



120382

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/09/2025	.	
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The Committee on Fiscal Policy (Gaetz and Grall) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

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



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11 ballot, ensure a valid election process, and protect the  
12 constitutionally provided initiative process.

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

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

22 15.21 Initiative petitions; s. 3, Art. XI, State  
23 Constitution.—

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

26 (a) Registered as a political committee pursuant to s.  
27 106.03;

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

32 (c) Obtained a letter from the Division of Elections  
33 confirming that the sponsor has submitted to the appropriate  
34 supervisors for verification, and the supervisors have verified,  
35 forms signed and dated equal to 25 percent of the number of  
36 electors statewide required by s. 3, Art. XI of the State  
37 Constitution in one-half of the congressional districts of the  
38 state.

39 (2) If the Secretary of State has submitted an initiative



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40 petition to the Attorney General pursuant to subsection (1) but  
41 the validity of the signatures for such initiative petition has  
42 expired pursuant to s. 100.371(14)(a) ~~s. 100.371(11)(a)~~ before  
43 securing ballot placement, the Secretary of State must promptly  
44 notify the Attorney General. The Secretary of State may resubmit  
45 the initiative petition to the Attorney General if the  
46 initiative petition is later circulated for placement on the  
47 ballot of a subsequent general election and the criteria under  
48 subsection (1) are satisfied.

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

51 16.061 Initiative petitions.—

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

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

68 (3) Any financial ~~fiscal~~ impact statement that the Supreme



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69 Court finds not to be in accordance with s. 100.371(16) must ~~s.~~  
70 ~~100.371~~ shall be remanded solely to the Financial Impact  
71 Estimating Conference for redrafting.

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

74 97.021 Definitions.—For the purposes of this code, except  
75 where the context clearly indicates otherwise, the term:

76 (28) "Petition circulator" means an entity or individual  
77 who collects signatures ~~for compensation~~ for the purpose of  
78 qualifying a proposed constitutional amendment for ballot  
79 placement. The term does not include a person who collects,  
80 delivers, or otherwise physically possesses no more than two  
81 signed petition forms in addition to his or her own signed  
82 petition form or a signed petition form belonging to the  
83 person's spouse, or the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild,  
84 or sibling of the person or the person's spouse.

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

88 99.097 Verification of signatures on petitions.—

89 (1)

90 (b) Rules and guidelines for petition verification shall be  
91 adopted by the Department of State. Rules and guidelines for a  
92 random sample method of verification may include a requirement  
93 that petitions bear an additional number of names and  
94 signatures, not to exceed 15 percent of the names and signatures  
95 otherwise required. If the petitions do not meet such criteria  
96 or if the petitions are prescribed by s. 100.371, the use of the  
97 random sample method of verification is not available to



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98 supervisors.

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

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

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

114 100.371 Initiatives; procedure for placement on ballot.—

115 (1) (a) Constitutional amendments proposed by initiative  
116 shall be placed on the ballot for the general election, provided  
117 the initiative petition has been filed with the Secretary of  
118 State no later than February 1 of the year the general election  
119 is held. A petition shall be deemed to be filed with the  
120 Secretary of State upon the date the secretary determines that  
121 valid and verified petition forms have been signed by the  
122 constitutionally required number and distribution of voters  
123 ~~electors~~ under this code.

124 (b) A sponsor of an initiative petition must obtain, at  
125 least every third election cycle, a letter pursuant to s.  
126 15.21(1) (c). Failure to obtain such letter results in expiration



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127 of the initiative petition's signatures and disbanding of the  
128 sponsor's political committee.

129 (c) Initiative petition signatures expire and the sponsor's  
130 political committee is disbanded if a constitutional amendment  
131 proposed by initiative submitted to the Secretary of State  
132 before February 1, 2022, fails to obtain a letter pursuant to s.  
133 15.21(1)(c) on or before February 1, 2026. This paragraph does  
134 not preclude such a sponsor from refiling the proposed amendment  
135 as a new petition.

136 (2) The sponsor of an initiative amendment may not sponsor  
137 more than one amendment and must ~~shall~~, before circulating any  
138 petition forms ~~prior to obtaining any signatures~~, register as a  
139 political committee pursuant to s. 106.03 and submit the ballot  
140 title, ballot summary, article and section of the State  
141 Constitution being amended, and full text of the proposed  
142 amendment to the Secretary of State. The proposed amendment and  
143 all forms filed in connection with this section must, upon  
144 request, be made available in alternative formats, ~~with the form~~  
145 ~~on which the signatures will be affixed, and shall obtain the~~  
146 ~~approval of the Secretary of State of such form. Upon receipt,~~  
147 the Secretary of State shall assign the initiative petition a  
148 petition number and submit a copy of the proposed amendment to  
149 the Financial Impact Estimating Conference for review, analysis,  
150 and estimation of the financial impact of the proposed  
151 amendment. After the review by the Financial Impact Estimating  
152 Conference, the division shall publish the forms with the  
153 information provided for in subsection (3) and on which  
154 signatures for the initiative petition will be affixed ~~The~~  
155 Secretary of State shall adopt rules pursuant to s. 120.54



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156 ~~prescribing the style and requirements of such form. Upon filing~~  
157 ~~with the Secretary of State, the text of the proposed amendment~~  
158 ~~and all forms filed in connection with this section must, upon~~  
159 ~~request, be made available in alternative formats.~~

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

162 1. The petition number.

163 2. The ballot title.

164 3. The ballot summary.

165 4. A notice that the form becomes a public record upon  
166 receipt by the supervisor.

167 5. A notice that it is a misdemeanor of the first degree to  
168 knowingly sign the petition more than once.

169 6. A notice that the form will not be validated if all of  
170 the requested information is not completed.

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

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

176 1. The full text of the proposed amendment.

177 2. The name and address of the sponsor.

178 3. The date received by the Secretary of State.

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

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

183 1. The full name of the voter.

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



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

187       4. The voter's Florida driver license number or the voter's  
188 Florida identification card number issued pursuant to s.  
189 322.051, or the last four digits of the voter's social security  
190 number.

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

194       6. The voter's signature and the date on which the voter  
195 signed the form.

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

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

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

203  
204       By my signature below, as petition circulator, I  
205 verify that the petition was completed and signed by  
206 the voter in my presence. Under penalty of perjury, I  
207 declare that I have read the foregoing Petition  
208 Circulator's Affidavit, and that the facts stated in  
209 it are true, and that if I was paid to circulate or  
210 collect this petition, payment was not on a per  
211 signature basis.

212  
213       (e) A petition form distributed by a person other than a





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214 petition circulator must also include, in lieu of the Petition  
215 Circulator's Affidavit, the following notice:

216

217 This form is for PERSONAL USE only. Unless registered  
218 as a petition circulator, it is a third degree felony  
219 to collect, deliver, or otherwise physically possess  
220 more than two signed petition forms in addition to  
221 your own or those of immediate family members.

