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1
2 An act relating to amendments to the State
3 Constitution; providing legislative findings and
4 intent; amending s. 15.21, F.S.; requiring the
5 Secretary of State to have received the ballot summary
6 and the full text of the proposed revision or
7 amendment to the State Constitution from the sponsor
8 and to have received the financial impact statement
9 from the Financial Impact Estimating Conference before
10 submitting an initiative petition to the Attorney
11 General; conforming a cross-reference; amending s.
12 16.061, F.S.; revising the criteria that the Attorney
13 General uses when petitioning the Supreme Court for an
14 advisory opinion related to a proposed revision or
15 amendment to the State Constitution; requiring that a
16 copy of the petition form be provided to the sponsor
17 of the initiative petition; conforming a cross-
18 reference; making a technical change; amending s.
19 97.021, F.S.; revising the definition of the term
20 "petition circulator"; reenacting and amending s.
21 99.097, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; conforming
22 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
23 100.371, F.S.; requiring the sponsor of an initiative
24 petition to obtain a certain letter periodically;
25 providing that a failure to obtain such letter results

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26 in the expiration of the initiative's signatures and
27 disbanding of the sponsor's political committee;
28 providing that certain initiative petition signatures
29 expire and that the sponsor's political committee is
30 disbanded under specified conditions; providing that
31 such sponsor is not precluded from refiling the
32 proposed amendment as a new petition; prohibiting a
33 sponsor from sponsoring more than one initiative
34 amendment; requiring a sponsor to register as a
35 political committee and submit the ballot title,
36 ballot summary, article and section of the State
37 Constitution being amended, and full text of the
38 proposed amendment to the Secretary of State;
39 requiring that all information be available in
40 alternative formats upon request; requiring the
41 secretary to assign a petition number and submit a
42 copy of the proposed amendment to the Financial Impact
43 Estimating Conference for review, analysis, and a
44 certain estimate; requiring the Division of Elections
45 to publish the forms on which petition signatures must
46 be fixed; deleting a requirement that the secretary
47 adopt certain rules; providing requirements, which are
48 effective on a specified date, for the petition forms;
49 prohibiting persons, beginning on a specified date,
50 from collecting, delivering, or otherwise physically

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51 possessing more than a specified number of signed
52 petition forms if they have not registered with the
53 Secretary of State as a petition circulator and have
54 not been issued a petition circulator number;
55 authorizing specified persons to collect signed
56 petitions forms from their immediate family under
57 specified circumstances; providing construction;
58 defining the term "immediate family"; prohibiting
59 certain persons from collecting signatures or
60 initiative petitions; requiring that applications for
61 registration include specified information;
62 authorizing citizens to challenge a petition
63 circulator's registration by filing a petition in
64 circuit court; authorizing the court to enjoin the
65 petition circulator from collecting signatures or
66 petition forms until registered; authorizing the
67 division to revoke a petition circulator's
68 registration under specified circumstances;
69 prohibiting persons from registering to collect
70 signatures or initiative petitions until they complete
71 a required training; providing the requirements for
72 such training; providing civil penalties for the
73 sponsors of initiative amendments that knowingly allow
74 persons to collect petition forms on their behalf and
75 violate specified provisions; prohibiting a sponsor

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76 from compensating a petition circulator based on the
77 number of petition forms gathered or the time within
78 which such forms are gathered; providing construction;
79 requiring the division to make forms available to
80 registered petition circulators in a certain format;
81 deleting a requirement that supervisors of elections
82 provide the division information on petition forms
83 assigned to them; requiring sponsors to deliver forms
84 promptly to the supervisor of elections in the county
85 in which a voter resides within a specified timeframe
86 after the form is signed; revising the civil penalties
87 for failing to deliver forms within the prescribed
88 timeframes; providing civil penalties for the sponsors
89 of petitions if the person collecting petition forms
90 on behalf of the sponsor signs the name of another,
91 signs a fictitious name, or fills in missing
92 information on the signed petition form; providing
93 criminal penalties for persons who, while collecting
94 petition forms, copy or retain a voter's personal
95 identifying information for a reason other than to
96 provide such information to the sponsor of an
97 initiative petition; providing civil penalties for
98 sponsors who mail or provide prefilled initiative
99 petitions; providing that sponsors that discover and
100 report a violation as soon as practicable may not be

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101 fined for such violation; requiring the supervisor to
102 record the date a submitted petition is received;
103 requiring the supervisor to notify the division of any
104 misfiled petition; revising the conditions under which
105 a supervisor verifies signatures to include processing
106 of a certain fee; requiring supervisors, beginning on
107 a specified date, to promptly record, in a specified
108 manner, the date each form is received and the date
109 the form is verified as valid; revising the conditions
110 under which a supervisor may verify a signature on an
111 initiative petition form; requiring supervisors to
112 electronically transmit digital images, which must
113 meet a specified standard, of all received petition
114 forms to the division; requiring that such forms be
115 identified as valid or invalid; requiring supervisors
116 to retain all petition forms and identify those forms
117 verified as valid from those deemed invalid until such
118 forms are processed; requiring supervisors to deliver
119 physical forms to the division; requiring the division
120 to retain such forms for a specified timeframe;
121 requiring supervisors to send a notice, which may be
122 returned to the Office of Election Crimes and
123 Security, to voters after their signature is verified,
124 beginning on a specified date; providing requirements
125 for such notice; requiring the Office of Election

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Crimes and Security to transmit copies of returned notices, upon receipt, to the division; requiring the division to deem the voter petition form invalid if a completed notice is received; providing that supervisors of elections are required to post on their websites the actual costs of signature verification for all petition forms, and that they may increase such costs annually by a specified date; specifying that such costs include costs related to certain actions; requiring supervisors to notify the Office of Election Crimes and Security under a specified condition; requiring the office to conduct specified preliminary investigations; authorizing the office to report findings of such investigations to the statewide prosecutor or a certain state attorney; providing that a signed petition form submitted by an ineligible or unregistered petition circulator must be invalidated; revising information related to signature verification which must be posted on the division's website; requiring the Secretary of State to rescind the certificate of ballot position if an advisory opinion from the Supreme Court deems the initiative petition invalid; requiring the Financial Impact Estimating Conference to submit the financial impact statement to the Secretary of State; requiring that a

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151 certain statement be included on the ballot if the
152 conference does not complete an analysis and financial
153 impact statement within a specified timeframe;
154 providing that only the President of the Senate and
155 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, jointly,
156 may convene the conference; revising the membership of
157 the conference; deleting a provision authorizing the
158 court to remand the financial impact statement to the
159 conference to be redrafted; requiring that such
160 statement appear on the petition form and ballot;
161 requiring a sponsor to refile a petition as a new
162 petition under certain circumstances; deleting a
163 provision that deems financial impact statements
164 approved for placement on the ballot under certain
165 circumstances; requiring the Department of State to
166 update petition forms by a specified date; requiring
167 the department to make the petition circulator
168 application available by a specified date; providing
169 that each petition circulator registration expires on
170 a specified date; requiring the department to notify
171 such petition circulators of the expiration of their
172 registration by a specified date; requiring the
173 department to develop a certain training within a
174 specified timeframe; authorizing supervisors of
175 elections to increase the costs of signature

