an objection to the signature count or
17 ballot title, the Supreme Court shall resolve the objection with
18 dispatch. The Supreme Court shall adopt rules to govern proceedings
19 to apply to the challenge of a measure on the grounds that the
20 proponent or proponents failed to gather sufficient signatures.

21 N. If in the opinion of the Supreme Court, any objection to the
22 count or protest to the petition is frivolous, the Court may impose
23 appropriate sanctions, including an award of costs and attorney fees
24 to either party as the Court deems equitable.

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

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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