



**Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk**

# **COUNTY INITIATIVE PROCEDURES 2022-2024**

The publication is intended for general reference and guidance only.  
The Los Angeles County Registrar- Recorder/ County Clerk does not provide legal advice to the public on matters relating to elections. Individuals with questions relating to subject matter of this material should consult legal counsel.

**Prepared by  
The Election Coordination Unit**

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## SECTION ONE

### SAMPLE OF TIME FRAMES TO QUALIFY A COUNTY INITIATIVE

Following are key dates and events. These dates are approximate and can vary due to weekends and holidays.

Dates and events will depend on the **actual date** the proponent files the Notice of Intention, the completion of Title and Summary, and the number of days the proponent takes to circulate the petition. State statute mandates some deadlines; others are suggested time frames in order to provide the maximum amount of time to circulate petitions.

E-MINUS BEGINNING DATE	E-MINUS ENDING DATE	EVENT
E-447	E-344	County Elections Official receives Notice of Intention and a request that a Ballot Title and Summary be prepared.
E-447	E-344	County Elections Official delivers Notice of Intention and request for Ballot Title and Summary to County Counsel.
E-432	E-329	Within 15 days, County Counsel delivers Title and Summary to the County Elections Official who then delivers to Proponent. (E.C. § 9105(a))
E-431	E-328	Proponent shall, prior to circulation of the Petition, publish the Notice of Intention with Title and Summary and file Proof of Publication with the County Elections Official.
E-251	E-148	Proponent shall submit Petition with signatures within 180 days after Proponent receives Title and Summary from the County Elections Official or after termination of any action for a writ of mandate pursuant to § 9106 and, if applicable, after receipt of an Amended Title or Summary or both, whichever occurs later. (E.C. § 9110)
E-221	E-118	County Elections Official has 30 working days (excluding Saturday, Sunday and holidays) to examine and verify petitions. (E.C. § 9115 (a))
E-220	E-117	County Elections Official submits to the Board of Supervisors an item for the Board Agenda to certify result of the examination.
E-203	E-100	Board of Supervisors may call the election or adopt the ordinance without alteration.
E-88	E-88	Last day Board of Supervisors may consolidate a measure with a regularly scheduled election.
E-89	E-89	County Elections Official will publish the deadline for submitting Arguments.
E-81	E-81	Last date to submit Arguments.
E-81	E-81	Last day for County Counsel to submit Impartial Analysis.
E-80	E-71	Public examination of Arguments/Analysis.
E-71	E-71	Last day to submit Rebuttal Arguments.
E-70	E-61	Public examination of Rebuttals.
E-40	E-21*	Mail Official Sample Ballot Booklets.
0	0	Election Date.
+2	+28	Official Canvass.

**LEGEND: E- = Election minus or plus days before or after an election date.**

**\* E-10 when the election is a presidential primary.**

## SECTION TWO

### COUNTY INITIATIVE PROCEDURES

County Ordinances may be enacted pursuant to Division 9, Chapter 2 of the California Elections Code, commencing with Section 9100.

The principal procedures in qualifying a County Initiative are as follows:

#### **FILING OF NOTICE OF INTENTION (E. C. §§ 9103, 9104 and 9105)**

Before circulating a County Initiative, proponents must file with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk the following documents:

1. A request that the Ballot Title and Summary be prepared.
2. The notice of Intention to circulate a petition containing the printed name, signature, and business or residence address of at least one but no more than five proponents. A written statement, not to exceed 500 words, stating the reasons for the Initiative may also be included (optional). Refer to Exhibit A (Word Counting Guidelines).
3. Written text of the Initiative. The first step in the process of qualifying an initiative measure is to write the text of the proposed law. Proponent(s) may seek the assistance of their own private counsel to help draft the text of the proposed law, or they may choose to write the text themselves. The proposed initiative measure's proponent(s) may also obtain assistance from the Office of Legislative Counsel in drafting the language of the proposed law. Proponent(s) must submit a written request signed by 25 or more electors.<sup>1</sup> If the Legislative Counsel determines that there is a reasonable probability the proposed initiative measure will eventually be submitted to the voters, the Legislative Counsel will draft the proposed law. (Government Code § 10243.)

**NOTE: There is no established fee in Los Angeles County for submitting a Notice of Intention to circulate a County Initiative.**

#### **BALLOT TITLE AND SUMMARY (E. C. §§ 9105 and 9106)**

- A) The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk shall upon receipt of a Notice of Intention, immediately transmit a copy to County Counsel. **Within 15 days** after the request for Ballot Title and Summary is filed, County Counsel shall prepare and transmit to the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk the Ballot Title and Summary, which **shall not exceed 500 words** and consist of a true and impartial statement of the proposed measure's purpose. The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk in turn shall provide a copy of it to the proponent.
- B) The proponent or any elector of the County may file a writ of mandate requiring that the Ballot Title or Summary prepared by County Counsel be amended. A peremptory writ of mandate shall be issued upon proof that the Ballot Title and Summary is false, misleading, or inconsistent with the specified requirements of the law.

## **SECTION TWO (continued)**

### **PROPONENT TO EXECUTE AND SUBMIT STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT (E. C. §§ 9608, 9609, 9610, and 18650)**

No one shall knowingly or willfully permit the list of signatures on an initiative petition to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the proposed measure for the ballot, except as provided in Section 6253.5 of the Government Code. Violation of this section is a misdemeanor. A proponent of an initiative measure shall execute and submit, along with the request for a Title and Summary for the proposed measure, a signed statement.  
**(EXHIBIT B)**

The certification required by Elections Code § 9608(a) shall be kept on file by the agency authorized to prepare the Title and Summary for the proposed initiative measure for not less than eight months after the certification of the results of the election for which the Petition qualified for, or if the measure, for any reason, is not submitted to the voters, eight months after the deadline for submission of the Petition to the County Elections Official.

