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2019-2020 #245 FINAL

JAN 31 2020

Colorado Secretary of State

S. WARD  
7:59 A.M.

Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

Article XXII. PETITION RIGHTS

**Section 1. Procedures.** (1) Petition rights shall exist in all districts. Any secretary of state or county election office in the district shall handle any state or local petition. Draft reviews shall be held four days after state initiatives begin. Ballot titles, up to 60 words in plain English, shall be set weekly on six days notice. All protests of ballot titles, and to enforce the state single subject rule, *which remains in effect*, shall be filed in the supreme court *only*, and *only* two days after setting, and decided six days later. Only timely court decisions may reset ballot titles and remove subjects. Sample petition sections shall be delivered four days later, adapting 1992 forms. Any adult may circulate any petition.

(2) Required entries shall be 5% of district active registered electors, up to 111,000 entries at first. Constitutional amendment entries may increase up to 9,000 every four years and shall remain 50% more than statutory entries. Entry lines require only printed name, signature, registered elector residence address in the district, and town, city, or county. Random or statistical entry sampling is inadmissible. Affidavit errors shall not invalidate entries.

(3) Local entries shall be filed by 180 days, and state entries by 365 days, after sample petition section delivery. In 10 days, neutral election offices shall count and report entries. Up to five days later, filers and foes may protest in the supreme court only. That report shall issue 15 days later. Only foes may protest signer registration, presumed valid. An invalidity report shall start one 15-day cure filing period per petition. Cure entries made any time shall be reported two days after filing.

(4) Entries first filed by 92 days before any November election shall apply to ballot issues *on any topics*. Entries first filed later shall apply in the next election. Filer election notice comments, up to 500 words, shall be filed by 42 days before an election. Ballots shall list one filer and one foe website, each filed by August 2. *No petition changes any law; it only gives citizens the Right to Vote.*

**Section 2. Referendum petitions.** Only 12 bills and one budget may be state petition-exempt yearly. Sufficient statutory entries filed by 90 days after the session ends shall further delay effective dates until elections. Ballot titles shall read, "Shall (listed sections of) (bill number) be rejected?" Later bills on rejected topics require voter approval.

**Section 3. Definitions.** (1) Districts: the state and all local and home rule governments and authorities.

(2) Petitions: initiatives or referenda on legislative policy, except zoning, begun by any two or more adults any time.

**Section 4. Enforcement.** Those who stop, detain, eject, cite, or arrest a circulator or signer for petitioning peaceably in public access areas shall be fined \$3,000. *Government hostility to petitions must cease.* Hearings may use telephones; court filings may use email. Changing voter-approved petitions requires voter approval of petitions.

Section 5. Article V section 1 (2)-(10) are repealed except (7.3), now (2); (8), now (3); and the first sentence of (4)(a), now (4). The last sentence of Article X section 20 (3)(b)(v), Article XIX section 2 (1)(b), and Article XX shall not apply to petitions. Article XXII shall be self-executing, severable, effective at once, and repeal all conflicting laws. (Do not print section 5.)