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176 verification before a specified date; requiring the
177 supervisors to post such cost on their publicly
178 available websites as soon as the cost is determined;
179 amending s. 101.161, F.S.; requiring that a certain
180 statement be included on the ballot if a financial
181 impact statement was not produced or the Financial
182 Impact Estimating Conference did not meet to produce
183 one; conforming a cross-reference; amending s.
184 102.111, F.S.; requiring the Elections Canvassing
185 Commission to certify the returns of constitutional
186 amendments; amending s. 102.121, F.S.; requiring the
187 commission to make and sign separate certificates for
188 constitutional amendments; providing requirements for
189 such certificates; amending s. 102.168, F.S.;
190 providing for standing to contest the adoption of a
191 constitutional amendment by any qualified voter or
192 taxpayer; revising the grounds on which such parties
193 may contest an election or a constitutional amendment;
194 providing that the commission and the sponsor of the
195 amendment are indispensable parties in any such
196 action; amending s. 104.185, F.S.; providing criminal
197 penalties for persons who fill in missing information
198 on a signed petition form to secure a ballot position
199 for a candidate, a minor political party, or an issue;
200 amending s. 104.186, F.S.; providing criminal

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penalties for persons who compensate others based on the number of petition forms gathered, as prohibited by a specified section; amending s. 104.187, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; creating s. 104.188, F.S.; defining the term "immediate family"; providing criminal penalties for certain persons who collect, deliver, or otherwise physically possess more than a certain number of signed petition forms other than their own or forms belonging to an immediate family member; providing construction; creating s. 106.151, F.S.; defining the term "public funds"; prohibiting an entity of state government or a person acting on behalf of such entity from expending or authorizing the expenditure of public funds for political advertisements or other communications sent to electors concerning a proposed constitutional amendment or revision; providing applicability; providing construction; amending s. 106.19, F.S.; providing that political committees sponsoring a constitutional amendment are liable for specified civil fines for submitting petition forms that do not provide the name and address of the petition circulator gathering such forms, regardless of whether the petition circulator is paid; amending s. 212.055, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending s.

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895.02, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "racketeering activity" to provide criminal and civil penalties for violations of the Florida Election Code relating to irregularities or fraud involving issue petition activities; prohibiting the verification of a signed petition form for a specified timeframe; providing construction; providing effective dates.

WHEREAS, the Legislature and the Secretary of State, in their official capacities, have the duty and obligation to ensure ballot integrity and a valid election process, and

WHEREAS, ballot integrity is necessary to ensure the effectiveness of the constitutionally provided initiative process, and

WHEREAS, investigations conducted by the Office of Election Crimes and Security have shown that agents of political committees sponsoring initiative petitions engaged in illegal and fraudulent activities while gathering petition signatures in the lead-up to recent elections, and

WHEREAS, the evidence brought forward indicates numerous instances of petition circulators being paid per signature, signing petition forms on behalf of deceased individuals, forging or misrepresenting voter

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251 signatures on petition forms, using voters' personal
252 identifying information without consent, committing
253 perjury, and swearing false oaths, and

254 WHEREAS, compensating a petition circulator based
255 on the number of petition forms gathered is a
256 violation of s. 104.186, Florida Statutes; signing
257 another person's name, whether dead or alive, or a
258 fictitious name on a petition form is a violation of
259 s. 104.185(2), Florida Statutes; and perjury or
260 swearing a false oath is a violation of s. 837.02(1),
261 Florida Statutes, and all such violations are third
262 degree felonies under Florida law, and

263 WHEREAS, fraudulently using another individual's
264 personal identification without his or her consent is
265 a violation of s. 817.568, Florida Statutes, and is,
266 at minimum, a third degree felony, and

267 WHEREAS, the fraudulent use of another
268 individual's personal identifying information becomes
269 a second degree felony with a 3-year mandatory minimum
270 prison sentence if the violation involves the
271 information of more than 10 but fewer than 20 persons,
272 a 5-year mandatory minimum prison sentence if the
273 violation involves the information of more than 20 but
274 fewer than 30 persons, and a 10-year mandatory minimum
275 prison sentence if the violation involves the

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276 information of more than 30 persons, and

277 WHEREAS, despite the fiduciary duty prescribed by
278 Florida law, sponsors of initiative petitions have
279 failed to cooperate with investigations and have
280 attempted to deflect responsibility for the actions of
281 petition circulators to contractors and
282 subcontractors, with the sponsors denying that they
283 have custody or control of documents requested by
284 state officials, and

285 WHEREAS, sponsors, contractors, and petition
286 circulators have blatantly attempted to evade
287 investigation by delegating key aspects of petition
288 activities to out-of-state entities, who then
289 subcontracted with other individuals who were even
290 further outside the reach of Florida authorities, and

291 WHEREAS, evidence provided to the Office of
292 Election Crimes and Security by supervisors of
293 elections in several counties showed that petition
294 circulators submitted petition forms on behalf of more
295 than 50 deceased Floridians, and

296 WHEREAS, information provided to the Office of
297 Election Crimes and Security from multiple supervisors
298 of elections and individual Florida voters showed that
299 petition circulators committed perjury and swore false
300 oaths by distributing petition forms with pre-signed

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301 attestations to groups of unregistered circulators,
302 who then obtained signatures outside the registered
303 circulator's presence, and

304 WHEREAS, investigations revealed that after
305 petition forms were signed and submitted by voters,
306 petition circulators tampered with the signed forms by
307 using a website to obtain missing personal identifying
308 information, and then filled in the incomplete
309 petition forms, and

310 WHEREAS, investigations indicated that some
311 otherwise valid petition forms were obtained by fraud,
312 with circulators misleading prospective signatories by
313 telling them that the amendment did something other
314 than what was described in the ballot summary or
315 amendment language, or not showing the signatories
316 what was on the ballot at all, and

317 WHEREAS, evidence showed that petition
318 circulators were able to obtain the four necessary
319 elements of personal identifying information required
320 on petitions – name, address, voter registration
321 number or birthdate, and signature – using publicly
322 available data to commit identity theft and complete
323 dozens, hundreds, or even thousands of petitions
324 without ever actually circulating a petition, and

325 WHEREAS, the Office of Election Crimes and

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Security received complaints from many Florida voters whose information was fraudulently submitted on forms for at least four initiative petitions circulated for inclusion in the 2024 General Election, and

WHEREAS, many of those complaints arose because some supervisors of elections notified a voter when a petition form bearing his or her name was rejected, which prompted such voters to contact the supervisor of elections or the Office of Election Crimes and Security to report potential fraud, and

WHEREAS, Florida does not currently restrict eligibility of persons to register as petition circulators, even in cases where such persons are not United States citizens, reside in another state, or have been convicted of a felony but have not had their right to vote restored, and

WHEREAS, at least one sponsor of an initiative amendment circulated during the 2024 General Election cycle settled a complaint with the Office of Election Crimes and Security for violations related to the petition process and agreed to pay \$164,000 in fines, and

WHEREAS, existing fines and penalties levied against petition sponsors engaging in, encouraging, or, at the very least, turning a blind eye to illegal

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activities related to the petition process appear to
be inadequate deterrents, and

WHEREAS, given its constitutional underpinnings,
the right to propose an initiative by petition is
inherent and absolute, but subject to reasonable
regulations as necessary to ensure ballot integrity
and a valid election process, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that the power to
propose an amendment to the State Constitution is reserved to
the people of Florida consistent with s. 3, Article XI of the
State Constitution. Evidence of fraud related to the process of
gathering signatures on petitions for constitutional amendments
compels the Legislature to act to protect the integrity of the
ballot, ensure a valid election process, and protect the
constitutionally provided initiative process.

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature to update the
reasonable regulations in place for petition circulators,
increase transparency and accountability for sponsors of
initiative petitions, provide prospective signatories with
objective information regarding the impact of a proposed
amendment, and deter, prevent, and penalize fraudulent
activities related to initiative petitions.