Failure to comply with this section shall not invalidate any signatures on a state or local initiative petition.

### **Format of Petitions**

The format for the initiative petition is specified by law. County elections officials shall not receive or file petitions which do not comply with the Elections Code. (Elections Code § 9015.) A petition may have several sections. Each section of the petition must contain the Attorney General's circulating title and summary and the full text of the proposed initiative measure. (Elections Code § 9012.) The Attorney General's circulating title and summary shall be in at least 11-point roman type, and the full text of the proposed initiative measure shall be in at least 8-point type. Each page on which signatures are to appear must contain a copy of the Attorney General's circulating title and summary and the unique numeric identifier provided by the Attorney General. (Elections Code §§ 9008, 9009, 9012.)

### **OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS SHEET (E.C. §§ 101 AND 107)**

For any initiative petition for which the circulation is paid for by a committee formed pursuant to Government Code 82013, an Official Top Funders disclosure shall be included on the petition **(EXHIBIT C)** or in a separate document presented to a prospective signer of the petition **(EXHIBIT D(1),(2))**.

County elections officials are not required to verify the accuracy of the information or to reapprove the petition upon any updates the committee makes.

The Official Top Funders Sheet must be in 14-point black roman type on a plain, contrasting background, centered horizontally, except as described. The text shall not be condensed or have spacing between characters reduced to be narrower than a normal roman type. (Elections Code § 107(a)(1).)

The top of the sheet shall have the text "OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS. Valid only for", followed by a month and year that starts at most seven days after the date the top contributors as defined in

Government Code § 84501(c) were last confirmed. (Elections Code §107(a)(2).) This information shall be boldface and at least 16-point type. Next, separated by a blank horizontal line, shall be the title of the initiative or referendum as it appears on the petition, in all capital letters. (Elections Code § 107(a)(3).)

Next, separated by a blank horizontal line, shall appear a disclosure statement in a printed or drawn box with a black border. At the top of the disclosure statement shall appear, "Petition circulation paid for by" in boldface text. Next, on a separate horizontal line, shall appear the name of the committee as it appears on the most recent Statement of Organization filed pursuant to Government Code § 84101. If the committee has any top contributors as defined in Government Code § 84501(c), it shall be followed by a blank horizontal line and then the underlined text "Committee major funding from:". The top contributors, as defined in Government Code § 84501(c), if any, shall be disclosed in boldface text on a separate horizontal line separate from any other text in descending order beginning with the top contributor who made the largest cumulative contributions. (Elections Code § 107(a)(4)(A)-(D).)

The committee, in its discretion, may include, in underlined text, "Endorsed by:" followed by a list, not underlined, of up to three endorsers. The text pursuant to this subparagraph shall be separated from the text above and below it by a blank horizontal line. (Elections Code § 107(a)(4)(E).)

The following line shall include the text "Latest Official Top Funders:" followed by either the internet web page on the Secretary of State's internet website that lists the "Official Top Funders" statements that are reported pursuant to Elections Code § 107(f), or the internet web page on the internet website for any committee formed pursuant to Government Code § 82013 that pays for the circulation of an initiative or referendum petition. (Elections Code § 107(a)(4)(F).) The committee's web page must include a prominent link to the most recent Official Top Funders sheet in a format that allows it to be viewed on an internet website and printed out on a single page of paper and a prominent link to the full text of the initiative or referendum. (Elections Code § 107(c).)

Next, separated by at least two blank horizontal lines shall appear the text "OFFICIAL TITLE AND SUMMARY (SAME AS ON PETITION)", in boldface text in all capital letters. (Elections Code § 107(a)(5).) Starting on a separate horizontal line shall appear the text "The Attorney General of California has prepared the following circulating title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:", in boldface text with a type size of 11 point. (Elections Code § 107(a)(6).)

Lastly, starting on a separate horizontal line shall appear the Attorney General summary of the initiative as it appears on the initiative petition, in plain text with a type size of 11 point. (Elections Code § 107(a)(7).)

The Official Top Funders sheet, and any updates, must be submitted to the Secretary of State's office and posted on the Secretary of State's website. (Elections Code § 107(f).)

If the committee chooses to include the disclosure statement on the petition, the requirements are as follows:

The disclosure statement shall have a solid white background and shall be in a printed or drawn box with a black border and shall appear before that portion of the petition for voters' signatures, printed names, and residence addresses. The text in the disclosure area shall be in a black Arial equivalent type with a type size of at least 10 point, with all lines centered horizontally in the disclosure area. (Elections Code § 107(b)(1).)

The top of the disclosure shall include the text "OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS. Valid only for", followed by a month and year that starts at most seven days after the date the top contributors as defined in Government Code § 84501(c) were last confirmed. The text of this paragraph shall be boldface. (Elections Code § 107(b)(2).)

Next shall appear, on a separate horizontal line, the text “Petition circulation paid for by”, followed by the name of the committee as it appears on the most recent Statement of Organization filed pursuant to Government Code § 84101. If the committee has any top contributors as defined in Government Code § 84501(c), it shall be followed by, on a separate horizontal line, the underlined text “Committee major funding from:”. (Elections Code § 107(b)(3).)

