
CHAPTER 20

INITIATIVE & REFERENDUM PETITIONS

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INITIATIVE & REFERENDUM PETITIONS

What are Initiatives & Referendums?

Initiatives are a device by which voters enact state or local laws. Referendums are a device by which voters approve or disapprove of existing state or local laws. They are both methods of involving voters directly in the legislative process of government.

Specifically, an *initiative* petition can do one of the following:

- Propose a new state statute;
 - Amend an existing state statute;
- Amend the Nevada Constitution;
 - Propose a new county or municipal ordinance; or
- Amend an existing county or municipal ordinance

A *referendum* petition can only approve or disapprove a statute, resolution, or ordinance that was enacted by the State Legislature, Board of County Commissioners, or City Council.

Does Every Petition Use the Same Process or Timeline to Qualify?

No. The process and timelines are different, depending on the type of petition. Whatever the petition may be proposing, amending, approving, or disapproving, there are certain processes and timelines that must be complied with in order for the petition to succeed.

Pursuant to [NRS 295.015\(1\)\(b\)](#), requires a person who intends to circulate a statewide initiative or referendum petition to provide certain information to the Secretary of State's office prior to collecting signatures. The information required to be provided includes the name and signature of the person filing the petition, the names of up to three individuals who are authorized to withdraw or amend the petition, and the name of the Political Action Committee (PAC) formed to advocate for the passage of the petition. This information must be submitted on a form at the same time as a copy of the petition is filed with the Secretary of State's office.

Petition Identifier Disclaimer

The Secretary of State's Office will prescribe a petition identifier to each petition upon submission.

Example: C-01-2021, S-01-2021, R-01-2021:

(C=Constitutional, S=Statutory, R=Referendum; 01= the number sequence of Petitions filed; 2021=the year the Petition is filed).

Petitions should **not** include a descriptive title in the petition [e.g. The Lake Tahoe Second Amendment Advocates or Gas Tax Be Gone, etc.] Those that include descriptive language will need to be amended and resubmitted.

Statewide Initiative Petition

Propose a New State Statute or Amend an Existing State Statute

Prior to circulating a statewide initiative or referendum petition, certain information is required to be submitted to the Secretary of State's office prior to collecting signatures. The information required to be provided includes the name and signature of the person filing the petition, the names of up to three individuals who are authorized to withdraw or amend the petition, and the name of the Political Action Committee (PAC) formed to advocate for the passage of the petition. This information must be submitted on a form at the same time as a copy of the petition is filed with the Secretary of State's office [NRS 295.015](#).

Prior to circulating a petition for signatures, a copy of the petition, including a 200 word or less description of the effect of the petition, must be filed with the Secretary of State. Each petition may embrace only a single subject and matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto [NRS 295.009](#).

To qualify for inclusion on the ballot, a petition must be signed by a minimum number of registered voters. The number of valid signatures required is 10% of the voters who voted in the State at the last preceding general election. Additionally, these signatures must be gathered from each of Nevada's four petition districts. The Initiative and Referendum Petition Districts are the same as the Nevada districts for the U.S. House of Representatives. These were recently updated to reflect changes based on 2020 Census data.

The Nevada Congressional District Map can be located on the Nevada Legislature's website at: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Districts/Reapp/2021/>

Only registered voters of the county and petition district where the petition is circulated may sign the petition [NRS 295.055](#). Also, petition circulators must sign the Affidavit of Circulator [NAC 293.182](#); [295.020](#).

After a petition has been circulated for signatures, it must be submitted to the appropriate Clerk or Registrar of Voters in the county in which the petition was circulated. All documents must be submitted on the same day for signature verification. The County Clerk or Registrar of Voters shall issue a receipt to any person who submits a petition stating the number of documents and pages and the person's statement of the number of signatures contained on the petition. Once a petition is submitted for signature verification, it can no longer be circulated for signatures. A person who signed a petition may request to have his name removed any time before the petition is filed for signature verification by submitting his request in writing to the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters [NV Const., Art. 19, Sec. 2\(3\)](#), [NRS 293.1276](#), [293.1277\(4\)](#), [293.12758](#), [295.055\(3\)](#), [295.056\(1\)](#), and [NAC 295.020](#).

If the petition is sufficient, the Secretary of State shall transmit the petition to the next legislative session as soon as it convenes. The petition shall be enacted or rejected by the legislature without change within 40 days. If the petition is enacted by the legislature and approved by the Governor, it shall become law.