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376 Section 2. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 15.21,
377 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

378 15.21 Initiative petitions; s. 3, Art. XI, State
379 Constitution.—

380 (1) The Secretary of State shall immediately submit an
381 initiative petition to the Attorney General if the sponsor has:

382 (a) Registered as a political committee pursuant to s.
383 106.03;

384 (b) Submitted the ballot title, ballot summary substance,
385 and full text of the proposed revision or amendment to the
386 Secretary of State, who has received a financial impact
387 statement pursuant to ss. 100.371 and 101.161; and

388 (c) Obtained a letter from the Division of Elections
389 confirming that the sponsor has submitted to the appropriate
390 supervisors for verification, and the supervisors have verified,
391 forms signed and dated equal to 25 percent of the number of
392 electors statewide required by s. 3, Art. XI of the State
393 Constitution in one-half of the congressional districts of the
394 state.

395 (2) If the Secretary of State has submitted an initiative
396 petition to the Attorney General pursuant to subsection (1) but
397 the validity of the signatures for such initiative petition has
398 expired pursuant to s. 100.371(14)(a) ~~s. 100.371(11)(a)~~ before
399 securing ballot placement, the Secretary of State must promptly
400 notify the Attorney General. The Secretary of State may resubmit

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the initiative petition to the Attorney General if the initiative petition is later circulated for placement on the ballot of a subsequent general election and the criteria under subsection (1) are satisfied.

Section 3. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 16.061, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

16.061 Initiative petitions.—

(1) The Attorney General shall, within 30 days after receipt of a proposed revision or amendment to the State Constitution by initiative petition from the Secretary of State, petition the Supreme Court, requesting an advisory opinion regarding the compliance of the text of the proposed amendment or revision with s. 3, Art. XI of the State Constitution, whether the proposed amendment is facially invalid under the United States Constitution, ~~and~~ the compliance of the proposed ballot title and substance with s. 101.161, and the compliance of the financial impact statement with s. 100.371(16). The petition may enumerate any specific factual issues that the Attorney General believes would require a judicial determination.

(2) A copy of the petition shall be provided to the Secretary of State and ~~the principal officer of the sponsor of~~ the initiative petition.

(3) Any financial ~~fiscal~~ impact statement that the Supreme Court finds not to be in accordance with s. 100.371(16) must ~~s-~~

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426 ~~100.371 shall~~ be remanded solely to the Financial Impact
427 Estimating Conference for redrafting.

428 Section 4. Effective July 1, 2025, subsection (28) of
429 section 97.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

430 97.021 Definitions.—For the purposes of this code, except
431 where the context clearly indicates otherwise, the term:

432 (28) "Petition circulator" means an entity or individual
433 who collects signatures ~~for compensation~~ for the purpose of
434 qualifying a proposed constitutional amendment for ballot
435 placement. The term does not include a person who collects,
436 delivers, or otherwise physically possesses no more than 25
437 signed petition forms in addition to his or her own signed
438 petition form or a signed petition form belonging to the
439 person's spouse, or the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild,
440 or sibling of the person or the person's spouse.

441 Section 5. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (4) of
442 section 99.097, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (b)
443 of subsection (1) of that section is reenacted, to read:

444 99.097 Verification of signatures on petitions.—

445 (1)

446 (b) Rules and guidelines for petition verification shall
447 be adopted by the Department of State. Rules and guidelines for
448 a random sample method of verification may include a requirement
449 that petitions bear an additional number of names and
450 signatures, not to exceed 15 percent of the names and signatures

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otherwise required. If the petitions do not meet such criteria or if the petitions are prescribed by s. 100.371, the use of the random sample method of verification is not available to supervisors.

(4) (a) The supervisor must be paid in advance the sum of 10 cents for each signature checked or the actual cost of checking such signature, whichever is less, by the candidate or, in the case of a petition to have a local issue placed on the ballot, by the person or organization submitting the petition. In the case of a petition to place a statewide issue on the ballot, the person or organization submitting the petition must pay the supervisor in advance the cost posted by the supervisor pursuant to s. 100.371(14) ~~s. 100.371(11) for the actual cost of checking signatures to place a statewide issue on the ballot.~~

(d) Except as provided in s. 100.371(14) (d), petitions must be retained by the supervisors for a period of 1 year following the election for which the petitions were circulated.

Section 6. Section 100.371, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

100.371 Initiatives; procedure for placement on ballot.—

(1) (a) Constitutional amendments proposed by initiative shall be placed on the ballot for the general election, provided the initiative petition has been filed with the Secretary of State no later than February 1 of the year the general election is held. A petition shall be deemed to be filed with the

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Secretary of State upon the date the secretary determines that valid and verified petition forms have been signed by the constitutionally required number and distribution of voters ~~electors~~ under this code.

(b) A sponsor of an initiative petition must obtain, at least every third election cycle, a letter pursuant to s. 15.21(1)(c). Failure to obtain such letter results in expiration of the initiative petition's signatures and disbanding of the sponsor's political committee.

(c) Initiative petition signatures expire and the sponsor's political committee is disbanded if a constitutional amendment proposed by initiative submitted to the Secretary of State before February 1, 2022, fails to obtain a letter pursuant to s. 15.21(1)(c) on or before February 1, 2026. This paragraph does not preclude such a sponsor from refiling the proposed amendment as a new petition.

(2) The sponsor of an initiative amendment may not sponsor more than one amendment and must ~~shall~~, before circulating any petition forms ~~prior to obtaining any signatures~~, register as a political committee pursuant to s. 106.03 and submit the ballot title, ballot summary, article and section of the State Constitution being amended, and full text of the proposed amendment to the Secretary of State. The proposed amendment and all forms filed in connection with this section must, upon request, be made available in alternative formats, ~~with the form~~

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501 ~~on which the signatures will be affixed, and shall obtain the~~
502 ~~approval of the Secretary of State of such form. Upon receipt,~~
503 ~~the Secretary of State shall assign the initiative petition a~~
504 ~~petition number and submit a copy of the proposed amendment to~~
505 ~~the Financial Impact Estimating Conference for review, analysis,~~
506 ~~and estimation of the financial impact of the proposed~~
507 ~~amendment. After the review by the Financial Impact Estimating~~
508 ~~Conference, the division shall publish the forms with the~~
509 ~~information provided for in subsection (3) and on which~~
510 ~~signatures for the initiative petition will be affixed The~~
511 ~~Secretary of State shall adopt rules pursuant to s. 120.54~~
512 ~~prescribing the style and requirements of such form. Upon filing~~
513 ~~with the Secretary of State, the text of the proposed amendment~~
514 ~~and all forms filed in connection with this section must, upon~~
515 ~~request, be made available in alternative formats.~~

516 (3)(a) Beginning July 1, 2025, the petition form must
517 prominently display all of the following:

- 518 1. The petition number.
- 519 2. The ballot title.
- 520 3. The ballot summary.
- 521 4. A notice that the form becomes a public record upon
522 receipt by the supervisor.
- 523 5. A notice that it is a misdemeanor of the first degree
524 to knowingly sign the petition more than once.
- 525 6. A notice that the form will not be validated if all of

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the requested information is not completed.

7. For a proposed amendment submitted to the Secretary of State after the effective date of this act, the financial impact statement.

(b) The petition form must also include all of the following:

1. The full text of the proposed amendment.

2. The name and address of the sponsor.

3. The date received by the Secretary of State.

4. A bar code or serial number associated with the initiative petition.

(c) The petition form must solicit and require all of the following information:

1. The full name of the voter.

2. The voter's address and county of legal residence.

3. The voter's Florida voter registration number or date of birth.

4. The voter's Florida driver license number or the voter's Florida identification card number issued pursuant to s. 322.051, or the last four digits of the voter's social security number.

5. An attestation that the voter is a registered Florida voter and is petitioning the Secretary of State to place the proposed amendment on the ballot.

6. The voter's signature and the date on which the voter

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signed the form.

(d) A petition form distributed by a petition circulator must also include all of the following:

1. The Petition Circulator's Affidavit with the circulator's name, permanent address, and petition circulator number or barcode.