The top contributors as defined in Government Code § 84501(c), if any, shall each be disclosed in boldface text on a separate horizontal line separate from any other text, in descending order, beginning with the top contributor who made the largest cumulative contributions, as defined in Government Code § 84501(b), on the first line. (Elections Code § 107(b)(4).)

The committee, in its discretion, may include the underlined text “Endorsed by:”, followed by a list, not underlined, of up to three endorsers. The text in this paragraph shall be separated from the text above and below it by a blank horizontal line. (Elections Code § 107(b)(5).) The following line shall include the text “Latest info:” followed by the URL for either the internet web page on the Secretary of State’s internet website that lists the “Official Top Funders” statements and any updates provided by the committee to the Secretary of State, or the internet website of any committee formed pursuant to Government Code § 82013 that pays for the circulation of an initiative petition. The text specified in this paragraph shall be underlined. (Elections Code § 107(b)(6).) The committee’s web page must include a prominent link to the most recent Official Top Funders sheet in a format that allows it to be viewed on an internet website and printed out on a single page of paper. It must also include a prominent link to the full text of the initiative. (Elections Code § 107(c).)

## **CIRCULATION AND PUBLICATION OF PETITION (E.C. §§ 9101, 9103, 9105, 9108 and 9110)**

- A) The proponent must publish the Notice of Intention and the Title and Summary of the initiative at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the County. The proponent shall also file Proof of Publication with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk’s office.
- B) After publication of the Notice of Intention and Title and Summary, the petition may be circulated. **(EXHIBIT C/D)** Each petition section (page) must comply with the requirements of Sections 100, 104, 9020 and 9105 of the Elections Code and contain a copy of the Notice of Intention, Title and Summary, and Full Text of Initiative.
- C) Proponents are allowed a maximum of 180 days from the official summary date to circulate petitions, collect signatures, and file petitions with county elections officials. (Elections Code § 9014.) If the petition reaches the number of valid signatures required, it will be eligible for the next statewide general election held at least 131 days after it qualifies or at any special statewide election held prior to that general election. (Elections Code §§ 9016, 9033; Cal.Const., art. II, § 8(c).) Should proponent(s) wish to qualify for a particular election, they may want to shorten the 180-day circulation period in order to ensure that the proposed initiative measure is certified at least 131 days before that particular election.

Based on the official summary date, the Secretary of State will prepare a calendar of filing deadlines. The Secretary of State will send a copy of the calendar to the proponent(s) and the county elections officials within one business day of receiving the circulating title and summary from the Attorney General’s Office. (Elections Code § 9004(c).)

## SECTION TWO (continued)

The petition may be circulated by a number of individuals carrying separate, identical parts of the petition called sections. Each petition circulator who obtains signatures must complete the attached declaration to the petition.

Prior to allowing a person to circulate an initiative petition for signatures, **the person, company official, or other organizational officer who is in charge of signature gathering shall execute and submit** to the proponent(s) a signed statement that reads as follows (Elections Code § 9609):

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that it is a misdemeanor under state law (Section 18650 of the Elections Code) to knowingly or willfully allow the signatures on an initiative petition to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the proposed measure for the ballot. I certify that I will not knowingly or willfully allow the signatures for this initiative to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the measure for the ballot.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Official) Dated

this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

This statement shall be kept on file by the proponent(s) for not less than eight months after the certification of the results of the election for which the petition qualified or, if the measure did not qualify, eight months after the deadline for submission of the petition to elections officials. (Elections Code § 9609(b).)

In addition, **all paid circulators shall execute and submit** to the person, company official, or other organizational officer who is in charge of signature gathering a signed statement, prior to soliciting signatures on an initiative petition, that reads as follows (Elections Code § 9610):

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that it is a misdemeanor under state law (Section 18650 of the Elections Code) to knowingly or willfully allow the signatures on an initiative petition to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the proposed measure for the ballot. I certify that I will not knowingly or willfully allow the signatures for this initiative to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the measure for the ballot.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Circulator)

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

This statement shall be kept on file by the person, company official, or other organizational officer who is in charge of signature gathering for not less than eight months after the certification of the results of the election for which the petition qualified or, if the measure did not qualify, eight months after the deadline for submission of the petition to elections



officials. Unpaid circulators do not need to provide a signed statement. (Elections Code §§ 9610(b), (c).)

### **Petition Signatures**

Only persons who are registered, qualified voters at the time of signing are entitled to sign the petition. A person can only sign a petition that is being circulated in their county of registration. If a petition circulator is a registered voter, the person may sign the petition the person is circulating. (Elections Code §§ 106, 9020, 9021.) Each signer must personally place on the petition the person's signature, printed name, residence address (or physical description of the location if there is no street address), and the name of the incorporated city or unincorporated community. (Elections Code § 100.) None of the above may be preprinted on the petition. Each signer may sign an initiative petition only once. (Elections Code § 18612.)

### **Withdrawal of Signatures**

Any voter who has signed an initiative petition may withdraw their name by filing a written request for the withdrawal with the appropriate county elections official prior to the date the petition is filed by the proponent(s). This written request must include the name or title of the petition and the voter's name, residence address, and signature. (Elections Code §§ 103, 9602.)

### **Withdrawal of Initiative Measure**

The proponent(s) of an initiative may withdraw their measure at any time before the initiative qualifies for the ballot on the 131<sup>st</sup> day before the statewide general election. (Elections Code §§ 9033, 9604.)