222

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

228

229 (4) (a) Beginning July 1, 2025, unless registered as a  
230 petition circulator with the Secretary of State and issued a  
231 petition circulator number, a person may not collect, deliver,  
232 or otherwise physically possess more than two signed petition  
233 forms in addition to his or her own signed petition form or a  
234 signed petition form belonging to an immediate family member.  
235 For the purposes of this subsection, the term "immediate family"  
236 means a person's spouse, or the parent, child, grandparent,  
237 grandchild, or sibling of the person or the person's spouse  
238 signatures or initiative petitions for compensation unless the  
239 person is registered as a petition circulator with the Secretary  
240 of State.

240

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

242

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



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243 his or her right to vote restored.

244 2. Is not a citizen of the United States.

245 3. Is not a resident of this state.

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

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

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

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

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

266 4.(d) A statement that the applicant consents to the  
267 jurisdiction of the courts of this state in resolving disputes  
268 concerning the petition process.

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

271 6. Whether the applicant has been convicted of a felony



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272 violation and has not had his or her right to vote restored, by  
273 including the statement, "I affirm that I am not a convicted  
274 felon, or, if I am, my right to vote has been restored," and  
275 providing a box for the applicant to check to affirm the  
276 statement.

277 7. Whether the applicant is a citizen of the United States,  
278 by asking the question, "Are you a citizen of the United States  
279 of America?" and providing boxes for the applicant to check  
280 whether the applicant is or is not a citizen of the United  
281 States.

282 8. Whether the applicant is a Florida resident by asking  
283 the question, "Are you a resident of the state of Florida?" and  
284 providing boxes for the applicant to check whether the applicant  
285 is or is not a resident of the state of Florida.

286 9. The signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury  
287 for false swearing pursuant to s. 104.011, by which the  
288 applicant swears or affirms that the information contained in  
289 the application is true.

290 (d) A citizen may challenge a petition circulator's  
291 registration under this section by filing a petition in circuit  
292 court. If the court finds that the respondent is not a  
293 registered petition circulator, the court may enjoin the  
294 respondent from collecting signatures or initiative petitions  
295 until he or she is lawfully registered.

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

299 (f) A person may not register to collect signatures or  
300 initiative petitions until he or she has completed the training



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301 concerning the requirements for petition circulators. The  
302 training must be developed by the division and must be in an  
303 electronic format available on the division's public website.  
304 The training must, at a minimum, include the following:  
305 1. An overview of the petition-gathering process.  
306 2. An overview of the petition circulator registration  
307 requirements.  
308 3. An explanation that the sponsor of an initiative  
309 amendment serves as a fiduciary to each voter who signs a  
310 petition.  
311 4. An explanation that the Florida Election Code prohibits  
312 compensation or provision of any benefit based on the number of  
313 petition forms gathered or the time within which a number of  
314 petition forms are gathered.  
315 5. The specific criminal penalties to which a petition  
316 circulator may be subject for violating the Florida Election  
317 Code.  
318 (g) The sponsor of the initiative amendment is liable for a  
319 fine in the amount of \$50,000 for each person the sponsor  
320 knowingly allows to collect petition forms on behalf of the  
321 sponsor in violation of this subsection.  
322 (5) A sponsor may not compensate a petition circulator  
323 based on the number of petition forms gathered or the time  
324 within which a number of petition forms are gathered. This  
325 prohibition includes, but is not limited to, paying a specified  
326 amount per petition form gathered, basing an hourly rate on the  
327 number of petition forms gathered over a specified period of  
328 time, or providing any other benefit or form of compensation  
329 based on the number of petition forms gathered. All petitions



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330 ~~collected by a petition circulator must contain, in a format~~  
331 ~~required by the Secretary of State, a completed Petition~~  
332 ~~Circulator's Affidavit which includes:~~

333 ~~(a) The circulator's name and permanent address;~~  
334 ~~(b) The following statement, which must be signed by the~~  
335 ~~circulator:~~

336  
337 ~~By my signature below, as petition circulator, I~~  
338 ~~verify that the petition was signed in my presence.~~  
339 ~~Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read~~  
340 ~~the foregoing Petition Circulator's Affidavit and the~~  
341 ~~facts stated in it are true.~~

342  
343 ~~(6) The division or the supervisor of elections shall make~~  
344 ~~hard copy petition forms or electronic portable document format~~  
345 ~~petition forms available to registered petition circulators. All~~  
346 ~~such forms must contain information identifying the petition~~  
347 ~~circulator to whom ~~which~~ the forms are provided. The division~~  
348 ~~shall maintain a database of all registered petition circulators~~  
349 ~~and the petition forms assigned to each. Each supervisor of~~  
350 ~~elections shall provide to the division information on petition~~  
351 ~~forms ~~assigned to and~~ received from petition circulators. The~~  
352 ~~information must be provided in a format and at times as~~  
353 ~~required by the division by rule. The division must update~~  
354 ~~information on petition forms daily and make the information~~  
355 ~~publicly available.~~

356 ~~(7) (a) A sponsor that collects petition forms or uses a~~  
357 ~~petition circulator to collect petition forms serves as a~~  
358 ~~fiduciary to the voter ~~elector~~ signing the petition form and~~



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359 shall ensure,~~ensuring~~ that any petition form entrusted to the  
360 sponsor or petition circulator is ~~shall be~~ promptly delivered to  
361 the supervisor of elections in the county in which the voter  
362 resides within 10 ~~30~~ days after the voter ~~elector~~ signs the  
363 form. If a petition form collected by the sponsor or any  
364 petition circulator is not promptly delivered to the supervisor  
365 of elections, the sponsor is liable for the following fines:

366 1. A fine in the amount of \$50 per each day late for each  
367 petition form received by the supervisor of elections in the  
368 county in which the voter resides more than 10 ~~30~~ days after the  
369 voter ~~elector~~ signed the petition form ~~or the next business day,~~  
370 ~~if the office is closed.~~ A fine in the amount of \$2,500 ~~\$250~~ for  
371 each petition form received if the sponsor or petition  
372 circulator acted willfully.

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

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

387 (b) A showing by the sponsor that the failure to deliver



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388 the petition form within the required timeframe is based upon  
389 force majeure or impossibility of performance is an affirmative  
390 defense to a violation of this subsection. The fines described  
391 in this subsection may be waived upon a showing that the failure  
392 to deliver the petition form promptly is based upon force  
393 majeure or impossibility of performance.

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

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

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

416 (11)-(8) If the Secretary of State reasonably believes that



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417 a person or entity has committed a violation of this section,  
418 the secretary may refer the matter to the Attorney General for  
419 enforcement. The Attorney General may institute a civil action  
420 for a violation of this section or to prevent a violation of  
421 this section. An action for relief may include a permanent or  
422 temporary injunction, a restraining order, or any other  
423 appropriate order. If the sponsor of an initiative petition  
424 discovers a violation of this section and reports the violation  
425 as soon as practicable to the secretary, the sponsor may not be  
426 fined for such violation.