2. The following statement, which must be signed and dated by the circulator:

By my signature below, as petition circulator, I verify that the petition was completed and signed by the voter in my presence. Under penalty of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing Petition Circulator's Affidavit, and that the facts stated in it are true, and that if I was paid to circulate or collect this petition, payment was not on a per signature basis.

(e) A petition form distributed by a person other than a petition circulator must also include, in lieu of the Petition Circulator's Affidavit, the following notice:

This form is for PERSONAL USE only. Unless registered as a petition circulator, it is a third degree felony to collect, deliver, or otherwise physically possess

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more than 25 signed petition forms in addition to your
own or those of immediate family members.

(f) The petition form must be in a type not less than 10
points, except for the full text of the proposed amendment,
which may be in a type not less than 6 points if 10-point type
would cause the length of the petition form to exceed one page
front and back.

(4) (a) Beginning July 1, 2025, unless registered as a
petition circulator with the Secretary of State and issued a
petition circulator number, a person may not collect, deliver,
or otherwise physically possess more than 25 signed petition
forms in addition to his or her own signed petition form or a
signed petition form belonging to an immediate family member.
This paragraph may not be construed to prohibit a person from
distributing petition forms designated for personal use as
described in paragraph (3) (e). For the purposes of this
subsection, the term "immediate family" means a person's spouse,
or the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, or sibling of the
person or the person's spouse ~~signatures or initiative petitions
for compensation unless the person is registered as a petition
circulator with the Secretary of State.~~

(b) A person may not collect signatures or initiative
petitions if he or she:

1. Has been convicted of a felony violation and has not

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had his or her right to vote restored.

2. Is not a citizen of the United States.

3. Is not a resident of this state.

~~(b) A citizen may challenge a petition circulator's registration under this section by filing a petition in circuit court. If the court finds that the respondent is not a registered petition circulator, the court may enjoin the respondent from collecting signatures or initiative petitions for compensation until she or he is lawfully registered.~~

(c)~~(4)~~ An application for registration must be submitted in the format required by the Secretary of State and must include the following:

1.~~(a)~~ The information required to be on the petition form under s. 101.161, including the ballot summary and title as received ~~approved~~ by the Secretary of State.

2.~~(b)~~ The applicant's name, permanent address, temporary address, if applicable, and date of birth, Florida driver license or Florida identification card number, and the last four digits of his or her social security number.

3.~~(c)~~ An address in this state at which the applicant will accept service of process related to disputes concerning the petition process, ~~if the applicant is not a resident of this state.~~

4.~~(d)~~ A statement that the applicant consents to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state in resolving disputes

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626 concerning the petition process.

627 5.~~(e)~~ Any information required by the Secretary of State
628 to verify the applicant's identity or address.

629 6. Whether the applicant has been convicted of a felony
630 violation and has not had his or her right to vote restored, by
631 including the statement, "I affirm that I am not a convicted
632 felon, or, if I am, my right to vote has been restored," and
633 providing a box for the applicant to check to affirm the
634 statement.

635 7. Whether the applicant is a citizen of the United
636 States, by asking the question, "Are you a citizen of the United
637 States of America?" and providing boxes for the applicant to
638 check whether the applicant is or is not a citizen of the United
639 States.

640 8. Whether the applicant is a Florida resident by asking
641 the question, "Are you a resident of the state of Florida?" and
642 providing boxes for the applicant to check whether the applicant
643 is or is not a resident of the state of Florida.

644 9. The signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury
645 for false swearing pursuant to s. 104.011, by which the
646 applicant swears or affirms that the information contained in
647 the application is true.

648 (d) A citizen may challenge a petition circulator's
649 registration under this section by filing a petition in circuit
650 court. If the court finds that the respondent is not a

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registered petition circulator, the court may enjoin the
respondent from collecting signatures or initiative petitions
until he or she is lawfully registered.

(e) The division may revoke a petition circulator's
registration upon the written request of the sponsor of the
initiative petition or if the circulator violates this section.

(f) A person may not register to collect signatures or
initiative petitions until he or she has completed the training
concerning the requirements for petition circulators. The
training must be developed by the division and must be in an
electronic format available on the division's public website.

The training must, at a minimum, include the following:

1. An overview of the petition-gathering process.

2. An overview of the petition circulator registration
requirements.

3. An explanation that the sponsor of an initiative
amendment serves as a fiduciary to each voter who signs a
petition.

4. An explanation that the Florida Election Code prohibits
compensation or provision of any benefit based on the number of
petition forms gathered or the time within which a number of
petition forms are gathered.

5. The specific criminal penalties to which a petition
circulator may be subject for violating the Florida Election
Code.

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676 (g) The sponsor of the initiative amendment is liable for
677 a fine in the amount of \$50,000 for each person the sponsor
678 knowingly allows to collect petition forms on behalf of the
679 sponsor in violation of this subsection.

680 (5) A sponsor may not compensate a petition circulator
681 based on the number of petition forms gathered or the time
682 within which a number of petition forms are gathered. This
683 prohibition includes, but is not limited to, paying a specified
684 amount per petition form gathered, basing an hourly rate on the
685 number of petition forms gathered over a specified period of
686 time, or providing any other benefit or form of compensation
687 based on the number of petition forms gathered. All petitions
688 ~~collected by a petition circulator must contain, in a format~~
689 ~~required by the Secretary of State, a completed Petition~~
690 ~~Circulator's Affidavit which includes:~~

691 ~~(a) The circulator's name and permanent address;~~

692 ~~(b) The following statement, which must be signed by the~~
693 ~~circulator:~~

694
695 ~~By my signature below, as petition circulator, I~~

696 ~~verify that the petition was signed in my presence.~~

697 ~~Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read~~

698 ~~the foregoing Petition Circulator's Affidavit and the~~

699 ~~facts stated in it are true.~~
700

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(6) The division ~~or the supervisor of elections~~ shall make ~~hard copy petition forms or~~ electronic portable document format petition forms available to registered petition circulators. All such forms must contain information identifying the petition circulator to whom ~~which~~ the forms are provided. The division shall maintain a database of all registered petition circulators and the petition forms assigned to each. Each supervisor of elections shall provide to the division information on petition forms ~~assigned to and~~ received from petition circulators. The information must be provided in a format and at times as required by the division by rule. The division must update information on petition forms daily and make the information publicly available.

(7)(a) A sponsor that collects petition forms or uses a petition circulator to collect petition forms serves as a fiduciary to the voter ~~elector~~ signing the petition form and shall ensure, ~~ensuring~~ that any petition form entrusted to the sponsor or petition circulator ~~is~~ shall be promptly delivered to the supervisor of elections in the county in which the voter resides within 10 ~~30~~ days after the voter ~~elector~~ signs the form. If a petition form collected by the sponsor or any petition circulator is not promptly delivered to the supervisor of elections, the sponsor is liable for the following fines:

1. A fine in the amount of \$50 per each day late for each petition form received by the supervisor of elections in the

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county in which the voter resides more than 10 ~~30~~ days after the
voter ~~elector~~ signed the petition form ~~or the next business day,~~
~~if the office is closed.~~ A fine in the amount of \$2,500 ~~\$250~~ for
each petition form received if the sponsor or petition
circulator acted willfully.

2. A fine in the amount of \$100 per each day late, up to a
maximum of \$5,000, for each petition form collected by a sponsor
or a petition circulator, signed by a voter on or before
February 1 of the year the general election is held and received
by the supervisor of elections in the county in which the voter
resides after the deadline for such election. A fine in the
amount of \$5,000 for each such petition form received if the
sponsor or petition circulator acted willfully.

3. A fine in the amount of \$500 for each petition form
collected by a petition circulator which is not submitted to the
supervisor of elections in the county in which the voter
resides. A fine in the amount of \$5,000 ~~\$1,000~~ for any petition
form not so submitted if the sponsor or petition circulator
acting on its behalf acted willfully.