If the legislature does not act upon or rejects the petition within 40 days, the Secretary of State shall submit the petition to a vote at the next general election. If the Legislature rejects a petition and proposes a different measure on the same subject, which the Governor approves, the measure proposed by the Legislature and approved by the Governor must be listed on the ballot along with the petition. If both the petition and the measure are approved by the voters, whichever receives the highest number of affirmative votes becomes law [NV Const., Art. 19, Sec. 2\(3\)](#), [NRS 293.267\(5\)](#), and [295.125](#).

Important Dates to Propose or Amend Nevada Revised Statute

Prior to circulating: A copy of the initiative petition proposing a statute or an amendment to a statute, must be filed with the Secretary of State's Office before beginning circulation and not earlier than January 1 of the year preceding the year in which a regular session of the Legislature is held [NV Const., Art. 19, Sec.3](#).

After circulating: The circulated initiative petition must be submitted to the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters for verification of signatures not later than the 15th day following the general election [NRS 295.056\(2\)](#).

Amend the Nevada Constitution

Prior to circulating a statewide initiative or referendum petition, certain information is required to be submitted to the Secretary of State's office prior to collecting signatures. The information required to be provided includes the name and signature of the person filing the petition, the names of up to three individuals who are authorized to withdraw or amend the petition, and the name of the Political Action Committee (PAC) formed to advocate for the passage of the petition. This information must be submitted on a form at the same time a copy of the petition is filed with the Secretary of State's office [NRS 295.015](#).

Prior to circulating a petition for signatures, a copy of the petition, including a 200 word or less description of the effect of the petition, must be filed with the Secretary of State. Each petition must embrace only a single subject and matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto [NRS 295.009](#).

To qualify for inclusion on the ballot, a petition must be signed by a minimum number of registered voters. The number of valid signatures required is 10% of the voters who voted in the State at the last preceding general election. Additionally, these signatures must be gathered from each of Nevada's four petition districts.

Only registered voters of the county and petition district where the petition is circulated may sign the petition [NRS 295.055](#). Also, petition circulators must sign the Affidavit of Circulator [NAC 293.182](#) and [295.020](#).

After a petition has been circulated for signatures, it must be submitted to the appropriate Clerk or Registrar of Voters in the county in which the petition was circulated. All documents must be submitted on the same day for signature verification. The County Clerk or Registrar of Voters shall issue a receipt to any person who submits a petition stating the number of documents and pages and the person's statement of the number of signatures contained on the petition.

Once a petition is submitted for signature verification, it can no longer be circulated for signatures. A person who signed a petition may request to have his or her name removed any time before the petition is filed for signature verification by submitting a request in writing to the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters [NV Const., Art. 19, Sec. 2\(3\)](#), [NRS 293.1277\(4\)](#), [293.12758](#), [295.055\(3\)](#), [295.056\(1\)](#), and [NAC 295.020\(4\)](#).

If the petition is sufficient, the proposed amendment shall be placed on the ballot at the General Election for approval or disapproval by voters of the entire state. If the voters approve the amendment, the Secretary of State shall resubmit the question of approval or disapproval to a vote of the people at the following General Election. The language, description, arguments, and question number must be the same on both General Election ballots. If the question passes a second time (two General Elections), it becomes part of the Nevada Constitution upon certification of election results. If the question fails to pass a second time, no further action shall be taken [NV Const., Art. 19, Sec. 2\(4\)](#).

Important Dates to Amend the Nevada Constitution

Prior to circulating: A copy of the initiative petition proposing an amendment to the constitution, must be filed with the Secretary of State's Office before beginning circulation and not earlier than September 1 of the year preceding the year in which the election is to be held [NV Const., Art. 19, Sec. 2\(4\)](#).

After circulating: The circulated initiative petition proposing a constitutional amendment must be submitted to the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters for verification of signatures not later than the 15th day following the primary election [NRS 295.056\(3\)](#).

Statewide Referendum Petition

Approve or Disapprove a Current State Law

Prior to circulating a statewide initiative or referendum petition, certain information is required to be submitted to the Secretary of State's office prior to collecting signatures. The information required to be provided includes the name and signature of the person filing the petition, the names of up to three individuals who are authorized to withdraw or amend the petition, and the name of the Political Action Committee (PAC) formed to advocate for the passage of the petition. This information must be submitted on a form at the same time as a copy of the petition is filed with the Secretary of State's office [NRS 295.015](#).