### **Criminal Penalties**

The Elections Code imposes certain criminal penalties for abuses related to the circulation of initiative petitions. It prohibits circulators from intentionally misrepresenting or intentionally making any false statement concerning the contents, purport, or effect of the petition, or the petition's Official Top Funders disclosure, to potential petition signers; intentionally making a false statement in response to a voter's inquiry as to whether the circulator is a paid signature gatherer or a volunteer; and from refusing to allow prospective signers to read the proposed initiative measure or petition or Attorney General's summary. (Elections Code §§ 18600 - 18602.) No person may offer or give payment or anything of value to another in exchange for signing an initiative petition. (Elections Code § 18603.) The Code also makes circulators, signers, and others criminally liable for signing or soliciting to sign false, forged, fictitious, or ineligible signatures and names. (Elections Code §§ 18610 - 18614.) The law provides criminal penalties for persons, including public officials, companies, organizations, or organizational officers, who make false affidavits concerning an initiative, referendum, or recall petition.

Criminal penalties may be issued if one knowingly directs an affiant to make a false affidavit or if one knows or reasonably should have known that an affiant has made a false affidavit. (Elections Code §§ 18660, 18661.)

Circulating petitions is prohibited within 100 feet of a polling place, an elections official's office on election day, or at any time that a voter is casting a ballot. (Elections Code § 18370(a).) The law prohibits any person from soliciting or obtaining money or anything of value to aid in unlawfully stopping circulation or the filing of a proposed initiative measure or for withdrawing a proposed initiative measure after filing it with an elections official. (Elections Code §§ 18620 - 18622.) The law also prohibits any person from stealing petitions and from threatening petition circulators or circulators' relatives with the intent to dissuade them from circulating the petition. (Elections Code §§ 18630, 18631.) Any

person who is paid by the proponent(s) to obtain signatures on any initiative petition is subject to severe penalties for failing to surrender the petition to the proponent(s) for filing. (Elections Code § 18640.)

The petition or list of signatures may be used for no purpose other than the qualification of the initiative measure. (Elections Code § 18650.) This requirement prohibits using the names and addresses on petition sections for a mailing list for fundraising or other purposes.

## **Recommendations**

In previous years, some proponents have experienced problems in submitting initiative petitions by the statutory deadline to qualify the initiative measure for a particular election. The proponent(s) are encouraged to begin the process as early as possible to ensure that all deadlines are met. The following points, previously mentioned in this Guide, should be emphasized:

- In addition to statutory deadlines, allowances must be made for transmittal of information since many of the time limitations begin when the proposed initiative measure is received by the office and not when sent. Therefore, transmittal time could add several days to the process.
- The Legislative Analyst and the Department of Finance are allowed a total of 50 days from the date of receipt by the Attorney General of the proposed initiative measure in order to prepare a fiscal estimate or opinion.
- The Attorney General is then allowed 15 days after receipt of the fiscal estimate or opinion prepared by the Legislative Analyst and the Department of Finance to transmit a copy of the circulating title and summary.
- Proponent(s) have a maximum of 180 days from the official summary date to file the completed and signed petition sections with the appropriate county elections officials.
- Should proponent(s) wish to qualify for a particular election, they may want to shorten the 180-day circulation period in order to ensure that the proposed initiative measure is certified at least 131 days before that particular election.
- An eligible initiative measure will be qualified by the Secretary of State on the 131<sup>st</sup> day prior to the next statewide general election unless the proposed initiative measure is withdrawn by the proponent(s) prior to qualification.
- Please see Appendix A – Suggested Deadlines to Qualify Initiatives, for an overview of suggested timelines and dates involved in qualifying an initiative for the November 5, 2024, Statewide General Election.

## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTION DURING CIRCULATION (E. C. § 9111)**

During the circulation of the petition or before taking any action to either submit the initiative to the voters or enact the ordinance, the Board of Supervisors may refer the initiative to any county agency for review and a report on its effect on specific issues including those relating to the use of land and housing impact to the effected community as well as fiscal impact. This report shall be presented to the Board of Supervisors **no later than 30 calendar days** after certification of the petition's sufficiency by the

**FILING OF PETITION  
(E.C. § 9113)**

A) All sections (pages) of the petition shall be filed at one time and may not be amended or supplemented. If a random sample is necessary, within 30 working days of receipt of the Secretary of State's random sample notification, the county elections officials will verify the validity of the signatures filed with their office using a random sampling technique of verification. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 20521.) The elections official is required to verify at least 500 signatures or three percent of the number of signatures filed in their county, whichever is greater. Counties receiving less than 500 petition signatures are required to verify all the signatures filed in their county. (Elections Code § 9030(d).)

The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk shall determine the total number of signatures affixed to the petition. If the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk determines that the number of signatures thereon equals or is in excess of the number of signatures required, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk shall examine the petition to determine the number of qualified signers. If the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk determines that the number of signatures does not meet the minimum number of signatures required, no further action shall be taken. If the number of valid signatures is **greater than 110 percent** of the required number of signatures, the Secretary of State will be able to certify that the initiative measure is eligible for the next statewide general election held at least 131 days later. (Elections Code §§ 9030(g), 9033.) Once the proposed initiative measure is eligible for qualification, the Secretary of State will immediately notify the proponents and county elections officials that signature verification be terminated. (Elections Code § 9033(a).)

If the number of valid signatures is **greater than 110 percent** of the required number of signatures, the Secretary of State will be able to certify that the initiative measure is eligible for the next statewide general election held at least 131 days later. (Elections Code §§ 9030(g), 9033.) Once the proposed initiative measure is eligible for qualification, the Secretary of State will immediately notify the proponents and county elections officials that signature verification be terminated. (Elections Code § 9033(a).)