(b) A showing by the sponsor that the failure to deliver
the petition form within the required timeframe is based upon
force majeure or impossibility of performance is an affirmative
defense to a violation of this subsection. The fines described
in this subsection may be waived upon a showing that the failure
to deliver the petition form promptly is based upon force

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majeure or impossibility of performance.

(8) If a person collecting petition forms on behalf of a sponsor of an initiative petition signs another person's name or a fictitious name to any petition, or fills in missing information on a signed petition, to secure a ballot position in violation of s. 104.185(2), the sponsor of the initiative petition is liable for a fine in the amount of \$5,000 for each such petition.

(9) If a person collecting petition forms on behalf of a sponsor of an initiative petition copies or retains a voter's personal information, such as the voter's Florida driver license number, Florida identification card number, social security number, or signature, for any reason other than to provide such information to the sponsor of the initiative petition, the person commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(10) A sponsor of an initiative petition or a person collecting petition forms on behalf of a sponsor of an initiative petition may not mail or otherwise provide a petition form upon which any information about a voter has been filled in before it is provided to the voter. The sponsor of an initiative petition is liable for a fine in the amount of \$50 for each petition form that is a violation of this subsection.

~~(11)-(8)~~ If the Secretary of State reasonably believes that a person or entity has committed a violation of this section,

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776 the secretary may refer the matter to the Attorney General for
777 enforcement. The Attorney General may institute a civil action
778 for a violation of this section or to prevent a violation of
779 this section. An action for relief may include a permanent or
780 temporary injunction, a restraining order, or any other
781 appropriate order. If the sponsor of an initiative petition
782 discovers a violation of this section and reports the violation
783 as soon as practicable to the secretary, the sponsor may not be
784 fined for such violation.

785 ~~(12)(9)~~ The division shall adopt by rule a complaint form
786 for a voter ~~an elector~~ who claims to have had his or her
787 signature misrepresented, forged, or not delivered to the
788 supervisor. The division shall also adopt rules to ensure the
789 integrity of the petition form gathering process, including
790 rules requiring sponsors to account for all petition forms used
791 by their agents. Such rules may require a sponsor or petition
792 circulator to provide identification information on each
793 petition form as determined by the department as needed to
794 assist in the accounting of petition forms.

795 ~~(13)(10)~~ The date on which a voter ~~an elector~~ signs a
796 petition form is presumed to be the date on which the petition
797 circulator received or collected the petition form.

798 ~~(14)(a)(11)(a)~~ An initiative petition form circulated for
799 signature may not be bundled with or attached to any other
800 petition. Each signature shall be dated when made and shall be

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valid until the next February 1 occurring in an even-numbered year for the purpose of the amendment appearing on the ballot for the general election occurring in that same year, provided all other requirements of law are met. The sponsor shall submit signed and dated forms to the supervisor of elections for the county of residence listed by the person signing the form for verification of the number of valid signatures obtained.

(b) The supervisor shall record the date each submitted petition is received. If a signature on a petition is from a registered voter in another county, the supervisor must ~~shall~~ notify the petition sponsor and the division of the misfiled petition. The supervisor shall promptly verify the signatures within 60 days after receipt of the petition forms and payment and processing of a fee for the actual cost of signature verification incurred by the supervisor. However, for petition forms submitted less than 60 days before February 1 of an even-numbered year, the supervisor shall promptly verify the signatures within 30 days after receipt of the form and payment of the fee for signature verification.

(c) Beginning July 1, 2025, the supervisor shall promptly record, in the manner prescribed by the Secretary of State, the date each form is received by the supervisor, and the date the signature on the form is verified as valid. The supervisor may verify that the signature on a form is valid only if:

1. The form contains the original signature of the

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purported voter ~~elector~~.

2. The purported voter ~~elector~~ has accurately recorded on the form the date on which he or she signed the form.

3. The form sets forth the purported voter's: ~~elector's~~

a. Full name;~~;~~

b. Address and, city, county of residence;~~;~~ and

c. Voter registration number or date of birth; and

d. Florida driver license or Florida identification card number issued pursuant to s. 322.051 or the last four digits of the voter's social security number.

4. The purported voter ~~elector~~ is, at the time he or she signs the form and at the time the form is verified, a duly qualified and registered voter ~~elector~~ in the state.

5. The signature was obtained legally, including that if a ~~paid~~ petition circulator was used, the circulator was validly registered under subsection (4) ~~(3)~~ when the signature was obtained.

~~The supervisor shall retain all signature forms, separating forms verified as valid from those deemed invalid, for at least 1 year following the election for which the petition was circulated.~~

(d)1.(b) On the last day of each month, or on the last day of each week from December 1 of an odd-numbered year through February 1 of the following year, each supervisor shall

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851 electronically transmit all received petition forms to the
852 division. The digital images of the scanned petition forms must
853 be of high enough quality that division personnel are able to
854 accurately discern elements contained in such forms. Forms must
855 be identified as valid or as invalid.

856 2. Each supervisor shall retain all petition forms,
857 identifying forms verified as valid from those deemed invalid,
858 until all petition forms have been processed following the
859 February 1 deadline. As soon as practicable following the
860 processing of the last timely submitted petition form, but not
861 later than March 15 following the February 1 deadline, the
862 supervisor shall deliver the physical forms to the division. The
863 division shall retain all petition forms for 1 year following
864 the election for which the petition was circulated.

865 (e) Beginning October 1, 2025, when the signature on the
866 petition form is verified as valid, the supervisor shall, as
867 soon as practicable, notify the voter by mail at the mailing
868 address on file in the Florida Voter Registration System.

869 1. Such notice must be sent by forwardable mail with a
870 postage prepaid preaddressed form, which may be returned to the
871 Office of Election Crimes and Security. The notice must include
872 contact information for the Office of Election Crimes and
873 Security, including the telephone number, fax number, mailing
874 address, and e-mail address. The notice must include all of the
875 following statements or information in substantially the

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following form:

NOTICE

A petition to place a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot for the next general election, bearing your name and signature, has been received and verified by the Supervisor of Elections Office in ... (insert county)....

The petition is for ...(insert the petition serial number and ballot title)... and was signed on ...(insert the date the voter signed the petition)....

Check this box ☐, sign, and return this notice to the Office of Election Crimes and Security if you believe your signature has been misrepresented or forged on a petition. The petition form in question will be invalidated and will not be counted toward the number of signatures required to place this proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot.

A notice being returned must be received by the Office of Election Crimes and Security on or before February 1 ... (insert the year in which the general election

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is held)....

...(Insert the voter's Florida voter registration
number, and if applicable, the petition circulator's
number)....

By signing below, I swear or affirm that my signature
was misrepresented or forged on the petition form
indicated in this notice.

...(Voter's Signature)... ...(Date)...

This notice becomes a public record upon receipt by
the Office of Election Crimes and Security. It is a
second degree misdemeanor, punishable as provided in
s. 775.082, Florida Statutes, or s. 772.083, Florida
Statutes, for a person to knowingly make a false
official statement pursuant to s. 837.06, Florida
Statutes.

2. Upon receiving a completed notice, the Office of
Election Crimes and Security shall transmit a copy of such
notices to the division. The division shall deem the voter's
petition form invalid.

(f) Each supervisor shall post the actual cost of

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signature verification for petition forms received more than 60
days before February 1 of an even-numbered year and for petition
forms received less than 60 days before February 1 of an even-
numbered year on his or her website, and may increase such cost,
as necessary, annually on March 1 ~~February 2 of each even-~~
~~numbered year.~~ These costs include operating and personnel costs
associated with comparing signatures, printing and all postage
costs related to the verification notice required by paragraph
(e), and transmitting petition forms to the division. The
division shall also publish each county's current cost on its
website. The division and each supervisor shall biennially
review available technology aimed at reducing verification
costs.

