

Maine also requires ten percent. This is a process we could have followed. New Mexico requires ten percent, and also requires that in each of three counties of the State the referendum must contain the signatures of ten percent of those who voted in the preceding general election. That would really put it out, if that was what our purpose was.

There are additionally two states which require by statute at least ten percent.

Arkansas requires six percent. However, it requires that in at least fifteen of the counties of the State there must be petitions with signatures of at least three percent of those who voted for governor. This would perhaps not put it out of reach, but would make it far more difficult than we have sought to do.

Ohio requires six percent, but it also requires that petitions from at least half of the counties have at least three percent. This would have made it far more difficult.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thirty seconds.

DELEGATE CHABOT: I want to add one other item. Ever since the referendum article was included in the constitution there has been a requirement that as to local legislation you must have signatures of at least ten percent of the qualified voters of the county or city in order to get the item on the ballot. I have been unable to obtain extensive figures with regard to such legislation, but in the last three elections, 1962, 1964 and 1966 we have had a total of 26 such referenda which meet all the requirements of the ten percent. We have not sought to put it out of reach. We have not put it out of reach.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Schloeder, a recomputation of your time reveals three minutes.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: Thank you very much for the recomputation, but we will need no more time.

Thank you.

DELEGATE HICKMAN: Would it be proper to ask a question at this time?

THE CHAIRMAN: We now go to the uncontrolled time.

DELEGATE HICKMAN: I would like to direct an inquiry either to Delegate Chabot or Delegate Schloeder.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will Delegate Chabot yield?

DELEGATE CHABOT: Certainly.

DELEGATE HICKMAN: Under your proposal it would take many more signatures, which would more or less preclude getting one-half at the end of 30 days, which would mean that the legislation would not be suspended, which would mean that it would be possible for a law to become effective before the end of the 90 days, perhaps even a month before the end of the 90 days.

My question is, would it be possible to suspend an enacted law?

DELEGATE CHABOT: If the Constitution provides that it would be suspended, then it would be suspended.

DELEGATE HICKMAN: According to this proposal you have to have 50 percent of the votes in at the end of the first 30 days for it to be suspended. My question is if you do not have 50 percent in at the end of 30 days, the first 30 days, the law has not been suspended, and you may not get your 50 percent of the votes until the end of 90 days, and the law may have been in effect a month by the time you get those signatures. What would be the effect on the law; could you suspend a law which has been enacted?

DELEGATE CHABOT: Under those circumstances this proposal would not permit suspension of such a law. That is true of the Committee's report, and that is true with regard to emergency legislation or legislation termed emergency legislation at the present time. It would create no new problems. It would simply carry forward the same sort of provisions that we now have with regard to emergency legislation.

THE CHAIRMAN: There is no further allocation of time under the controlled time. We will go to the uncontrolled time.

For what purpose does Delegate Gleason rise?

DELEGATE GLEASON: I want to speak to the amendment, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair recognizes Delegate Gleason under uncontrolled time, three minutes per delegate.

DELEGATE GLEASON: Mr. Chairman, fellow delegates: it is always amusing in this chamber to see the shifting sands of logic and rationale emanating from the same spokesmen. Several days ago some of us in this chamber were urging that the General Assembly should have the ability