Prior to circulating a petition for signatures, a copy of the petition, including a 200 word or less description of the effect of the petition, must be filed with the Secretary of State. Each petition must embrace only a single subject and matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto [NRS 295.009](#).

To qualify for inclusion on the ballot, a petition must be signed by a minimum number of registered voters. The number of valid signatures required is 10 % of the voters who voted in the entire State at the last preceding general election.

Additionally, these signatures must be gathered from each of Nevada's four petition districts.

Only registered voters of the county and petition district where the petition is circulated may sign the petition [NV Const., Art. 19, Sec. 2\(2\)](#) and all petition circulators must sign the Affidavit of Circulator [NAC 293.182](#) and [NAC 295.020](#).

After a petition has been circulated for signatures, it must be submitted to the appropriate Clerk or Registrar of Voters in the county in which the petition was circulated. All documents must be submitted on the same day for signature verification. The County Clerk or Registrar of Voters shall issue a receipt to any person who submits a petition stating the number of documents and pages and the person's statement of the number of signatures contained on the petition. Once a petition is submitted for signature verification, it can no longer be circulated for signatures. A person who signed a petition may request to have his name removed any time before the petition is filed for signature verification by submitting his request in writing to the County Clerk/Registrar [NV Const., Art. 19, Sec. 1\(2\)](#), [NRS 293.1277\(4\)](#), [293.12758](#), [295.055\(3\)](#), [295.056\(1\)](#), and [NAC 295.020](#).

If the petition is sufficient, it will be submitted to a vote of the people at the General Election. If the state law at issue is approved, it remains standing as the law of the state. If the state law at issue is disapproved, it becomes void and of no effect [NV Const., Art. 19, Sec. 1](#).

Important Dates to Approve or Disapprove a Current State Law

Prior to circulating: A copy of the referendum proposing an amendment to State law, must be filed with the Secretary of State's Office prior to gathering signatures and not earlier than August 1 of the year before the year in which the election will be held [NV Const., Art. 19, Sec.1\(1\)](#).

After circulating: The circulated referendum must be submitted to the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters for verification of signatures not later than the 15th day following the primary election [NRS 295.056\(3\)](#).

Statewide Initiative & Referendum Petitions

Verification Process

Step 1:

All documents of a petition must be submitted to the appropriate County Clerk or Registrar of Voters at the same time. The County Clerk or Registrar of Voters counts each signature on the petition and forwards that number to the Secretary of State. This is the "raw count" [NRS 295.056\(5\) and 293.1276](#).

Time frame: The County Clerk or Registrar of Voters must complete the raw count within 4 days after submission of the petition, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays [NRS 293.1276\(1\)](#).

Step 2:

Based on the raw count information received from the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters, the Secretary of State determines whether the number of signatures is 100% of the number needed. If the raw count indicates that the petition contains less than 100% of the signatures required, the Secretary of State notifies the persons who submitted the petition and the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters that no further action is to be taken on the petition. If the raw count indicates that the petition contains 100% or more of the number of signatures required, the Secretary of State notifies the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters [NRS 293.1276 and 293.1277\(1\)](#).

Time frame: Immediately after receiving the raw count from all counties, the Secretary of State determines if the petition contains the number of signatures needed to declare the petition sufficient [NRS 293.1276\(2\) and 293.1277\(1\)](#).

Step 3:

If the Secretary of State notifies the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters that the raw count contains the number of signatures required, the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters shall verify the signatures. The Clerk or Registrar of Voters shall allow the person who submitted the petition or a member of the petitioner's committee to witness the signature verification. If 500 or less signatures have been submitted, the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters must examine and verify every signature on the petition. If more than 500 signatures have been submitted, the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters shall randomly sample 500 or 5% of the signatures, whichever number is greater. When verifying the signatures on a petition, the county clerk may check the signature of the person who signed the petition against all signatures of the person available in the records of the county clerk.

Upon completing the examination, each County Clerk or Registrar of Voters shall transmit the documents with a certificate showing the results of his examination to the Secretary of State. The County Clerk or Registrar of Voters shall also notify the Secretary of State of requests to remove a name from the petition [NRS 293.1277\(2\)\(5\)](#) and [NAC 293.183](#).