(g) ~~(e)~~ On the last day of each month, or on the last day
of each week from December 1 of an odd-numbered year through
February 1 of the following year, each supervisor shall post on
his or her website the total number of signatures submitted, the
total number of invalid signatures, the total number of
signatures processed, and the aggregate number of verified valid
signatures and the distribution of such signatures by
congressional district for each proposed amendment proposed by
initiative, along with the following information specific to the
reporting period: the total number of signed petition forms
received, the total number of signatures verified, the
distribution of verified valid signatures by congressional

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951 district, and the total number of verified petition forms
952 forwarded to the Secretary of State. For any reporting period in
953 which the percentage of petition forms deemed invalid by the
954 supervisor exceeds a total of 25 percent of the petition forms
955 received by the supervisor for that reporting period, the
956 supervisor shall notify the Office of Election Crimes and
957 Security. The Office of Election Crimes and Security shall
958 conduct a preliminary investigation into the activities of the
959 sponsor, one or more petition circulators, or a person
960 collecting petition forms on behalf of a sponsor, to determine
961 whether the invalidated petitions are a result of fraud or any
962 other violation of this section. As authorized by ss. 97.012(15)
963 and 97.022(1), the Office of Elections Crimes and Security may,
964 if warranted, report findings to the statewide prosecutor or the
965 state attorney for the judicial circuit in which the alleged
966 violation occurred for prosecution.

967 (h) A signed petition form submitted by an ineligible or
968 unregistered petition circulator must be invalidated and may not
969 be counted toward the number of necessary signatures for
970 placement on the ballot.

971 (15) ~~(12)~~ The Secretary of State shall determine from the
972 signatures verified by the supervisors of elections the total
973 number of verified valid signatures, less any signatures that
974 were invalidated pursuant to subsection (14), and the
975 distribution of such signatures by congressional districts, and

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the division shall post such information on its website at the same intervals specified in paragraph (14)(g) ~~(11)(e)~~. Upon a determination that the requisite number and distribution of valid signatures have been obtained, the secretary shall issue a certificate of ballot position for that proposed amendment and shall assign a designating number pursuant to s. 101.161. The secretary must rescind the certificate of ballot position if an advisory opinion issued by the Supreme Court pursuant to s. 16.061(1) deems the initiative petition invalid.

(16)(a) ~~(13)(a)~~ Upon receipt of a proposed revision or amendment from the Secretary of State, the coordinator of the Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall contact the person identified as the sponsor to request an official list of all persons authorized to speak on behalf of the named sponsor and, if there is one, the sponsoring organization at meetings held by the Financial Impact Estimating Conference. All other persons must be deemed interested parties or proponents or opponents of the initiative. The Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall provide an opportunity for any representative of the sponsor, interested parties, and proponents or opponents of the initiative to submit information and may solicit information or analysis from any other entities or agencies, including the Office of Economic and Demographic Research ~~At the same time the Secretary of State submits an initiative petition to the Attorney General pursuant to s. 15.21, the secretary~~

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1001 ~~shall submit a copy of the initiative petition to the Financial~~
1002 ~~Impact Estimating Conference.~~

1003 **(b)** Within 75 days after receipt of a proposed revision or
1004 amendment to the State Constitution by initiative petition from
1005 the Secretary of State, the Financial Impact Estimating
1006 Conference shall complete an analysis and financial impact
1007 statement to be placed on the ballot of the estimated increase
1008 or decrease in any revenues or costs to state or local
1009 governments and the overall impact to the state budget resulting
1010 from the proposed initiative. The 75-day time limit is tolled
1011 when the Legislature is in session. The Financial Impact
1012 Estimating Conference shall submit the financial impact
1013 statement to the ~~Attorney General and~~ Secretary of State. If the
1014 ~~initiative petition has been submitted to the Financial Impact~~
1015 ~~Estimating Conference but the validity of signatures has expired~~
1016 ~~and the initiative petition no longer qualifies for ballot~~
1017 ~~placement at the ensuing general election, the Secretary of~~
1018 ~~State must notify the Financial Impact Estimating Conference.~~
1019 The Financial Impact Estimating Conference **does** ~~is~~ not ~~required~~
1020 ~~to~~ complete an analysis and financial impact statement for an
1021 initiative petition ~~that fails to meet the requirements of~~
1022 ~~subsection (1) for placement on the ballot before the 75-day~~
1023 ~~time limit, including any tolling period, expires,~~ **the ballot**
1024 **must include the statement required by s. 101.161(1)(e).** ~~The~~
1025 ~~initiative petition may be resubmitted to the Financial Impact~~

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1026 ~~Estimating Conference if the initiative petition meets the~~
1027 ~~requisite criteria for a subsequent general election cycle. A~~
1028 ~~new Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall be established~~
1029 ~~at such time as the initiative petition again satisfies the~~
1030 ~~criteria in s. 15.21(1).~~

1031 ~~(b) Immediately upon receipt of a proposed revision or~~
1032 ~~amendment from the Secretary of State, the coordinator of the~~
1033 ~~Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall contact the~~
1034 ~~person identified as the sponsor to request an official list of~~
1035 ~~all persons authorized to speak on behalf of the named sponsor~~
1036 ~~and, if there is one, the sponsoring organization at meetings~~
1037 ~~held by the Financial Impact Estimating Conference. All other~~
1038 ~~persons shall be deemed interested parties or proponents or~~
1039 ~~opponents of the initiative. The Financial Impact Estimating~~
1040 ~~Conference shall provide an opportunity for any representatives~~
1041 ~~of the sponsor, interested parties, proponents, or opponents of~~
1042 ~~the initiative to submit information and may solicit information~~
1043 ~~or analysis from any other entities or agencies, including the~~
1044 ~~Office of Economic and Demographic Research.~~

1045 (c) The Financial Impact Estimating Conference may be
1046 convened only by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of
1047 the House of Representatives, jointly. All meetings of the
1048 Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall be open to the
1049 public. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
1050 of Representatives, jointly, shall be the sole judge for the

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1051 interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of this
1052 subsection.

1053 1. The Financial Impact Estimating Conference is
1054 established to review, analyze, and estimate the financial
1055 impact of amendments to or revisions of the State Constitution
1056 proposed by initiative. The Financial Impact Estimating
1057 Conference shall be composed ~~consist~~ of four principals: one
1058 person from the professional staff of the Executive Office of
1059 the Governor or from a state agency, designated by the Governor;
1060 the coordinator of the Office of Economic and Demographic
1061 Research, or his or her designee; one person from the
1062 professional staff of the Senate, designated by the President of
1063 the Senate; and one person from the professional staff of the
1064 House of Representatives, designated by the Speaker of the House
1065 of Representatives. Each principal shall have appropriate fiscal
1066 expertise in the subject matter of the initiative. A Financial
1067 Impact Estimating Conference may be appointed for each
1068 initiative.

1069 2. Principals of the Financial Impact Estimating
1070 Conference shall reach a consensus or majority concurrence on a
1071 clear and unambiguous financial impact statement, no more than
1072 150 words in length, and immediately submit the statement to the
1073 Attorney General. Nothing in this subsection prohibits the
1074 Financial Impact Estimating Conference from setting forth a
1075 range of potential impacts in the financial impact statement.

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1076 ~~Any financial impact statement that a court finds not to be in~~
1077 ~~accordance with this section shall be remanded solely to the~~
1078 ~~Financial Impact Estimating Conference for redrafting. The~~
1079 ~~Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall redraft the~~
1080 ~~financial impact statement within 15 days.~~

1081 ~~3. If the Supreme Court has rejected the initial~~
1082 ~~submission by the Financial Impact Estimating Conference and no~~
1083 ~~redraft has been approved by the Supreme Court by 5 p.m. on the~~
1084 ~~75th day before the election, the following statement shall~~
1085 ~~appear on the ballot: "The impact of this measure, if any, has~~
1086 ~~not been determined at this time."~~

1087 (d) The financial impact statement must be separately
1088 contained on the petition form and the ballot and be set forth
1089 after the ballot summary as required in s. 101.161(1).

