

100 voters as its sponsor, and certified by the secretary of state. The secretary of state prepares the petition to be circulated by the sponsors. This is done to prevent the expense of circulating a petition which is unconstitutional or improper in form.

The petition is required to indicate, on its face, what the proposal is. This is done in several ways. Alaska provides that the secretary of state prepare a summary of the proposal to be contained in the petition when circulated. In some states, the entire proposal must be printed on the petition; and in others, the proposal title, prepared by the state's attorney general, is considered sufficient.

A number of states have provisions pertaining to who may solicit signatures for the petition. Massachusetts restricts solicitation in that the solicitor cannot receive compensation; yet the Arkansas and North Dakota constitutions prohibit their legislatures from passing such a restriction. Three other states with provisions relating to who procures signatures merely require that the person be a qualified voter. Those qualified to sign the petition, although designated in various ways, are generally the qualified or registered voters of the unit to which the question is being submitted. Five states require that the signer's address be given in some form, and four require the date of the signing. Also, five states require that signatures be verified by an affidavit submitted with the petition when it is filed.

States' requirements concerning numbers of signatures differ widely. Some differences in the percentage of signatures required appear to be related to the size of the state, its population, and the density of the population. The

method of computing the requisite number of signatures also varies but it is most frequently calculated from the number of votes cast for governor in the last gubernatorial election. In some cases the vote for an office other than governor, or the entire vote cast at that election, is used as the base.

Constitutions of some states require examination of the sufficiency of the signatures. If there is an insufficient number of signatures, extra time, ranging from 10 days to 40 days, is allowed to file additional signatures. Fraudulent practices in obtaining signatures and filing petitions are dealt with in four constitutions. They expressly empower the state legislature to provide by law for prohibiting and penalizing such practices.

Many states require that voters be notified of questions to appear on the ballot through some form of advance publication. Several states require that copies of proposals be sent to voters along with arguments for and against the proposal.

Questions are usually submitted to a vote at general elections but some states also provide for special elections. Seven states provide that the questions of when and how the proposal will be submitted to the people will be left to the determination of the legislature; in other states, the constitutional provision is self-executing. In Maryland, questions will be submitted "at the next ensuing election held throughout the State for Members of the House of Representatives of the United States."

A favorable majority of votes cast on a particular question is in most cases sufficient for its adoption. Some states require more, however—in Oklahoma