Time frame: Signature verification must be completed within nine (9) days after notification by the Secretary of State, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays [NRS 293.1277\(1\)](#).

Determination of Sufficiency

The Secretary of State determines whether the petition is sufficient based on the County Clerk and/or the Registrar of Voters' certified results from the signature verification.

If the Secretary of State finds that the number of valid signatures is less than 90% of the number of registered voters required to declare the petition sufficient:

Result: The petition fails to qualify, and the Secretary of State shall immediately notify the petitioners and the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters. No further action is taken [NRS 293.1278 \(1\)](#).

If the Secretary of State finds that the number of valid signatures is equal to or greater than 100% of the number of registered voters required to declare the petition sufficient plus the total number of requests to remove a name and the petition has the minimum number of signatures required for each petition district:

Result: The petition is deemed qualified as of the date the Secretary of State receives the final certificates of results. The Secretary of State immediately notifies the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters and the petitioners. [NRS 293.1278\(2\)](#) and [295.055\(3\)](#).

If the signature verification was conducted pursuant to a random sampling of the greater of 500 signatures or 5% of the total contained on the petition, and the Secretary of State finds the number of valid signatures is 90% or greater, but less than 100% of the required number of registered voters needed to declare the petition sufficient plus the total number of requests to remove a name and the petition has the minimum number of signatures required for each petition district:

Result: The Secretary of State directs the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters to reexamine the signatures for verification. The County Clerk or Registrar of Voters will verify each signature on the petition to determine whether 100% or more of the required number of voters signed the petition.

The County Clerk or Registrar of Voters must complete this process within twelve (12) working days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, after receiving the order of the Secretary of State.

After completing the reexamination of signatures for verification, the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters will forward an amended certificate of results to the Secretary of State [NRS 293.1279](#), [293.1278\(2\)](#), and [295.055\(3\)](#).

Petition Signature Disposition

Have the requirements of [NRS 293.1277](#) been completed?

- **No?** Do not mail signatures along with other documentation until the requirements have been completed.
- **Yes?** Continue to #2

Was the petition statewide or multi-county?

- **No?** Continue to #3
- **Yes?** Mail the signatures along with the other required documentation to the Secretary of State in Carson City.

County & Municipal

County and municipal initiative and referendum procedures are similar to those used by the state; however, there are some differences. The information provided below is taken from the Nevada Constitution, Title 24 of the NRS, and the NAC Election Regulations. Please contact the county or city in which the petition will be submitted to receive additional provisions (if any) on the petition process for that county or city. Please note that this information is for both county and city. County petition documents must be filed with the respective County Clerk or Registrar of Voters, and municipal petition documents must be filed with the respective City Clerk.

Submitting a Petition

Any five registered voters of the county or city may file with the Clerk an affidavit stating that they will constitute the petitioner's committee, be responsible for circulating the petition and filing it in the proper form. The affidavit must also contain the full text of the proposed initiative ordinance or cite the ordinance sought to be reconsidered [NRS 295.095\(1\)](#) and [295.205](#).

Each petition must embrace only a single subject and matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto [NRS 295.009](#).

Initiative petitions must be signed by a number of registered voters that equals or exceeds **15%** of the voter turnout at the last general county election or the last city election [NRS 295.095\(2\)](#) and [295.205\(2\)](#).

Referendum petitions must be signed by a number of registered voters that equals or exceeds **10%** of the voter turnout at the last general county election or the last city election [NRS 295.095\(3\)](#) and [295.205\(3\)](#).

Please contact the appropriate county or city clerk to obtain voter turnout at prior county or city elections.

The contents of the petition must comply with the requirements of [NRS 295.095](#) (county), [NRS 295.205](#) (city), and [NAC 295.020](#) (both county and city).

Please be advised of the additional requirements for county and city that are not provided in the Appendix for the Affidavit of Circulator.

Affidavits must also include the number of signatures contained within the document, and an affirmation that each signer had an opportunity before signing to read the full text of the measure pursuant to [NRS 295.095\(6\)](#) and [295.205\(6\)](#).

Initiative and referendum petition documents must be submitted to the respective clerks for verification no later than 180 days after the date the affidavit was filed or 130 days before the election, whichever is earlier. A receipt containing the number of documents, pages, and declared signatures received shall be issued to the person who submitted the documents [NRS 295.095\(4\)\(7\)](#) and [295.205\(4\)\(7\)](#).