427 (12)-(9) The division shall adopt by rule a complaint form  
428 for a voter ~~an elector~~ who claims to have had his or her  
429 signature misrepresented, forged, or not delivered to the  
430 supervisor. The division shall also adopt rules to ensure the  
431 integrity of the petition form gathering process, including  
432 rules requiring sponsors to account for all petition forms used  
433 by their agents. Such rules may require a sponsor or petition  
434 circulator to provide identification information on each  
435 petition form as determined by the department as needed to  
436 assist in the accounting of petition forms.

437 (13)-(10) The date on which a voter ~~an elector~~ signs a  
438 petition form is presumed to be the date on which the petition  
439 circulator received or collected the petition form.

440 (14) (a)-(11)-(a) An initiative petition form circulated for  
441 signature may not be bundled with or attached to any other  
442 petition. Each signature shall be dated when made and shall be  
443 valid until the next February 1 occurring in an even-numbered  
444 year for the purpose of the amendment appearing on the ballot  
445 for the general election occurring in that same year, provided





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446 all other requirements of law are met. The sponsor shall submit  
447 signed and dated forms to the supervisor of elections for the  
448 county of residence listed by the person signing the form for  
449 verification of the number of valid signatures obtained.

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

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

- 467 1. The form contains the original signature of the  
468 purported voter ~~elector~~.
- 469 2. The purported voter ~~elector~~ has accurately recorded on  
470 the form the date on which he or she signed the form.
- 471 3. The form sets forth the purported voter's: ~~elector's~~
- 472 a. Full name;  
473 b. Address and, city, county of residence; ~~and~~  
474 c. Voter registration number or date of birth; and



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

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

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

485  
486 ~~The supervisor shall retain all signature forms, separating~~  
487 ~~forms verified as valid from those deemed invalid, for at least~~  
488 ~~1 year following the election for which the petition was~~  
489 ~~circulated.~~

490 (d)1.(b) On the last day of each month, or on the last day  
491 of each week from December 1 of an odd-numbered year through  
492 February 1 of the following year, each supervisor shall  
493 electronically transmit all received petition forms to the  
494 division. The digital images of the scanned petition forms must  
495 be of high enough quality that division personnel are able to  
496 accurately discern elements contained in such forms. Forms must  
497 be identified as valid or as invalid.

498 2. Each supervisor shall retain all petition forms,  
499 identifying forms verified as valid from those deemed invalid,  
500 until all petition forms have been processed following the  
501 February 1 deadline. As soon as practicable following the  
502 processing of the last timely submitted petition form, but not  
503 later than March 15 following the February 1 deadline, the



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504 supervisor shall deliver the physical forms to the division. The  
505 division shall retain all petition forms for 1 year following  
506 the election for which the petition was circulated.

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

511 1. Such notice must be sent by forwardable mail with a  
512 postage prepaid preaddressed form, which may be returned to the  
513 Office of Election Crimes and Security. The notice must include  
514 contact information for the Office of Election Crimes and  
515 Security, including the telephone number, fax number, mailing  
516 address, and e-mail address. The notice must include all of the  
517 following statements or information in substantially the  
518 following form:

519  
520 NOTICE

521  
522 A petition to place a proposed constitutional  
523 amendment on the ballot for the next general election,  
524 bearing your name and signature, has been received and  
525 verified by the Supervisor of Elections Office in ...  
526 (insert county)....

527  
528 The petition is for ...(insert the petition serial  
529 number and ballot title)... and was signed on  
530 ...(insert the date the voter signed the petition)....

531  
532 Check this box , sign, and return this notice to the



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533 Office of Election Crimes and Security if you believe  
534 your signature has been misrepresented or forged on a  
535 petition. The petition form in question will be  
536 invalidated and will not be counted toward the number  
537 of signatures required to place this proposed  
538 constitutional amendment on the ballot.

539  
540 A notice being returned must be received by the Office  
541 of Election Crimes and Security on or before February  
542 1 ... (insert the year in which the general election  
543 is held)....

544  
545 ...(Insert the voter's Florida voter registration  
546 number, and if applicable, the petition circulator's  
547 number)....

548  
549 By signing below I swear or affirm that my signature  
550 was misrepresented or forged on the petition form  
551 indicated in this notice.

552  
553 ...(Voter's Signature)... ...(Date)...

554  
555 This notice becomes a public record upon receipt by  
556 the Office of Election Crimes and Security. It is a  
557 second degree misdemeanor, punishable as provided in  
558 s. 775.082, Florida Statutes, or s. 772.083, Florida  
559 Statutes, for a person to knowingly make a false  
560 official statement pursuant to s. 837.06, Florida  
561 Statutes.



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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 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



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591 received, the total number of signatures verified, the  
592 distribution of verified valid signatures by congressional  
593 district, and the total number of verified petition forms  
594 forwarded to the Secretary of State. For any reporting period in  
595 which the percentage of petition forms deemed invalid by the  
596 supervisor exceeds a total of 25 percent of the petition forms  
597 received by the supervisor for that reporting period, the  
598 supervisor shall notify the Office of Election Crimes and  
599 Security. The Office of Election Crimes and Security shall  
600 conduct a preliminary investigation into the activities of the  
601 sponsor, one or more petition circulators, or a person  
602 collecting petition forms on behalf of a sponsor, to determine  
603 whether the invalidated petitions are a result of fraud or any  
604 other violation of this section. As authorized by ss. 97.012(15)  
605 and 97.022(1), the Office of Elections Crimes and Security may,  
606 if warranted, report findings to the statewide prosecutor or the  
607 state attorney for the judicial circuit in which the alleged  
608 violation occurred for prosecution.

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

613 (15)-(12) The Secretary of State shall determine from the  
614 signatures verified by the supervisors of elections the total  
615 number of verified valid signatures, less any signatures that  
616 were invalidated pursuant to subsection (14), and the  
617 distribution of such signatures by congressional districts, and  
618 the division shall post such information on its website at the  
619 same intervals specified in paragraph (14)(g) ~~(11)(e)~~. Upon a



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620 determination that the requisite number and distribution of  
621 valid signatures have been obtained, the secretary shall issue a  
622 certificate of ballot position for that proposed amendment and  
623 shall assign a designating number pursuant to s. 101.161. The  
624 secretary must rescind the certificate of ballot position if an  
625 advisory opinion issued by the Supreme Court pursuant to s.  
626 16.061(1) deems the initiative petition invalid.