Information regarding the signature verification process can be found in California Code of Regulations section 20960 and is available on the Secretary of State's website at: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/regulations/current-regulations/elections/signature-verification-ballot-processing-and-ballot-counting-emergency-regulations#20960>.

Note: Signatures are not invalid solely because the Top Funders' information was missing or inaccurate.

**Turning in Signatures**

Once the requisite number of signatures has been collected, the petition is filed with the appropriate county elections official(s). Petitions may be submitted in sections; however,

all the sections submitted in a single county must be filed at the same time and must contain signatures of registered voters in that particular county. Once filed, petitions may not be amended except by order of a court of competent jurisdiction. (Elections Code § 9030.)

To prevent unauthorized petitions from circulating and unauthorized persons from filing petitions, only the proponent(s) of a proposed initiative measure, and persons authorized in writing by one or more of the proponents, may file initiative petitions. Any other petitions submitted will be disregarded by the county elections official of the county (or city and county) in which it was circulated. (Elections Code § 9032.)

## **EXAMINATION OF SIGNATURES (E.C. §§ 9114 and 9115)**

- A) **Within 30 working days** from the date of filing, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk shall verify the signatures thereon either from a 100% check or a random sampling. The random sampling shall include an examination of at least 500, or 3% of the signatures, whichever is greater.
1. If the statistical sampling shows that the number of valid signatures is within 95 to 110 percent of the number of signatures of qualified voters needed to declare the petition sufficient, the County Elections Official shall, within 60 days from the date of the filing of the petition, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, examine and verify each signature filed. If the total number of valid signatures is less than 95 percent of the signatures required to qualify the initiative measure, the proposed initiative measure fails to qualify for the ballot. The Secretary of State will generate a failure notice and mail a copy to the proponent(s) and county elections officials. (Elections Code § 9030(f).)
- B) The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk shall certify as to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the petition.
1. If the petition is insufficient, no action is taken.
  2. If the petition is sufficient, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk certifies the results to the Board of Supervisors at the next regular meeting of the Board.

**NOTE: Supplemental petitions are not permitted.**

## SECTION TWO (continued)

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTION IF THE PETITION IS SUFFICIENT (E.C. §§ 1405, 9107, 9111, 9118 and 9118.5)

If the petition is signed by voters **not less in number than 10%** of the entire vote cast within the County for all candidates for Governor at the last Gubernatorial Election preceding the publication of the Notice of Intention, the Board of Supervisors shall either:

- a. Adopt the ordinance, without alteration, at the regular meeting at which the certification is presented or within 10 days after it is presented.
- b. Submit the ordinance, without alteration, to the voters.
- c. Order an impact report at the regular meeting at which the certification is presented. The Board of Supervisors shall, after receiving the report, either adopt the ordinance within 10 days or order an election pursuant to letter b above.

When legally possible, the election **may be consolidated with the next statewide election occurring not less than 88 days** after the date of the order of election. If the governing body calls a **special election**, the election shall be **held not less than 88 days nor more than 103 days** after the order of the election.

Note: The proponent of an initiative may withdraw the initiative at any time before the 88<sup>th</sup> day before the election, whether or not the petition has already been found sufficient by the elections official.

<p><b>The vote for Governor in 2022 in Los Angeles County was: 2,389,227 (10%) = 238,922</b></p>
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### FILING OF ARGUMENTS (E.C. §§ 9120, 9162 and 9167)

Arguments in Favor or Against **shall not exceed 300 words**. Rebuttals in Favor or Against **shall not exceed 250 words**. Refer to **EXHIBIT A** (Word Counting Guidelines). The Board of Supervisors or any member or members thereof, or any individual voter who is eligible to vote on the measure, or bona fide association of citizens, or any combination of such voters and association may file a written Argument For or Against the measure. **(See EXHIBITS E, F, G)**

### OFFICIAL SAMPLE BALLOT BOOKLET MAILING (E.C. §§ 9119 and 9160)

Arguments For and Against the measure and the Impartial Analysis prepared by County Counsel **shall be mailed with the Official Sample Ballot Booklet. The Board not less than 88 days before the election** may direct the County Auditor to prepare a fiscal impact of the measure for inclusion in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet. A printed copy of the ordinance shall be made available to any voter upon request.

### CONTACT

For more information, please contact Election Coordination Unit at (562) 462-2912 or by email at [ecu@rrcc.lacounty.gov](mailto:ecu@rrcc.lacounty.gov).

# EXHIBIT A

## WORD COUNTING GUIDELINES

### WORD COUNTING GUIDELINES (Elections Code Chapter 1, General Provisions, Section 9)

The following guidelines are used by the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office for counting words on candidate statements, ballot measure text, arguments, rebuttals and other ballot enclosures. The guidelines do **not** apply to ballot designations for candidates. If the text exceeds the specified 200 or 400 word limit, the author will be asked to delete words or change text until the statement conforms with requirements.

1. **PUNCTUATION MARKS** are not counted. Symbols such as "&" (and), and "#" (number/pound) are not considered punctuation and each symbol is counted as one (1) word.

2. **THE WORDS** "I", "a", "the", "and", "an" are counted as individual words.

3. **PROPER NOUNS**, such as geographical names, and names of persons or things, as one (1) word.

**EXAMPLE:** Gus Enwright = 1 word  
"City of Los Angeles" = 1 word  
"Dalai Lama" = 1 word

4. **ABBREVIATIONS** such as acronyms or abbreviations for a word, phrase, or expression are counted as one (1) word.