Petition Signature Verification Process

Upon receipt of the petition, the County or City Clerk shall count the number of signatures submitted. This number is the raw count. If the raw count is less than 100% of the number of signatures required, then the petition is deemed insufficient. If the raw count indicates that the petition contains 100% or more of the total number of signatures required, then the Clerk shall begin signature verification [NRS 295.250](#).

If the total number of signatures from the raw count is 500 or less, then the Clerk must examine and verify every signature on the petition. The Clerk shall allow the person who submitted the petition or a member of the petitioner's committee to witness the signature verification [NRS 295.260\(1\)](#), [295.290](#) and [NAC 293.183](#).

If the total number of signatures from the raw count is more than 500, then the Clerk shall randomly sample 500 or 5% of the signatures, whichever is greater. If the examination of the random sample shows that the number of valid signatures is less than 90% of the number of signatures of registered voters needed, it shall be deemed insufficient. If the examination of the random sample shows that the number of valid signatures is 90% or more but less than 100% of the number of valid signatures needed, then the Clerk shall continue to verify the signatures. The Clerk shall continue to verify the signatures until he has examined every signature or has determined that 100% of the number of signatures needed is valid [NRS 295.260\(2\)\(5\)](#).

The Clerk has 20 days from receipt of the petition to conduct the signature verification process [NRS 295.105\(1\)](#) and [295.210\(1\)](#).

Review of Petition by Board or Council

If the petition is deemed sufficient, the board or council shall promptly consider the ordinance in the manner provided by law. If the board or council fails to adopt the proposed ordinance without change in substance or fails to repeal the referred ordinance within 30 days after the date the petition was determined sufficient, it shall submit the proposed or referred ordinance to the registered voters in the form of a ballot question at the next general election (if a municipal initiative, the question will be voted upon at either the next general city election or general election) [NRS 295.115](#), [295.215](#), and [295.009](#).

If the petition has been certified insufficient, the petitioner's committee may, within 2 days of receipt of a copy of the certificate, file a request that it be reviewed by the board/council. The board/council will review the certificate at their next meeting and will approve or disapprove the certificate. The board/council's determination will be the final determination of the sufficiency of the petition. However, the final determination is subject to judicial review [NRS 295.105\(3\)\(4\)](#) and [295.210\(3\)\(4\)](#).

Petition Signature Disposition

The petition was only applicable to your county or jurisdiction, but was the petition a petition for qualification as an independent candidate for office, a petition to recall a public officer, or a petition to nominate other candidates for special election?

- **No?** Mail the signatures along with the other required documentation to the Secretary of State in Carson City.
- **Yes?** Do not mail the signatures to the Secretary of State pursuant to [NRS 293.1277\(10\)](#).

Removal of Signatures

A person may request that the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters remove his/her name from the petition by submitting a written request or by electronic email, if the request is submitted on the prescribed form by the Secretary of State, to the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, which contains the original signature of the person requesting their name be removed from a petition.

The County Clerk/Registrar of Voters must not accept the request to remove a person's name from a petition if:

- The County Clerk is unable to determine the name of the person requesting the removal; or
- The signature of the person on the request does not match the signature or a facsimile thereof on the person's original application to register.

Statewide Initiative & Referendum Petitions

Filing an Appeal

If a statewide referendum or initiative petition fails for lack of signatures, the person who submitted the petition may challenge the signature verification by filing an appeal with the Secretary of State within five (5) working days after receipt from the Secretary of State of the notification of determination of sufficiency of the petition.

The appeal must indicate the reasons for appeal, and a statement of the number of signatures, if any, that the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters determined were invalid [NRS 293.12793](#).

If the appeal is based on the results of the signature verification, the Secretary of State shall:

- If the Secretary of State finds for the appellant, order the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters to recertify the petition to include all contested signatures that the Secretary of State determines are valid.
- If the Secretary of State finds against the appellant, notify that person and the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters that the petition remains insufficient.

If the Secretary of State is unable to decide on the appeal based upon the documents submitted, he may order the County Clerk or Registrar of Voters to re-verify the signatures. The decision of the Secretary of State is a final decision for the purposes of judicial review. The decision of the Secretary of State may be appealed, but only in the First Judicial District Court in Carson City, Nevada [NRS 293.12795](#).