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

645 (b) Within 75 days after receipt of a proposed revision or  
646 amendment to the State Constitution by initiative petition from  
647 the Secretary of State, the Financial Impact Estimating  
648 Conference shall complete an analysis and financial impact



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649 statement to be placed on the ballot of the estimated increase  
650 or decrease in any revenues or costs to state or local  
651 governments and the overall impact to the state budget resulting  
652 from the proposed initiative. The 75-day time limit is tolled  
653 when the Legislature is in session. The Financial Impact  
654 Estimating Conference shall submit the financial impact  
655 statement to the ~~Attorney General and~~ Secretary of State. If the  
656 ~~initiative petition has been submitted to the Financial Impact~~  
657 ~~Estimating Conference but the validity of signatures has expired~~  
658 ~~and the initiative petition no longer qualifies for ballot~~  
659 ~~placement at the ensuing general election, the Secretary of~~  
660 ~~State must notify the Financial Impact Estimating Conference.~~  
661 The Financial Impact Estimating Conference does ~~is~~ not required  
662 ~~to~~ complete an analysis and financial impact statement for an  
663 initiative petition ~~that fails to meet the requirements of~~  
664 ~~subsection (1) for placement on the ballot before the 75-day~~  
665 ~~time limit, including any tolling period, expires, the ballot~~  
666 must include the statement required by s. 101.161(1)(e). ~~The~~  
667 ~~initiative petition may be resubmitted to the Financial Impact~~  
668 ~~Estimating Conference if the initiative petition meets the~~  
669 ~~requisite criteria for a subsequent general election cycle. A~~  
670 ~~new Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall be established~~  
671 ~~at such time as the initiative petition again satisfies the~~  
672 ~~criteria in s. 15.21(1).~~

673 ~~(b) Immediately upon receipt of a proposed revision or~~  
674 ~~amendment from the Secretary of State, the coordinator of the~~  
675 ~~Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall contact the~~  
676 ~~person identified as the sponsor to request an official list of~~  
677 ~~all persons authorized to speak on behalf of the named sponsor~~





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678 ~~and, if there is one, the sponsoring organization at meetings~~  
679 ~~held by the Financial Impact Estimating Conference. All other~~  
680 ~~persons shall be deemed interested parties or proponents or~~  
681 ~~opponents of the initiative. The Financial Impact Estimating~~  
682 ~~Conference shall provide an opportunity for any representatives~~  
683 ~~of the sponsor, interested parties, proponents, or opponents of~~  
684 ~~the initiative to submit information and may solicit information~~  
685 ~~or analysis from any other entities or agencies, including the~~  
686 ~~Office of Economic and Demographic Research.~~

687       (c) The Financial Impact Estimating Conference may be  
688 convened only by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of  
689 the House of Representatives, jointly. All meetings of the  
690 Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall be open to the  
691 public. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House  
692 of Representatives, jointly, shall be the sole judge for the  
693 interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of this  
694 subsection.

695       1. The Financial Impact Estimating Conference is  
696 established to review, analyze, and estimate the financial  
697 impact of amendments to or revisions of the State Constitution  
698 proposed by initiative. The Financial Impact Estimating  
699 Conference shall be composed ~~consist~~ of four principals: one  
700 person from the professional staff of the Executive Office of  
701 the Governor or from a state agency, designated by the Governor;  
702 the coordinator of the Office of Economic and Demographic  
703 Research, or his or her designee; one person from the  
704 professional staff of the Senate, designated by the President of  
705 the Senate; and one person from the professional staff of the  
706 House of Representatives, designated by the Speaker of the House



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707 of Representatives. Each principal shall have appropriate fiscal  
708 expertise in the subject matter of the initiative. A Financial  
709 Impact Estimating Conference may be appointed for each  
710 initiative.

711 2. Principals of the Financial Impact Estimating Conference  
712 shall reach a consensus or majority concurrence on a clear and  
713 unambiguous financial impact statement, no more than 150 words  
714 in length, and immediately submit the statement to the Attorney  
715 General. Nothing in this subsection prohibits the Financial  
716 Impact Estimating Conference from setting forth a range of  
717 potential impacts in the financial impact statement. ~~Any~~  
718 ~~financial impact statement that a court finds not to be in~~  
719 ~~accordance with this section shall be remanded solely to the~~  
720 ~~Financial Impact Estimating Conference for redrafting. The~~  
721 ~~Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall redraft the~~  
722 ~~financial impact statement within 15 days.~~

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

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

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

735 2. If the financial impact statement projects a net



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736 positive impact on the state budget, the ballot must include the  
737 statement required by s. 101.161(1)(c).

738 3. If the financial impact statement estimates an  
739 indeterminate financial impact or if the members of the  
740 Financial Impact Estimating Conference are unable to agree on  
741 the statement required by this subsection, the ballot must  
742 include the statement required by s. 101.161(1)(d).

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

747 ~~(e)1.~~ Any financial impact statement that the Supreme Court  
748 finds not to be in accordance with this subsection shall be  
749 remanded solely to the Financial Impact Estimating Conference  
750 for redrafting, ~~provided the court's advisory opinion is~~  
751 ~~rendered at least 75 days before the election at which the~~  
752 ~~question of ratifying the amendment will be presented.~~ The  
753 Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall prepare and adopt a  
754 revised financial impact statement no later than 5 p.m. on the  
755 15th day after the date of the court's opinion. The sponsor of  
756 the initiative must refile the petition with the revised  
757 financial impact statement with the Secretary of State as a new  
758 petition.

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



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765 ~~ballot.~~

766       (f)3. In addition to the financial impact statement  
767 required by this subsection, the Financial Impact Estimating  
768 Conference shall draft an initiative financial information  
769 statement. The initiative financial information statement should  
770 describe in greater detail than the financial impact statement  
771 any projected increase or decrease in revenues or costs that the  
772 state or local governments would likely experience if the ballot  
773 measure were approved. If appropriate, the initiative financial  
774 information statement may include both estimated dollar amounts  
775 and a description placing the estimated dollar amounts into  
776 context. The initiative financial information statement must  
777 include both a summary of not more than 500 words and additional  
778 detailed information that includes the assumptions that were  
779 made to develop the financial impacts, workpapers, and any other  
780 information deemed relevant by the Financial Impact Estimating  
781 Conference.

782       (g)4. The Department of State shall have printed, and shall  
783 furnish to each supervisor of elections, a copy of the summary  
784 from the initiative financial information statements. The  
785 supervisors shall have the summary from the initiative financial  
786 information statements available at each polling place and at  
787 the main office of the supervisor of elections upon request.

788       (h)5. The Secretary of State and the Office of Economic and  
789 Demographic Research shall make available on the Internet each  
790 initiative financial information statement in its entirety. In  
791 addition, each supervisor of elections whose office has a  
792 website shall post the summary from each initiative financial  
793 information statement on the website. Each supervisor shall



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794 include a copy of each summary from the initiative financial  
795 information statements and the Internet addresses for the  
796 information statements on the Secretary of State's and the  
797 Office of Economic and Demographic Research's websites in the  
798 publication or mailing required by s. 101.20.

799 (17)~~(14)~~ The Department of State may adopt rules in  
800 accordance with s. 120.54 to implement this section ~~carry out~~  
801 ~~the provisions of subsections (1)-(14)~~.

802 (18)~~(15)~~ No provision of this code shall be deemed to  
803 prohibit a private person exercising lawful control over  
804 privately owned property, including property held open to the  
805 public for the purposes of a commercial enterprise, from  
806 excluding from such property persons seeking to engage in  
807 activity supporting or opposing initiative amendments.