**EXAMPLE:** UCLA, PTA, USMC, LAPD, U.S.M.C.

5. **HYPHENATED WORDS** that appear in any generally available standard reference dictionary published in the U.S. at any time within the last 10 calendar years immediately preceding the election are counted as one (1) word.

**EXAMPLE:** Attorney-at-law

6. **DATES** are counted as one (1) word.

**EXAMPLE:** July 21, 1983      18 June, 1987      3/18      7/21/89

7. **NUMERIC COMBINATIONS** are counted as one (1) word.

**EXAMPLE:** 1973      13 1/2      1971-73      5%      8/3/73      #14

8. **MONETARY AMOUNTS** consisting of a combination of digits are counted as one (1) word.

**EXAMPLE:** \$1,000.00

**MONETARY AMOUNTS** consisting of a combination of words and digits are counted as two (2) words.

**EXAMPLE:** \$4 million

9. **TELEPHONE/FAX NUMBERS** are counted as one (1) word.

**EXAMPLE:** 1-800-815-2666      1-562-462-2317

10. **INTERNET WEB SITES/E-MAIL ADDRESSES** are counted as one (1) word.

**EXAMPLE:** <http://www.co.la.ca.us>      [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net)      <http://www.lacounty.info>

**EXHIBIT B**

**PROPONENT STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that it is a misdemeanor under State Law (Section 18650 of the California Elections Code) to knowingly or willfully allow the signatures on an initiative petition to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the proposed measure for the ballot.

I certify that I will not knowingly or willfully allow the signatures for this initiative to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the measure for the ballot.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Proponent/Official/Circulator)

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_



# EXHIBIT C

## “SAMPLE INCLUDING OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS”

### INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS

The County Counsel has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

(Insert Ballot title and Summary)

**The Ballot Title and Summary prepared by the County Counsel shall appear upon each section of the petition, above the text of the proposed measure and across the top of each page on the petition on which signatures are to appear, in roman boldface type not smaller than 11 point. §9105(c)**

#### Notice of Intention to Circulate Petition

Notice is hereby given by the persons whose names appear hereon of their intention to circulate the petition within the County of Los Angeles for the purpose of **(insert purpose of measure)**. A statement of the reasons of the proposed action as contemplated in the petition is as follows:

A 500 word statement outlining the reasons for the proposed petition may be printed here. The statement is optional. The notice shall contain the printed name, signature, and business or residence address of at least one, but not more than five, proponents. §9104. To print on the petition, format the signature as “Name, Address, City, State, Zip”. Each section of the petition shall bear a copy of the Notice of Intention. §9108. So, if it is on the front side, it may be omitted on the back. The law does not specify the type size for the Notice of Intention, but it should not be less than 8-point.

Insert text of measure in type not smaller than 8 point and, it must be clearly separated from the ballot title and summary above. §9105(c) if printed once on the back side, text must follow the Ballot Title and Summary.

#### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC ◀

**OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS. Valid only for [Month, Year1] [10-point type (§ 107(b)(1))**  
 Petition circulation paid for by [name of the committee as it appears on the most recent  
 Statement of Organization filed pursuant to Government Code section 84501]

Committee major funding from:

**[Largest contributor]**

**[Second largest contributor]**

**[Third largest contributor]**

[OPTIONAL] Endorsed by:

[First endorser]

[Second endorser]

[Third endorser]

Latest info: [link to Secretary of State Top Funders website or committee website]

Print in 11-point type, prior to the portion for voters' signature. §101

**THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR A VOLUNTEER, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK.  
 THE USE OF YOUR SIGNATURE FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE OTHER THAN QUALIFICATION OF THIS MEASURE FOR THE BALLOT IS A MISDEMEANOR.  
 COMPLAINTS ABOUT THIS MISUSE OF YOUR SIGNATURE MAY BE MADE TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE**

	NAME	RESIDENCE	
1	Print Your Name	Residence Address ONLY	
	..... Your Signature as Registered to Vote	..... City or Town	
2	Print Your Name	Residence Address ONLY	
	..... Your Signature as Registered to Vote	..... City or Town	
3	Print Your Name	Residence Address ONLY	
	..... Your Signature as Registered to Vote	..... City or Town	

◀  ▶

1' §100

Each petition Section shall have attached to it an affidavit to be completed by the circulator, §104, 9109. This declaration below may be omitted on front side if signature spaces are provided on both sides. The circulator's declaration must follow the last signature block.



## EXHIBIT C (continued)

**DECLARATION OF PERSON CIRCULATING SECTION OF INITIATIVE  
PETITION (MUST BE IN CIRCULATOR'S OWN HANDWRITING)**

I \_\_\_\_\_ Declare:  
(print name)

1. I am 18 years of age or older.
2. My residence address is \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ County,  
California, and I am a registered voter in (insert electoral jurisdiction);
3. I personally circulated the attached petition for signing.
4. I witnessed each of the appended signatures being written on the petition and to my best information and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be; and
5. The appended signatures were obtained between the dates of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ inclusive.  
(Starting date) (Ending date)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, California.  
(Date) (City)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

<p>It is recommended that you leave a 1" margin at the top, and a 1/2" margin on the left, right and bottom. The full text of the proposed measure must also appear on the petition. You may want to print the text on the back side; however, the Ballot Title and Summary must appear above the text of the proposed measure. §9105(c)</p>
--

# EXHIBIT D (1)

[A one-inch blank space must be left at the top of each page of the petition. §100, 9013]