The description of the effect of a petition may be challenged by filing a complaint in the First Judicial District Court within fifteen (15) business days after a copy of the petition is initially filed with the Secretary of State [NRS 295.061\(1\)](#). Other challenges to the legal sufficiency of a petition may be brought by filing a complaint in a district court within seven (7) business days after the petition is certified as sufficient by the Secretary of State [NRS 295.061\(2\)](#). The filing officer (Secretary of State, County Clerk/Registrar, or City Clerk) may be named in an “official capacity,” while the real party in interest is the person or group who sponsored the petition drive.

Questions on the Ballot

Once an initiative or referendum petition has qualified for the ballot, it becomes a ballot question. Depending on where the question’s proposal originated, the language of each ballot question is drafted by either the Secretary of State, Legislative Counsel Bureau, or by appointed committees. Statewide ballot questions may only appear in the general election pursuant to the [Nevada Constitution, Article 19, sections 1 and 2](#).

Statewide Measures Proposed by Petition

The Secretary of State must, upon consultation with the Attorney General, write a condensation of the ballot question and an explanation of the effect of the question [NRS 293.250\(5\)](#). Also, the Secretary of State must consult with the Fiscal Analysis Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau to determine the fiscal impact of the petition on state and local governments [NRS 295.015](#)). The Secretary of State assigns the ballot question a number for the general election ballot.

Arguments for and against a petition are prepared by two committees appointed by the Secretary of State. The committees shall be composed of three persons each (3 persons who favor approval and 3 persons who oppose approval). The Secretary of State shall consider any persons who have expressed interest in serving on the committees. The committees may seek comments from the public in drafting their arguments and rebuttals. The arguments shall address the fiscal, environmental, public health, safety, and welfare impacts of the petition. The language of the arguments must be easily understood and of reasonable length. The arguments shall be submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration.

The Secretary of State may reject any arguments that she believes are libelous or factually inaccurate. The Secretary of State may also revise the language of an argument to make it more clear, concise, or suitable for use on the ballot, but he may not alter the meaning or effect of the argument without committee consent. The Secretary of State's rejection of a statement is a final decision for the purposes of judicial review. Within five (5) days of the Secretary of State's rejection, the committee may appeal by filing a complaint in the First Judicial District Court. Not later than three (3) working days after the complaint is filed by the committee, the Court shall set the matter for hearing and shall give priority to such a complaint over all other matters pending before the court, except for criminal proceedings [NRS 293.250 and 293.252](#).

County Measures Proposed by Petition

In a county whose population is 40,000 or more, for each countywide initiative or referendum to be placed on the ballot, the Board and County Clerk shall appoint two (2) committees consisting of three (3) persons each. One committee shall favor approval of the petition, and the other committee shall oppose passage of the petition.

The committees prepare arguments for and against passage of the petition. The arguments shall address the fiscal, environmental, public health, safety, and welfare impact of the petition. The County Clerk shall determine the maximum permissible length of an argument or rebuttal and determine the date the committee must submit them to the County Clerk [NRS 295.121](#).

Upon receipt of an argument or rebuttal, the County Clerk shall review each statement in the argument and rebuttal. The Clerk may revise the language so that it is clear and concise but cannot alter the meaning or effect without the consent of the committee. The Clerk may reject any arguments he or she believes are libelous or factually inaccurate. The county clerk's rejection of a statement is a final decision for purposes of judicial review. Not later than five (5) days after the Clerk rejects a statement, the committee may appeal the Clerk's rejection by filing a complaint in district court. The court shall set the matter for hearing not later than three (3) days after the complaint is filed and shall give priority to such a complaint over all other matters pending with the court, except for criminal proceedings [NRS 295.121](#).

NOTE: Those counties with a population of less than 40,000 may also choose to appoint committees and follow these same guidelines [NRS 295.121\(11\)](#).

City Measures Proposed by Petition

In a city whose population is 10,000 or more, for each initiative or referendum to be placed on the ballot, the city council shall appoint two committees each consisting of three (3) persons. One committee shall favor approval of the petition and the other shall oppose approval of the petition. The committees prepare arguments for and against approval of the petition. The arguments shall address the fiscal, environmental, public health, safety and welfare impacts of the petition. The City Clerk shall determine the maximum permissible length of an argument or rebuttal and determine the date the committee must submit them to the County Clerk [NRS 295.217](#).