808 Section 7. (1) By July 1, 2025, the Department of State  
809 shall update the forms as required by the amendments made to s.  
810 100.371(3), Florida Statutes, for any proposed amendments  
811 received before July 1, 2025.

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

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

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

822 (c) By June 1, 2025, the Department of State shall develop



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823 the training required by s. 100.371(4) (f), Florida Statutes.

824 (3) No later than October 1, 2025, a supervisor of  
825 elections may increase the cost of signature verification  
826 pursuant to the amendments made to s. 100.371(14) (f), Florida  
827 Statutes. A supervisor shall post the cost of signature  
828 verification on his or her publicly available website as soon as  
829 such cost is determined.

830 Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
831 101.161, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (e) is  
832 added to that subsection, to read:

833 101.161 Referenda; ballots.—

834 (1) Whenever a constitutional amendment or other public  
835 measure is submitted to the vote of the people, a ballot summary  
836 of such amendment or other public measure shall be printed in  
837 clear and unambiguous language on the ballot after the list of  
838 candidates, followed by the word "yes" and also by the word  
839 "no," and shall be styled in such a manner that a "yes" vote  
840 will indicate approval of the proposal and a "no" vote will  
841 indicate rejection. The ballot summary of the amendment or other  
842 public measure and the ballot title to appear on the ballot  
843 shall be embodied in the constitutional revision commission  
844 proposal, constitutional convention proposal, taxation and  
845 budget reform commission proposal, or enabling resolution or  
846 ordinance. The ballot summary of the amendment or other public  
847 measure shall be an explanatory statement, not exceeding 75  
848 words in length, of the chief purpose of the measure. In  
849 addition, for every constitutional amendment proposed by  
850 initiative, the ballot shall include, following the ballot  
851 summary, in the following order:



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

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

859  
860 THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THIS AMENDMENT, IF ANY, HAS  
861 NOT BEEN DETERMINED AT THIS TIME.  
862

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

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

869 102.111 Elections Canvassing Commission.—

870 (2) The Elections Canvassing Commission shall meet at 8  
871 a.m. on the 9th day after a primary election and at 8 a.m. on  
872 the 14th day after a general election to certify the returns of  
873 the election for each federal, state, and multicounty office and  
874 for each constitutional amendment. If a member of a county  
875 canvassing board that was constituted pursuant to s. 102.141  
876 determines, within 5 days after the certification by the  
877 Elections Canvassing Commission, that a typographical error  
878 occurred in the official returns of the county, the correction  
879 of which could result in a change in the outcome of an election,  
880 the county canvassing board must certify corrected returns to



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881 the Department of State within 24 hours, and the Elections  
882 Canvassing Commission must correct and recertify the election  
883 returns as soon as practicable.

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

886 102.121 Elections Canvassing Commission to issue  
887 certificates.—The Elections Canvassing Commission shall make and  
888 sign separate certificates of the result of the election for  
889 federal officers, and state officers, and constitutional  
890 amendments, which certificates must ~~shall~~ be written and contain  
891 the total number of votes cast for and against each person for  
892 each office and the total number of votes cast for and against  
893 each constitutional amendment. The certificates, the one  
894 including the result of the election for presidential electors  
895 and representatives to Congress, and the other including the  
896 result of the election for state officers, shall be recorded in  
897 the Department of State in a book to be kept for that purpose.

898 Section 11. Subsections (1), (3), and (4) of section  
899 102.168, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

900 102.168 Contest of election.—

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

909 (3) The complaint must ~~shall~~ set forth the grounds on which





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910 the contestant intends to establish his or her right to such  
911 office; or set aside the result of the election on a ~~submitted~~  
912 referendum or constitutional amendment. The grounds for  
913 contesting an election or a constitutional amendment under this  
914 section are:

915 (a) Misconduct, fraud, or corruption on the part of any  
916 election official or any member of the canvassing board  
917 sufficient to change or place in doubt the result of the  
918 election.

919 (b) Ineligibility of the successful candidate for the  
920 nomination or office in dispute or of the proposed  
921 constitutional amendment for placement on the ballot.

922 (c) Receipt of a number of illegal votes or rejection of a  
923 number of legal votes sufficient to change or place in doubt the  
924 result of the election.

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

931 (4) The canvassing board responsible for canvassing the  
932 election is an indispensable party defendant in county and local  
933 elections. The Elections Canvassing Commission is an  
934 indispensable party defendant in federal, state, and multicounty  
935 elections, in elections for constitutional amendments, and in  
936 elections for justice of the Supreme Court, judge of a district  
937 court of appeal, and judge of a circuit court. The successful  
938 candidate is an indispensable party to any action brought to



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939 contest the election or nomination of a candidate. The sponsor  
940 of a constitutional amendment proposed by initiative petition,  
941 identified pursuant to s. 100.371, is an indispensable party to  
942 any action brought to contest such election.

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

945 104.185 Petitions; knowingly signing more than once;  
946 signing another person's name or a fictitious name.—

947 (2) A person who signs another person's name or a  
948 fictitious name to any petition, or who fills in missing  
949 information on a signed petition, to secure ballot position for  
950 a candidate, a minor political party, or an issue commits a  
951 felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.  
952 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

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

955 104.186 Initiative petitions; violations.—A person who  
956 compensates a petition circulator as defined in s. 97.021 based  
957 on the number of petition forms gathered, as prohibited by s.  
958 100.371(5), commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as  
959 provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. This section  
960 does not prohibit employment relationships that do not base  
961 payment on the number of signatures collected.

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

964 104.187 Initiative petitions; registration.—A person who  
965 violates s. 100.371(4)(a) ~~s. 100.371(3)~~ commits a misdemeanor of  
966 the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
967 775.083.



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

970 104.188 Petition forms gathered from immediate family;  
971 violations.-

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

976 (2) A person who collects, delivers, or otherwise  
977 physically possesses more than two signed petition forms in  
978 addition to his or her own signed petition form or a signed  
979 petition form belonging to an immediate family member, and who  
980 is not registered as a petition circulator pursuant to s.  
981 100.371(4)(a), commits a felony of the third degree, punishable  
982 as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

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

985 106.151 Use of public funds prohibited.-

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

989 (2) The state government or any person acting on behalf of  
990 the state government may not expend or authorize the expenditure  
991 of, and a person or group may not accept, public funds for a  
992 political advertisement or any other communication sent to  
993 electors concerning any proposed constitutional amendment or  
994 revision that is subject to a vote of the electors. This  
995 subsection applies to a communication initiated by the state  
996 government or a person acting on behalf of the state government,



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997 irrespective of whether the communication is limited to factual  
998 information or advocates for the passage or defeat of a proposed  
999 constitutional amendment or revision. This subsection does not  
1000 preclude the state government or a person acting on behalf of  
1001 the state government from reporting on official actions of the  
1002 state government in an accurate, fair, and impartial manner;  
1003 posting factual information on a government website or in  
1004 printed materials; hosting and providing information at a public  
1005 forum; providing factual information in response to an inquiry;  
1006 or providing information as otherwise authorized or required by  
1007 law.

