

## **The Basic Steps To Do An Initiative In North Dakota Statutes And Amendments – Direct Initiative Process**

**Writing the Law:** Contact Personhood USA's Legislative Analyst for help with the drafting of personhood language specifically written for your state. 303-456-2800

**Basic Procedures:** Once a sponsor has decided to begin an initiative petition effort, the first step is to deliver, to the Secretary of State's office, a copy of the language that they want to see in the statutes or in the constitution and the object clause for the petition. The object clause is a brief statement of what the proposal will accomplish. The sponsor also needs to provide a list of the sponsors of the petition at that time. From there, the Secretary of State sends the language to the Revisor of Statutes who reviews the submitted language. The Revisor has 10 days to review the language and suggest changes to make the language fit into the constitution or statutes clearly and uniformly. When the suggested changes are returned to the Secretary of State, the sponsors are informed and may accept or reject any suggestions made by the Revisor. The suggested changes are confidential for five days after returned from the Revisor. The sponsor then provides the final language to the Secretary of State and he or she places the language and object clause onto a petition form. The Secretary of State provides 5 camera-ready copies of the form to the sponsor within 5 days. The form must contain a statement in red and 16 pt. type that the petition is circulated by either a paid or volunteer circulator as the case may be. Once the final form is given to the sponsors the language of the measure may not be changed or amended.

**Signatures are tied to vote of which office:** Number of registered voters.

**Current signatures total requirements:** For statutes 7% of registered voters at the time signatures are submitted and for amendments 10% of the registered voters.

**Distribution Requirement:** 5% must be gathered in 38 of 93 counties.

**Circulation period:** 1 year

**Do circulators have to be residents:** No

**Date when signatures are due for certification:** One year.

**Signature verification process:** Petitions are turned into the Secretary of State, who then conducts a representative random sampling of the signatures contained in the petitions by the use of questionnaires, post cards, telephone calls, personal interviews, or other accepted information-gathering techniques

to determine the validity of the signatures.

**Single-subject requirement:** There is no single-subject rule for North Dakota initiatives.

**Legislative tampering:** Legislature can repeal and amend initiatives.

**General Comments:** The North Dakota State Legislature can repeal or amend an initiated state statute by a 2/3 vote of each house for seven years after passage. Once seven years have elapsed, a simple majority vote in the state legislature is required.