Upon receipt of an argument or rebuttal, the City Clerk shall review each statement in the argument and rebuttal. The Clerk may revise the language so that it is clear and concise but cannot alter the meaning or effect without the consent of the committee. The Clerk may reject any arguments he or she believes are libelous or factually inaccurate. The rejection of a statement is a final decision for purposes of judicial review. Not later than five (5) days after the Clerk rejects a statement, the committee may appeal the rejection by filing a complaint in district court. The court shall set the matter for hearing not later than three (3) days after the complaint is filed and shall give priority to such a complaint over all other matters pending with the court, except for criminal proceedings [NRS 295.217](#).

Political Action Committee (PAC) Petitions

Nevada law requires every person or group of persons organized formally or informally who advocates the passage or defeat of a ballot question to report their contributions and expenditures in excess of \$1,000. All Contributions and Expenses Reports must be filed electronically through Aurora with the Secretary of State's Office [NRS 294A.150](#), [294A.220](#), and [294A.373](#).

A PAC who advocates the passage or defeat of any question on the ballot must first register as a PAC with the Secretary of State before engaging in any such advocacy.

Registration Requirements for Non-Profit Corporations: A non-profit corporation that intends to solicit or receive contributions, make contributions, or make expenditures designed to affect the outcome of a ballot question must register the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of its officers before engaging in any of the aforementioned activities. The required information must be submitted to the Secretary of State and will be posted on the Secretary of State's website [NRS 294A.225](#).

Special Note on Petition Circulation Expenditures

A person or group of persons that is required to report expenditures in connection with the circulation of a petition is not required to disclose the name, address, or amount paid to an individual circulator. However, the total amount paid to petition circulators must be reported. Furthermore, a PAC that advocates the passage or defeat of a constitutional amendment or statewide measure proposed by an initiative or referendum and that provides compensation to persons to circulate petitions shall report to the Secretary of State:

- The number of persons to whom such compensation is provided;
- The least amount of such compensation that is provided and the greatest amount of such compensation that is provided; and
- The total amount of compensation provided [NAC 294A.270](#). This report is due not later than fifteen (15) days after the committee has completed gathering signatures.

Contribution & Expenses (C&E) Reporting Dates

Reporting dates for PACs Advocating Passage or Defeat of a Question on the Ballot

Annual Filing: Due January 15 Period: January 1 – December 31
Report #1: Due April 15 Period: January 1 – March 31
Report #2: Due July 15 Period: April 1 – June 30
Report #3: Due October 15 Period: July 1 – September 30
Report #4: Due January 15 Period: October 1 – December 31
Annual Filing: Due January 15 Period: January 1 – December 31

Petition Notes

- Each petition must include the following enacting clause for all statutes or amendments proposed by initiative petition: “The People of the State of Nevada do enact as follows,”
- The petition must embrace one subject only;
- The petition must contain a 200 word or less description of the effect;
- The petition may consist of more than one document;
- Each document of the petition may consist of one or more pages and must be bound together;
- Each document must include the full text of the proposed measure;
- Each document must bear the name of a county, and only registered voters of that county or city may sign the document;
- Each document must also bear the number of the petition district, and only registered voters of that petition district may sign the document (Note: petition districts have the same boundaries as Congressional Districts);
- Each document must contain sequentially numbered spaces for the name of each person who signs the document, the signature of the person signing, the mailing or residential address of the person signing, the name of the county where the person who signs is registered to vote, and the date of the signature;
- Each document must contain an affidavit of the person who circulated the document. The affidavit must be on the last page of each document and be signed before a person authorized by law to administer oaths in the State of Nevada (a notary public);
- The circulator is not required to be a registered voter in Nevada (Nevada Attorney General Opinion 99-37 (12/1/1999));
- If the petition consists of more than one document, each page of each document must be sequentially numbered starting with the number one (1);
- The Clerk or Registrar of Voters will not accept a petition unless each page is numbered;
- Each signature on the petition must be in ink, preceded by the printed name. The Clerk or Registrar of Voters shall disregard any signature that is not signed in ink;
- The number of valid signatures required to be gathered from each petition district equals 10% of the voters who voted in this State at the last preceding general election divided by the number of petition districts; and
- All documents must be submitted at the same time.

The Secretary of State does not approve the legality of the petition language or the petition form.