



REFERENDUM PROCESS INFORMATION

Governance

Wyoming Constitution Article 3 Section 52 and Wyoming Statutes 22-24-101 through 22-24-125

Requirements

The application for referendum must be filed with the Secretary of State. A fee of \$500 must accompany the application along with three qualified sponsors, the act to be referred, and the names of at least 100 registered voters who will also act as sponsors.

Restrictions

The referendum shall not be applied to dedications of revenue, to appropriations, to local or special legislation, or to laws necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety.

Committee

There must be a committee of three people who will be the main sponsors of the referendum. These committee members will be the contact people for the referendum, may be served with legal notices and will be responsible for statutory fees and costs.

Certification for Circulation

After the application is filed, the Secretary of State will hold a conference with the sponsors. If the application meets all constitutional and statutory requirements, the Secretary of State will certify the application. If certification is denied, the Secretary of State will notify the committee in writing of the grounds for denial. Any person aggrieved by the determination may bring action to have the decision reviewed by filing application in Laramie County District Court within 30 days of the notification.

Petitions

The Secretary of State will develop the petition form which is the only form that may be circulated. The Secretary of State shall prepare petitions, at the sponsor's expense, in a number reasonably calculated to allow full circulation throughout the state.

Circulation

Committee sponsors have 90 days after the adjournment of the legislative session in which the act was passed (W.S. 22-24-115.) Petitions are to be circulated throughout the state only by a sponsor/circulator and only in person. The committee may designate additional circulators by giving advance written notice to the Secretary of State of those names and addresses. Circulators may be paid, but shall not be compensated based upon the number of signatures gathered; nor, shall a circulator pay or offer to pay any compensation to another person for that person's signature. If paid circulators are used, a statement to that effect shall be printed on each petition page so that it is visible to petition signers.

Any person who signs a name other than his own or who knowingly signs his name more than once or who signs knowing that he is not a qualified registered voter or who makes a false affidavit or verification, upon conviction can be fined up to \$1000 or imprisoned up to one year, or both.

Sponsors/circulators are required to submit an affidavit upon submission of each petition circulated. The committee sponsors must submit registered voter signatures representing fifteen percent (15%) of those who voted in the preceding general election and fifteen percent (15%) of those residing in at least two-thirds (16) of Wyoming counties. Failure of a petition to qualify as of the filing date voids the future use of all signatures.

Certification for the Ballot

After receipt of the petition, the Secretary of State shall review the petition and notify the committee within 60 days as to whether or not enough valid signatures were obtained.

If the petition is determined to be properly filed, the referendum is placed on the ballot of the first general election held more than 180 days after adjournment of the legislative session at which the act was passed.

Enactment

The measure is enacted if it receives approval of more than 50% of those voting in the general election. Election results are certified by the State Canvassing Board. An act rejected by referendum is void 30 days after certification of the election results.