1090 1. If the financial impact statement projects a net
1091 negative impact on the state budget, the ballot must include the
1092 statement required by s. 101.161(1)(b).

1093 2. If the financial impact statement projects a net
1094 positive impact on the state budget, the ballot must include the
1095 statement required by s. 101.161(1)(c).

1096 3. If the financial impact statement estimates an
1097 indeterminate financial impact or if the members of the
1098 Financial Impact Estimating Conference are unable to agree on
1099 the statement required by this subsection, the ballot must
1100 include the statement required by s. 101.161(1)(d).

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4. If the financial impact statement was not produced or if the Financial Impact Estimating Conference did not meet to produce the financial statement, the ballot must include the statement required by s. 101.161(1)(e).

~~(e)1.~~ Any financial impact statement that the Supreme Court finds not to be in accordance with this subsection shall be remanded solely to the Financial Impact Estimating Conference for redrafting, ~~provided the court's advisory opinion is rendered at least 75 days before the election at which the question of ratifying the amendment will be presented.~~ The Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall prepare and adopt a revised financial impact statement no later than 5 p.m. on the 15th day after the date of the court's opinion. The sponsor of the initiative must refile the petition with the revised financial impact statement with the Secretary of State as a new petition.

~~2. If, by 5 p.m. on the 75th day before the election, the Supreme Court has not issued an advisory opinion on the initial financial impact statement prepared by the Financial Impact Estimating Conference for an initiative amendment that otherwise meets the legal requirements for ballot placement, the financial impact statement shall be deemed approved for placement on the ballot.~~

~~(f)3.~~ In addition to the financial impact statement required by this subsection, the Financial Impact Estimating

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1126 Conference shall draft an initiative financial information
1127 statement. The initiative financial information statement should
1128 describe in greater detail than the financial impact statement
1129 any projected increase or decrease in revenues or costs that the
1130 state or local governments would likely experience if the ballot
1131 measure were approved. If appropriate, the initiative financial
1132 information statement may include both estimated dollar amounts
1133 and a description placing the estimated dollar amounts into
1134 context. The initiative financial information statement must
1135 include both a summary of not more than 500 words and additional
1136 detailed information that includes the assumptions that were
1137 made to develop the financial impacts, workpapers, and any other
1138 information deemed relevant by the Financial Impact Estimating
1139 Conference.

1140 (g)~~4~~. The Department of State shall have printed, and
1141 shall furnish to each supervisor of elections, a copy of the
1142 summary from the initiative financial information statements.
1143 The supervisors shall have the summary from the initiative
1144 financial information statements available at each polling place
1145 and at the main office of the supervisor of elections upon
1146 request.

1147 (h)~~5~~. The Secretary of State and the Office of Economic
1148 and Demographic Research shall make available on the Internet
1149 each initiative financial information statement in its entirety.
1150 In addition, each supervisor of elections whose office has a

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1151 website shall post the summary from each initiative financial
1152 information statement on the website. Each supervisor shall
1153 include a copy of each summary from the initiative financial
1154 information statements and the Internet addresses for the
1155 information statements on the Secretary of State's and the
1156 Office of Economic and Demographic Research's websites in the
1157 publication or mailing required by s. 101.20.

1158 (17)-(14) The Department of State may adopt rules in
1159 accordance with s. 120.54 to implement this section ~~carry out~~
1160 ~~the provisions of subsections (1)-(14).~~

1161 (18)-(15) No provision of this code shall be deemed to
1162 prohibit a private person exercising lawful control over
1163 privately owned property, including property held open to the
1164 public for the purposes of a commercial enterprise, from
1165 excluding from such property persons seeking to engage in
1166 activity supporting or opposing initiative amendments.

1167 Section 7. (1) By July 1, 2025, the Department of State
1168 shall update the forms as required by the amendments made to s.
1169 100.371(3), Florida Statutes, for any proposed amendments
1170 received before July 1, 2025.

1171 (2)(a) By June 1, 2025, the Department of State shall make
1172 available a new petition circulator application to incorporate
1173 the amendments made to s. 100.371(4), Florida Statutes.

1174 (b)1. Effective July 1, 2025, the registration of each
1175 petition circulator expires.

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1176 2. No later than 7 days after this section becomes law,
1177 the Department of State shall notify each petition circulator
1178 that his or her registration expires on July 1, 2025, and that
1179 he or she may reregister by completing a new application that
1180 will be available before the current registration expires.

1181 (c) By June 1, 2025, the Department of State shall develop
1182 the training required by s. 100.371(4)(f), Florida Statutes.

1183 (3) No later than October 1, 2025, a supervisor of
1184 elections may increase the cost of signature verification
1185 pursuant to the amendments made to s. 100.371(14)(f), Florida
1186 Statutes. A supervisor shall post the cost of signature
1187 verification on his or her publicly available website as soon as
1188 such cost is determined.

1189 Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
1190 101.161, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (e) is
1191 added to that subsection, to read:

1192 101.161 Referenda; ballots.—

1193 (1) Whenever a constitutional amendment or other public
1194 measure is submitted to the vote of the people, a ballot summary
1195 of such amendment or other public measure shall be printed in
1196 clear and unambiguous language on the ballot after the list of
1197 candidates, followed by the word "yes" and also by the word
1198 "no," and shall be styled in such a manner that a "yes" vote
1199 will indicate approval of the proposal and a "no" vote will
1200 indicate rejection. The ballot summary of the amendment or other

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public measure and the ballot title to appear on the ballot shall be embodied in the constitutional revision commission proposal, constitutional convention proposal, taxation and budget reform commission proposal, or enabling resolution or ordinance. The ballot summary of the amendment or other public measure shall be an explanatory statement, not exceeding 75 words in length, of the chief purpose of the measure. In addition, for every constitutional amendment proposed by initiative, the ballot shall include, following the ballot summary, in the following order:

(a) A separate financial impact statement concerning the measure prepared by the Financial Impact Estimating Conference in accordance with s. 100.371(16) ~~s. 100.371(13)~~.

(e) If the financial impact statement was not produced or if the Financial Impact Estimating Conference did not meet to produce the financial impact statement, the following statement in bold print:

THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THIS AMENDMENT, IF ANY, HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED AT THIS TIME.

The ballot title shall consist of a caption, not exceeding 15 words in length, by which the measure is commonly referred to or spoken of. This subsection does not apply to constitutional amendments or revisions proposed by joint resolution.

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Section 9. Subsection (2) of section 102.111, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

102.111 Elections Canvassing Commission.—

(2) The Elections Canvassing Commission shall meet at 8 a.m. on the 9th day after a primary election and at 8 a.m. on the 14th day after a general election to certify the returns of the election for each federal, state, and multicounty office and for each constitutional amendment. If a member of a county canvassing board that was constituted pursuant to s. 102.141 determines, within 5 days after the certification by the Elections Canvassing Commission, that a typographical error occurred in the official returns of the county, the correction of which could result in a change in the outcome of an election, the county canvassing board must certify corrected returns to the Department of State within 24 hours, and the Elections Canvassing Commission must correct and recertify the election returns as soon as practicable.

Section 10. Section 102.121, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

102.121 Elections Canvassing Commission to issue certificates.—The Elections Canvassing Commission shall make and sign separate certificates of the result of the election for federal officers, ~~and~~ state officers, and constitutional amendments, which certificates must ~~shall~~ be written and contain the total number of votes cast for and against each person for

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each office and the total number of votes cast for and against
each constitutional amendment. The certificates, the one
including the result of the election for presidential electors
and representatives to Congress, and the other including the
result of the election for state officers, shall be recorded in
the Department of State in a book to be kept for that purpose.