1008 (3) With the exception of the prohibitions specified in  
1009 subsection (2), this section does not preclude an elected  
1010 official of the state government from expressing an opinion on  
1011 any issue at any time.

1012 Section 17. Subsection (3) of section 106.19, Florida  
1013 Statutes, is amended to read:

1014 106.19 Violations by candidates, persons connected with  
1015 campaigns, and political committees.—

1016 (3) A political committee sponsoring a constitutional  
1017 amendment proposed by initiative which submits a petition form  
1018 gathered by a ~~paid~~ petition circulator which does not provide  
1019 the name and address of the ~~paid~~ petition circulator on the form  
1020 is subject to the civil penalties prescribed in s. 106.265.

1021 Section 18. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
1022 212.055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1023 212.055 Discretionary sales surtaxes; legislative intent;  
1024 authorization and use of proceeds.—It is the legislative intent  
1025 that any authorization for imposition of a discretionary sales



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1026 surtax shall be published in the Florida Statutes as a  
1027 subsection of this section, irrespective of the duration of the  
1028 levy. Each enactment shall specify the types of counties  
1029 authorized to levy; the rate or rates which may be imposed; the  
1030 maximum length of time the surtax may be imposed, if any; the  
1031 procedure which must be followed to secure voter approval, if  
1032 required; the purpose for which the proceeds may be expended;  
1033 and such other requirements as the Legislature may provide.  
1034 Taxable transactions and administrative procedures shall be as  
1035 provided in s. 212.054.

1036 (1) CHARTER COUNTY AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM  
1037 SURTAX.—

1038 (c)1. The proposal to adopt a discretionary sales surtax as  
1039 provided in this subsection and to create a trust fund within  
1040 the county accounts must ~~shall~~ be placed on the ballot in  
1041 accordance with law and must be approved in a referendum held at  
1042 a general election in accordance with subsection (10).

1043 2. If the proposal to adopt a surtax is by initiative, the  
1044 petition sponsor must, at least 180 days before the proposed  
1045 referendum, comply with all of the following:

1046 a. Provide a copy of the final resolution or ordinance to  
1047 the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government  
1048 Accountability. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
1049 Government Accountability shall procure a certified public  
1050 accountant in accordance with subsection (11) for the  
1051 performance audit.

1052 b. File the initiative petition and its required valid  
1053 signatures with the supervisor of elections. The supervisor of  
1054 elections shall verify signatures and retain signature forms in



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1055 the same manner as required for initiatives under s. 100.371(14)  
1056 ~~s. 100.371(11)~~.

1057 3. The failure of an initiative sponsor to comply with the  
1058 requirements of subparagraph 2. renders any referendum held  
1059 void.

1060 Section 19. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (8) of  
1061 section 895.02, Florida Statutes, to read:

1062 895.02 Definitions.—As used in ss. 895.01-895.08, the term:

1063 (8) "Racketeering activity" means to commit, to attempt to  
1064 commit, to conspire to commit, or to solicit, coerce, or  
1065 intimidate another person to commit:

1066 (d) A violation of the Florida Election Code relating to  
1067 irregularities or fraud involving issue petition activities.

1068 Section 20. (1) To ensure uniformity and integrity in the  
1069 initiative process, a signed petition form may not be verified  
1070 between July 1, 2025, and September 30, 2025.

1071 (2) A petition form gathered after July 1, 2025, must be  
1072 delivered as provided in this act to the appropriate entity. The  
1073 processing hold described in subsection (1) does not toll any  
1074 timeframe requirements that petition circulators are required to  
1075 meet and may not be used as a defense to any fine imposed for  
1076 the late submission of any petition forms to the appropriate  
1077 entity.

1078 Section 21. Except as otherwise provided in this act, this  
1079 act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

1081 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

1082 And the title is amended as follows:

1083 Delete everything before the enacting clause



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1084 and insert:

1085                   A bill to be entitled  
1086           An act relating to amendments to the State  
1087           Constitution; providing legislative findings and  
1088           intent; amending s. 15.21, F.S.; requiring the  
1089           Secretary of State to have received the ballot summary  
1090           and the full text of the proposed revision or  
1091           amendment to the State Constitution from the sponsor  
1092           and to have received the financial impact statement  
1093           from the Financial Impact Estimating Conference before  
1094           submitting an initiative petition to the Attorney  
1095           General; conforming a cross-reference; amending s.  
1096           16.061, F.S.; revising the criteria that the Attorney  
1097           General uses when petitioning the Supreme Court for an  
1098           advisory opinion related to a proposed revision or  
1099           amendment to the State Constitution; requiring that a  
1100           copy of the petition form be provided to the sponsor  
1101           of the initiative petition; conforming a cross-  
1102           reference; making a technical change; amending s.  
1103           97.021, F.S.; revising the definition of the term  
1104           "petition circulator"; reenacting and amending s.  
1105           99.097, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; conforming  
1106           provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.  
1107           100.371, F.S.; requiring the sponsor of an initiative  
1108           petition to obtain a certain letter periodically;  
1109           providing that a failure to obtain such letter results  
1110           in the expiration of the initiative's signatures and  
1111           disbanding of the sponsor's political committee;  
1112           providing that certain initiative petition signatures



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1113 expire and that the sponsor's political committee is  
1114 disbanded under specified conditions; providing that  
1115 such sponsor is not precluded from refiling the  
1116 proposed amendment as a new petition; prohibiting a  
1117 sponsor from sponsoring more than one initiative  
1118 amendment; requiring a sponsor to register as a  
1119 political committee and submit the ballot title,  
1120 ballot summary, article and section of the State  
1121 Constitution being amended, and full text of the  
1122 proposed amendment to the Secretary of State;  
1123 requiring that all information be available in  
1124 alternative formats upon request; requiring the  
1125 secretary to assign a petition number and submit a  
1126 copy of the proposed amendment to the Financial Impact  
1127 Estimating Conference for review, analysis, and a  
1128 certain estimate; requiring the Division of Elections  
1129 to publish the forms on which petition signatures must  
1130 be fixed; deleting a requirement that the secretary  
1131 adopt certain rules; providing requirements, which are  
1132 effective on a specified date, for the petition forms;  
1133 prohibiting persons, beginning on a specified date,  
1134 from collecting, delivering, or otherwise physically  
1135 possessing more than a specified number of signed  
1136 petition forms if they have not registered with the  
1137 Secretary of State as a petition circulator and have  
1138 not been issued a petition circulator number;  
1139 authorizing specified persons to collect signed  
1140 petitions forms from their immediate family under  
1141 specified circumstances; defining the term "immediate