## Initiative Petition (Excluding Official Top Funders)

**INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS.** [§ 9008(d)]

**The Los Angeles County Counsel has prepared the following circulating title and summary of the chief purposes and points of the proposed measure:**

[Here set forth the unique numeric identifier followed by the circulating title and summary prepared by the Attorney General. This unique numeric identifier and circulating title and summary must also be printed across the top of each page of the petition whereon signatures are to appear, in roman type not smaller than 11-point. (§ 9008)]

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:

THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR A VOLUNTEER. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK. [11-point non-boldface type (§ 101)]

THE PROPONENTS OF THIS PROPOSED INITIATIVE MEASURE HAVE THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW THIS PETITION AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE MEASURE QUALIFIES FOR THE BALLOT. [11-point non-boldface type (§ 101)]

This column for official use only.

**REGISTERE VOTER ONL**

<b>1.</b>	Print Your Name: _____ DO NOT SIGN UNLESS you have seen Official Top Funders sheet and its month is still valid. Sign As Registered To Vote: _____	Residence Address ONLY: _____  City: _____ Zip: _____	
<b>2.</b>	Print Your Name: _____ DO NOT SIGN UNLESS you have seen Official Top Funders sheet and its month is still valid. Sign As Registered To Vote: _____	Residence Address ONLY: _____  City: _____ Zip: _____	
<b>3.</b>	Print Your Name: _____ DO NOT SIGN UNLESS you have seen Official Top Funders sheet and its month is still valid. Sign As Registered To Vote: _____	Residence Address ONLY: _____  City: _____ Zip: _____	
<b>4.</b>	Print Your Name: _____ DO NOT SIGN UNLESS you have seen Official Top Funders sheet and its month is still valid. Sign As Registered To Vote: _____	Residence Address ONLY: _____  City: _____ Zip: _____	
<b>5.</b>	Print Your Name: _____ DO NOT SIGN UNLESS you have seen Official Top Funders sheet and its month is still valid. Sign As Registered To Vote: _____	Residence Address ONLY: _____  City: _____ Zip: _____	

### DECLARATION OF CIRCULATOR

(to be completed after above signatures have been obtained)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am 18 years of age or older. My residence address is \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ I circulated  
 (address, city, state, zip)  
 this section of the petition and witnessed each of the appended signatures being written. Each signature on this petition is, to the best of my information and belief, the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be. All signatures on this document were obtained between the dates of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 (month/day/year) (month/day/year)

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that I showed each signer a valid and unfalsified "Official Top Funders" sheet.

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_  
 (month/day) (year) (place of signing)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (complete signature indicating full name of circulator)

[Dates of circulation, printed name, and residence address must be in circulator's own hand.]

**EXHIBIT D (2)**

[A one-inch blank space must be left at the top of each page of the petition. §100, 9013]

**Initiative Petition (Including Official Top Funders)**

**INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS.** [§ 9008(d)]

**The Los Angeles County Counsel has prepared the following circulating title and summary of the chief purposes and points of the proposed measure:**

[Here set forth the unique numeric identifier followed by the circulating title and summary prepared by the Los Angeles County Counsel. This unique numeric identifier and circulating title and summary must also be printed across the top of each page of the petition whereon signatures are to appear, in roman non-boldface type not smaller than 11-point. (§ 9008)]

<p><b>OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS. Valid only for [Month, Year<sup>1</sup>] [at least 10-point boldface type (§ 107(b)(2))]</b>                  Petition circulation paid for by [name of the committee as it appears on the most recent Statement of Organization filed pursuant to Government Code section 84101]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Committee major funding from:  <b>[Largest contributor]</b>  <b>[Second largest contributor]</b>  <b>[Third largest contributor]</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">[OPTIONAL] Endorsed by                  : [First endorser]                  [Second endorser]                  [Third endorser]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Latest info: [link to Secretary of State Top Funders website or committee website]</p>
--

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:**

**SIGN ONLY IF IT IS THE SAME MONTH SHOWN IN THE OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS OR YOU SAW AN “OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS” SHEET FOR THIS MONTH.** [11-point boldface type. EC § 101(a)]

THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR A VOLUNTEER. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK. [11-point non-boldface type (EC § 101(a))]

THE PROPONENTS OF THIS PROPOSED INITIATIVE MEASURE HAVE THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW THIS PETITION AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE MEASURE QUALIFIES FOR THE BALLOT. [11-point non-boldface type (EC § 101(b))]

This column for official use only.

**REGISTERE VOTER ONL**

1.	Print Your Name: _____ Sign As Registered To Vote: _____ Residence Address ONLY: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____	
2.	Print Your Name: _____ Sign As Registered To Vote: _____ Residence Address ONLY: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____	
3.	Print Your Name: _____ Sign As Registered To Vote: _____ Residence Address ONLY: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____	

**DECLARATION OF CIRCULATOR**

(to be completed after above signatures have been obtained)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am 18 years of age or older. My residence address is

\_\_\_\_\_. I circulated  
 (address, city, state, zip)

this section of the petition and witnessed each of the appended signatures being written. Each signature on this petition is, to the best of my information and belief, the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to

be. All signatures on this document were obtained between the dates of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (month, day, year) (month, day, year)

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (month and day) (year) (place of signing)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (complete signature indicating full name of circulator)

[Dates of circulation, printed name, and residence address must be in circulator’s own hand.]

[NOTE: It is recommended that a space approximately 1/2 inch wide be left along the left margin opposite the signatures, as shown, for the clerks’ use in verifying signatures.]