Section 11. Subsections (1), (3), and (4) of section
102.168, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

102.168 Contest of election.—

(1) Except as provided in s. 102.171, the certification of
election or nomination of any person to office, or of the
adoption of a constitutional amendment or the result on any
question submitted by referendum, may be contested in the
circuit court by any unsuccessful candidate for such office or
nomination thereto or by any voter ~~elector~~ qualified to vote in
the election related to such candidacy or constitutional
amendment, or by any taxpayer, respectively.

(3) The complaint must ~~shall~~ set forth the grounds on
which the contestant intends to establish his or her right to
such office; or set aside the result of the election on a
~~submitted~~ referendum or constitutional amendment. The grounds
for contesting an election or a constitutional amendment under
this section are:

(a) Misconduct, fraud, or corruption on the part of any
election official or any member of the canvassing board

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1276 sufficient to change or place in doubt the result of the
1277 election.

1278 (b) Ineligibility of the successful candidate for the
1279 nomination or office in dispute or of the proposed
1280 constitutional amendment for placement on the ballot.

1281 (c) Receipt of a number of illegal votes or rejection of a
1282 number of legal votes sufficient to change or place in doubt the
1283 result of the election.

1284 (d) Proof that any voter ~~elector~~, election official, or
1285 canvassing board member was given or offered a bribe or reward
1286 in money, property, or any other thing of value for the purpose
1287 of procuring the successful candidate's nomination or election
1288 or determining the result on any question ~~submitted~~ by
1289 referendum or constitutional amendment.

1290 (4) The canvassing board responsible for canvassing the
1291 election is an indispensable party defendant in county and local
1292 elections. The Elections Canvassing Commission is an
1293 indispensable party defendant in federal, state, and multicounty
1294 elections, in elections for constitutional amendments, and in
1295 elections for justice of the Supreme Court, judge of a district
1296 court of appeal, and judge of a circuit court. The successful
1297 candidate is an indispensable party to any action brought to
1298 contest the election or nomination of a candidate. The sponsor
1299 of a constitutional amendment proposed by initiative petition,
1300 identified pursuant to s. 100.371, is an indispensable party to

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any action brought to contest such election.

Section 12. Subsection (2) of section 104.185, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

104.185 Petitions; knowingly signing more than once; signing another person's name or a fictitious name.—

(2) A person who signs another person's name or a fictitious name to any petition, or who fills in missing information on a signed petition, to secure ballot position for a candidate, a minor political party, or an issue commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 13. Section 104.186, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

104.186 Initiative petitions; violations.—A person who compensates a petition circulator as defined in s. 97.021 based on the number of petition forms gathered, as prohibited by s. 100.371(5), commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. This section does not prohibit employment relationships that do not base payment on the number of signatures collected.

Section 14. Section 104.187, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

104.187 Initiative petitions; registration.—A person who violates s. 100.371(4)(a) ~~s. 100.371(3)~~ commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.

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775.083.

Section 15. Effective July 1, 2025, section 104.188, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

104.188 Petition forms gathered from immediate family; violations.—

(1) For the purposes of this section, the term "immediate family" means a person's spouse or the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, or sibling of the person or the person's spouse.

(2) A person who collects, delivers, or otherwise physically possesses more than 25 signed petition forms in addition to his or her own signed petition form or a signed petition form belonging to an immediate family member, and who is not registered as a petition circulator pursuant to s. 100.371(4) (a), commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(3) This section may not be construed to prohibit a person from distributing petition forms designed for personal use as described in s. 100.371(3) (e).

Section 16. Section 106.151, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

106.151 Use of public funds prohibited.—

(1) As used in this section, the term "public funds" means all moneys under the jurisdiction or control of the state government.

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1351 (2) The state government or any person acting on behalf of
1352 the state government may not expend or authorize the expenditure
1353 of, and a person or group may not accept, public funds for a
1354 political advertisement or any other communication sent to
1355 electors concerning any proposed constitutional amendment or
1356 revision that is subject to a vote of the electors. This
1357 subsection applies to a communication initiated by the state
1358 government or a person acting on behalf of the state government,
1359 irrespective of whether the communication is limited to factual
1360 information or advocates for the passage or defeat of a proposed
1361 constitutional amendment or revision. This subsection does not
1362 preclude the state government or a person acting on behalf of
1363 the state government from reporting on official actions of the
1364 state government in an accurate, fair, and impartial manner;
1365 posting factual information on a government website or in
1366 printed materials; hosting and providing information at a public
1367 forum; providing factual information in response to an inquiry;
1368 or providing information as otherwise authorized or required by
1369 law.

1370 (3) With the exception of the prohibitions specified in
1371 subsection (2), this section does not preclude an elected
1372 official of the state government from expressing an opinion on
1373 any issue at any time.

1374 Section 17. Subsection (3) of section 106.19, Florida
1375 Statutes, is amended to read:

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106.19 Violations by candidates, persons connected with campaigns, and political committees.—

(3) A political committee sponsoring a constitutional amendment proposed by initiative which submits a petition form gathered by a ~~paid~~ petition circulator which does not provide the name and address of the ~~paid~~ petition circulator on the form is subject to the civil penalties prescribed in s. 106.265.

Section 18. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 212.055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

212.055 Discretionary sales surtaxes; legislative intent; authorization and use of proceeds.—It is the legislative intent that any authorization for imposition of a discretionary sales surtax shall be published in the Florida Statutes as a subsection of this section, irrespective of the duration of the levy. Each enactment shall specify the types of counties authorized to levy; the rate or rates which may be imposed; the maximum length of time the surtax may be imposed, if any; the procedure which must be followed to secure voter approval, if required; the purpose for which the proceeds may be expended; and such other requirements as the Legislature may provide. Taxable transactions and administrative procedures shall be as provided in s. 212.054.

(1) CHARTER COUNTY AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM SURTAX.—

(c)1. The proposal to adopt a discretionary sales surtax

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as provided in this subsection and to create a trust fund within the county accounts must ~~shall~~ be placed on the ballot in accordance with law and must be approved in a referendum held at a general election in accordance with subsection (10).

2. If the proposal to adopt a surtax is by initiative, the petition sponsor must, at least 180 days before the proposed referendum, comply with all of the following:

a. Provide a copy of the final resolution or ordinance to the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall procure a certified public accountant in accordance with subsection (11) for the performance audit.

b. File the initiative petition and its required valid signatures with the supervisor of elections. The supervisor of elections shall verify signatures and retain signature forms in the same manner as required for initiatives under s. 100.371(14) ~~s. 100.371(11)~~.

3. The failure of an initiative sponsor to comply with the requirements of subparagraph 2. renders any referendum held void.

Section 19. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (8) of section 895.02, Florida Statutes, to read:

895.02 Definitions.—As used in ss. 895.01-895.08, the term:

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1426 (8) "Racketeering activity" means to commit, to attempt to
1427 commit, to conspire to commit, or to solicit, coerce, or
1428 intimidate another person to commit:

1429 (d) A violation of the Florida Election Code relating to
1430 irregularities or fraud involving issue petition activities.

1431 Section 20. (1) To ensure uniformity and integrity in the
1432 initiative process, a signed petition form may not be verified
1433 between July 1, 2025, and September 30, 2025.

1434 (2) A petition form gathered after July 1, 2025, must be
1435 delivered as provided in this act to the appropriate entity. The
1436 processing hold described in subsection (1) does not toll any
1437 timeframe requirements that petition circulators are required to
1438 meet and may not be used as a defense to any fine imposed for
1439 the late submission of any petition forms to the appropriate
1440 entity.

1441 Section 21. Except as otherwise provided in this act, this
1442 act shall take effect upon becoming a law.
1443