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1142 family"; prohibiting certain persons from collecting  
1143 signatures or initiative petitions; requiring that  
1144 applications for registration include specified  
1145 information; authorizing citizens to challenge a  
1146 petition circulator's registration by filing a  
1147 petition in circuit court; authorizing the court to  
1148 enjoin the petition circulator from collecting  
1149 signatures or petition forms until registered;  
1150 authorizing the division to revoke a petition  
1151 circulator's registration under specified  
1152 circumstances; prohibiting persons from registering to  
1153 collect signatures or initiative petitions until they  
1154 complete a required training; providing the  
1155 requirements for such training; providing civil  
1156 penalties for the sponsors of initiative amendments  
1157 that knowingly allow persons to collect petition forms  
1158 on their behalf and violate specified provisions;  
1159 prohibiting a sponsor from compensating a petition  
1160 circulator based on the number of petition forms  
1161 gathered or the time within which such forms are  
1162 gathered; providing construction; requiring the  
1163 division to make forms available to registered  
1164 petition circulators in a certain format; deleting a  
1165 requirement that supervisors of elections provide the  
1166 division information on petition forms assigned to  
1167 them; requiring sponsors to deliver forms promptly to  
1168 the supervisor of elections in the county in which a  
1169 voter resides within a specified timeframe after the  
1170 form is signed; revising the civil penalties for



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1171 failing to deliver forms within the prescribed  
1172 timeframes; providing civil penalties for the sponsors  
1173 of petitions if the person collecting petition forms  
1174 on behalf of the sponsor signs the name of another,  
1175 signs a fictitious name, or fills in missing  
1176 information on the signed petition form; providing  
1177 criminal penalties for persons who, while collecting  
1178 petition forms, copy or retain a voter's personal  
1179 identifying information for a reason other than to  
1180 provide such information to the sponsor of an  
1181 initiative petition; providing civil penalties for  
1182 sponsors who mail or provide prefilled initiative  
1183 petitions; providing that sponsors that discover and  
1184 report a violation as soon as practicable may not be  
1185 fined for such violation; requiring the supervisor to  
1186 record the date a submitted petition is received; re  
1187 requiring the supervisor to notify the division of any  
1188 misfiled petition; revising the conditions under which  
1189 a supervisor verifies signatures to include processing  
1190 of a certain fee; requiring supervisors, beginning on  
1191 a specified date, to promptly record, in a specified  
1192 manner, the date each form is received and the date  
1193 the form is verified as valid; revising the conditions  
1194 under which a supervisor may verify a signature on an  
1195 initiative petition form; requiring supervisors to  
1196 electronically transmit digital images, which must  
1197 meet a specified standard, of all received petition  
1198 forms to the division; requiring that such forms be  
1199 identified as valid or invalid; requiring supervisors



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1200 to retain all petition forms and identify those forms  
1201 verified as valid from those deemed invalid until such  
1202 forms are processed; requiring supervisors to deliver  
1203 physical forms to the division; requiring the division  
1204 to retain such forms for a specified timeframe;  
1205 requiring supervisors to send a notice, which may be  
1206 returned to the Office of Election Crimes and  
1207 Security, to voters after their signature is verified,  
1208 beginning on a specified date; providing requirements  
1209 for such notice; requiring the Office of Election  
1210 Crimes and Security to transmit copies of returned  
1211 notices, upon receipt, to the division; requiring the  
1212 division to deem the voter petition form invalid if a  
1213 completed notice is received; providing that  
1214 supervisors of elections are required to post on their  
1215 websites the actual costs of signature verification  
1216 for all petition forms, and that they may increase  
1217 such costs annually by a specified date; specifying  
1218 that such costs include costs related to certain  
1219 actions; requiring supervisors to notify the Office of  
1220 Election Crimes and Security under a specified  
1221 condition; requiring the office to conduct specified  
1222 preliminary investigations; authorizing the office to  
1223 report findings of such investigations to the  
1224 statewide prosecutor or a certain state attorney;  
1225 providing that a signed petition form submitted by an  
1226 ineligible or unregistered petition circulator must be  
1227 invalidated; revising information related to signature  
1228 verification which must be posted on the division's



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1229 website; requiring the Secretary of State to rescind  
1230 the certificate of ballot position if an advisory  
1231 opinion from the Supreme Court deems the initiative  
1232 petition invalid; requiring the Financial Impact  
1233 Estimating Conference to submit the financial impact  
1234 statement to the Secretary of State; requiring a  
1235 certain statement to be included on the ballot if the  
1236 conference does not complete an analysis and financial  
1237 impact statement within a specified timeframe;  
1238 providing that only the President of the Senate and  
1239 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, jointly,  
1240 may convene the conference; revising the membership of  
1241 the conference; deleting a provision authorizing the  
1242 court to remand the financial impact statement to the  
1243 conference to be redrafted; requiring that such  
1244 statement appear on the petition form and ballot;  
1245 requiring a sponsor to refile a petition as a new  
1246 petition under certain circumstances; deleting a  
1247 provision that deems financial impact statements  
1248 approved for placement on the ballot under certain  
1249 circumstances; requiring the Department of State to  
1250 update petition forms by a specified date; requiring  
1251 the department to make the petition circulator  
1252 application available by a specified date; providing  
1253 that each petition circulator registration expires on  
1254 a specified date; requiring the department to notify  
1255 such petition circulators of the expiration of their  
1256 registration by a specified date; requiring the  
1257 department to develop a certain training within a



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1258 specified timeframe; authorizing supervisors of  
1259 elections to increase the costs of signature  
1260 verification before a specified date; requiring the  
1261 supervisors to post such cost on their publicly  
1262 available websites as soon as the cost is determined;  
1263 amending s. 101.161, F.S.; requiring that a certain  
1264 statement be included on the ballot if a financial  
1265 impact statement was not produced or the Financial  
1266 Impact Estimating Conference did not meet to produce  
1267 one; conforming a cross-reference; amending s.  
1268 102.111, F.S.; requiring the Elections Canvassing  
1269 Commission to certify the returns of constitutional  
1270 amendments; amending s. 102.121, F.S.; requiring the  
1271 commission to make and sign separate certificates for  
1272 constitutional amendments; providing requirements for  
1273 such certificates; amending s. 102.168, F.S.;  
1274 providing for standing to contest the adoption of a  
1275 constitutional amendment by any qualified voter or  
1276 taxpayer; revising the grounds on which such parties  
1277 may contest an election or a constitutional amendment;  
1278 providing that the commission and the sponsor of the  
1279 amendment are indispensable parties in any such  
1280 action; amending s. 104.185, F.S.; providing criminal  
1281 penalties for persons who fill in missing information  
1282 on a signed petition form to secure a ballot position  
1283 for a candidate, a minor political party, or an issue;  
1284 amending s. 104.186, F.S.; providing criminal  
1285 penalties for persons who compensate others based on  
1286 the number of petition forms gathered, as prohibited



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1287 by a specified section; amending s. 104.187, F.S.;

1288 conforming a cross-reference; creating s. 104.188,

1289 F.S.; defining the term "immediate family"; providing

1290 criminal penalties for certain persons who collect,

1291 deliver, or otherwise physically possess more than a

1292 certain number of signed petition forms other than

1293 their own or forms belonging to an immediate family

1294 member; creating s. 106.151, F.S.; defining the term

1295 "public funds"; prohibiting an entity of state

1296 government or a person acting on behalf of such entity

1297 from expending or authorizing the expenditure of

1298 public funds for political advertisements or other

1299 communications sent to electors concerning a proposed

1300 constitutional amendment or revision; providing

1301 applicability; providing construction; amending s.