<sup>1</sup> The month and year must start at most seven days after the date the top contributors as defined in Government Code § 84501(c) were last confirmed.

**EXHIBIT E (FRONT)**



**ARGUMENT AND REBUTTAL FORM**

ELECTION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ MEASURE I.D. (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

JURISDICTION:

(Please mark (x) in the appropriate box)

<input type="checkbox"/> Argument in Favor	<input type="checkbox"/> Argument Against
<input type="checkbox"/> Rebuttal to Argument Against	<input type="checkbox"/> Rebuttal to Argument in Favor

Statements will be printed in uniform type, style and spacing. Use block paragraphs and single space format. Text submitted indented or centered will be typeset in block paragraph form. **Entire statements in all capital letters, bold and italics are not acceptable. Indentations cannot be accommodated.** Words to be printed in **boldface type**, underscored and/or CAPITALIZED are to be clearly indicated. All statements should be checked by the authors for spelling and punctuation as the elections official is not permitted to edit any material contained therein. **NOTE:** Rebuttal arguments are not direct arguments. For example, a rebuttal to a direct argument in favor of a measure is NOT a direct argument against a measure. Please also note that rebuttal arguments are allowed only when both a direct argument for AND against a measure are filed.

**ALL AUTHORS MUST SIGN ON THE REVERSE SIDE**

Please attach typed statement to this form. Statements should be typed in upper and lower case letters. Statement will be typeset in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet using a standard font and size determined by the County. However, statements can be submitted using any standard font.

**EXHIBIT E (BACK)**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK**

**ELECTION PLANNING SECTION  
(562) 462-2317**

**DECLARATION BY AUTHOR(S) OF ARGUMENTS OR REBUTTALS  
(Elections Code Section 9600)**

All arguments concerning measures filed pursuant to Division 9 of the Elections Code shall be accompanied by the following declaration to be signed by each author of the argument/rebuttal. Names and titles listed will be printed in the Voter Information portion of the Official Sample Ballot Booklet in the order provided below.

The undersigned author(s) of the: 

<input type="checkbox"/> Argument in Favor	<input type="checkbox"/> Rebuttal to Argument Against
<input type="checkbox"/> Argument Against	<input type="checkbox"/> Rebuttal to Argument in Favor

of ballot measure \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_  
(name and/or letter) (title of election)

election for the \_\_\_\_\_ to be held on

\_\_\_\_\_ hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the  
(date)

best of his/her/their knowledge and belief.

1.	Printed Name	Signature
	Title to Appear on Argument	Date
2.	Printed Name	Signature
	Title to Appear on Argument	Date
3.	Printed Name	Signature
	Title to Appear on Argument	Date
4.	Printed Name	Signature
	Title to Appear on Argument	Date
5.	Printed Name	Signature
	Title to Appear on Argument	Date

**IMPORTANT FILING INFORMATION:** I, \_\_\_\_\_ am the designated filer of the above titled argument/rebuttal. Please notify me of any questions pertaining to this filing. Below is my contact information.

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Evening Fax

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Time Stamp

	Word Counts
NUMBER OF WORDS:	
PROJECT CODE NUMBER:	
ELECTION DEPUTY:	

## EXHIBIT F

### BALLOT ARGUMENT AND REBUTTAL GENERAL INFORMATION

1. A ballot argument for any county, general district or school district measure shall not exceed 300 words in length.  
**Exceptions:** Ballot arguments to reorganize a school or community college district shall not exceed 500 words. (Ed. Code § 35758)
2. No more than five signatures shall appear with any argument.
3. The authors of an argument in favor or against a measure may prepare and submit rebuttal arguments, or may authorize in writing any other person or persons to prepare, submit, or sign the rebuttal. No rebuttal shall exceed 250 words. Authorization forms are available by calling (562) 462-2317.
4. All arguments and rebuttals concerning measures shall be accompanied by a statement, to be signed by each proponent and by each author, if different, declaring that the argument or rebuttal is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.
5. Whenever any ballot arguments for or against any measure are submitted, such arguments may be withdrawn by their proponents at any time prior to and including the final date fixed for filing arguments.
6. A public examination period is allowed for the review of arguments and rebuttal arguments. The inspection time is the ten-day calendar period immediately following the filing deadline for such documents. During this period, any person may seek a writ of mandate or an injunction to require any or all of the material to be amended or deleted. The writ of mandate or injunction request shall be filed no later than the end of the ten (10) calendar day public examination period.
7. Rebuttals for county, school and general district measures all need authorizations signed by the original authors of the argument. An original signer on an argument cannot authorize more than one signer on the rebuttal. Signers of rebuttals for city measures will be determined by the City Clerk.
8. Original signatures of faxed arguments or rebuttals must be received by this office within 48 hours.



**AUTHORIZATION FOR ANOTHER PERSON TO  
SIGN REBUTTAL ARGUMENT**  
(Elections Code Section 9167, 9317 and 9504)

I, \_\_\_\_\_ authorize the person listed below to  
(Print name of **AUTHOR** of the Argument)

sign the rebuttal to the argument     in favor     against    Measure \_\_\_\_\_  
(Check one)    (Letter)

for the \_\_\_\_\_ election to be  
(Jurisdiction)

held on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Any Author of the Argument may be replaced with another author to sign the Rebuttal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name of Rebuttal Author)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Rebuttal Author)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title to appear on Rebuttal)

Signature of Argument Author: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attach this form to the "Declaration by Authors Form" submitted with the Rebuttal Argument.**