1302 106.19, F.S.; providing that political committees

1303 sponsoring a constitutional amendment are liable for

1304 specified civil fines for submitting petition forms

1305 that do not provide the name and address of the

1306 petition circulator gathering such forms, regardless

1307 of whether the petition circulator is paid; amending

1308 s. 212.055, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference;

1309 amending s. 895.02, F.S.; revising the definition of

1310 the term "racketeering activity" to provide criminal

1311 and civil penalties for violations of the Florida

1312 Election Code relating to irregularities or fraud

1313 involving issue petition activities; prohibiting the

1314 verification of a signed petition form for a specified

1315 timeframe; providing construction; providing effective



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1316 dates.

1317

1318 WHEREAS, the Legislature and the Secretary of State, in  
1319 their official capacities, have the duty and obligation to  
1320 ensure ballot integrity and a valid election process, and

1321 WHEREAS, ballot integrity is necessary to ensure the  
1322 effectiveness of the constitutionally provided initiative  
1323 process, and

1324 WHEREAS, investigations conducted by the Office of Election  
1325 Crimes and Security have shown that agents of political  
1326 committees sponsoring initiative petitions engaged in illegal  
1327 and fraudulent activities while gathering petition signatures in  
1328 the lead-up to recent elections, and

1329 WHEREAS, the evidence brought forward indicates numerous  
1330 instances of petition circulators being paid per signature,  
1331 signing petition forms on behalf of deceased individuals,  
1332 forging or misrepresenting voter signatures on petition forms,  
1333 using voters' personal identifying information without consent,  
1334 committing perjury, and swearing false oaths, and

1335 WHEREAS, compensating a petition circulator based on the  
1336 number of petition forms gathered is a violation of s. 104.186,  
1337 Florida Statutes; signing another person's name, whether dead or  
1338 alive, or a fictitious name on a petition form is a violation of  
1339 s. 104.185(2), Florida Statutes; and perjury or swearing a false  
1340 oath is a violation of s. 837.02(1), Florida Statutes, and all  
1341 such violations are third degree felonies under Florida law, and

1342 WHEREAS, fraudulently using another individual's personal  
1343 identification without his or her consent is a violation of s.  
1344 817.568, Florida Statutes, and is, at minimum, a third degree



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1345 felony, and

1346       WHEREAS, the fraudulent use of another individual's  
1347 personal identifying information becomes a second degree felony  
1348 with a 3-year mandatory minimum prison sentence if the violation  
1349 involves the information of more than 10 but fewer than 20  
1350 persons, a 5-year mandatory minimum prison sentence if the  
1351 violation involves the information of more than 20 but fewer  
1352 than 30 persons, and a 10-year mandatory minimum prison sentence  
1353 if the violation involves the information of more than 30  
1354 persons, and

1355       WHEREAS, despite the fiduciary duty prescribed by Florida  
1356 law, sponsors of initiative petitions have failed to cooperate  
1357 with investigations and have attempted to deflect responsibility  
1358 for the actions of petition circulators to contractors and  
1359 subcontractors, the sponsors denying that they have custody or  
1360 control of documents requested by state officials, and

1361       WHEREAS, sponsors, contractors, and petition circulators  
1362 have blatantly attempted to evade investigation by delegating  
1363 key aspects of petition activities to out-of-state entities, who  
1364 then subcontracted with other individuals who were even further  
1365 outside the reach of Florida authorities, and

1366       WHEREAS, evidence provided to the Office of Election Crimes  
1367 and Security by supervisors of elections in several counties  
1368 showed that petition circulators submitted petition forms on  
1369 behalf of more than 50 deceased Floridians, and

1370       WHEREAS, information provided to the Office of Election  
1371 Crimes and Security from multiple supervisors of elections and  
1372 individual Florida voters showed that petition circulators  
1373 committed perjury and swore false oaths by distributing petition





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1374 forms with pre-signed attestations to groups of unregistered  
1375 circulators, who then obtained signatures outside the registered  
1376 circulator's presence, and

1377 WHEREAS, investigations revealed that after petition forms  
1378 were signed and submitted by voters, petition circulators  
1379 tampered with the signed forms by using a website to obtain  
1380 missing personal identifying information, and then filled in the  
1381 incomplete petition forms, and

1382 WHEREAS, investigations indicated that some otherwise valid  
1383 petition forms were obtained by fraud, with circulators  
1384 misleading prospective signatories by telling them that the  
1385 amendment did something other than what was described in the  
1386 ballot summary or amendment language, or not showing the  
1387 signatories what was on the ballot at all, and

1388 WHEREAS, evidence showed that petition circulators were  
1389 able to obtain the four necessary elements of personal  
1390 identifying information required on petitions - name, address,  
1391 voter registration number or birthdate, and signature - using  
1392 publicly available data to commit identity theft and complete  
1393 dozens, hundreds, or even thousands of petitions without ever  
1394 actually circulating a petition, and

1395 WHEREAS, the Office of Election Crimes and Security  
1396 received complaints from many Florida voters whose information  
1397 was fraudulently submitted on forms for at least four initiative  
1398 petitions circulated for inclusion in the 2024 General Election,  
1399 and

1400 WHEREAS, many of those complaints arose because some  
1401 supervisors of elections notified a voter when a petition form  
1402 bearing his or her name was rejected, which prompted such voters



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1403 to contact the supervisor of elections or the Office of Election  
1404 Crimes and Security to report potential fraud, and

1405 WHEREAS, Florida does not currently restrict eligibility of  
1406 persons to register as petition circulators, even in cases where  
1407 such persons are not United States citizens, reside in another  
1408 state, or have been convicted of a felony but have not had their  
1409 right to vote restored, and

1410 WHEREAS, at least one sponsor of an initiative amendment  
1411 circulated during the 2024 General Election cycle settled a  
1412 complaint with the Office of Election Crimes and Security for  
1413 violations related to the petition process and agreed to pay  
1414 \$164,000 in fines, and

1415 WHEREAS, existing fines and penalties levied against  
1416 petition sponsors engaging in, encouraging, or, at the very  
1417 least, turning a blind eye to illegal activities related to the  
1418 petition process appear to be inadequate deterrents, and

1419 WHEREAS, given its constitutional underpinnings, the right  
1420 to propose an initiative by petition is inherent and absolute,  
1421 but subject to reasonable regulations as necessary to ensure  
1422 ballot integrity and a valid election process, NOW, THEREFORE,