

Amendment 71
Requirements for Constitutional Amendments

BALLOT TITLE AND TEXT

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado constitution. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado constitution below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution making it more difficult to amend the Colorado constitution by requiring that any petition for a citizen-initiated constitutional amendment be signed by at least two percent of the registered electors who reside in each state senate district for the amendment to be placed on the ballot and increasing the percentage of votes needed to pass any proposed constitutional amendment from a majority to at least fifty-five percent of the votes cast, unless the proposed constitutional amendment only repeals, in whole or in part, any provision of the constitution?

Text of Measure:

Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, Section 1(4) of article V is amended and said section 1 is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION, to read:

Section 1. General assembly - initiative and referendum.

(2.5) IN ORDER TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO AMEND THIS CONSTITUTION, A PETITION FOR AN INITIATED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT SHALL BE SIGNED BY REGISTERED ELECTORS WHO RESIDE IN EACH STATE SENATE DISTRICT IN COLORADO IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO AT LEAST TWO PERCENT OF THE TOTAL REGISTERED ELECTORS IN THE SENATE DISTRICT PROVIDED THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGNATURES OF REGISTERED ELECTORS ON THE PETITION SHALL AT LEAST EQUAL THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (2.5), THE NUMBER AND BOUNDARIES OF THE SENATE DISTRICTS AND THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED ELECTORS IN THE SENATE DISTRICTS SHALL BE THOSE IN EFFECT AT THE TIME THE FORM OF THE PETITION HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR CIRCULATION AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

(4) (a) The veto power of the governor shall not extend to measures initiated by or referred to the people. All elections on measures initiated by or referred to the people of the state shall be held at the biennial regular general election, and all such measures shall become the law or a part of the constitution, when approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon OR, IF APPLICABLE THE NUMBER OF VOTES REQUIRED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (4), and not otherwise, and shall take effect from and after the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by proclamation of the governor, but not later than thirty days after the vote has been canvassed. This section shall not be construed to deprive the general assembly of the power to enact any measure.

(b) IN ORDER TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO AMEND THIS CONSTITUTION, AN INITIATED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT SHALL NOT BECOME PART OF THIS CONSTITUTION UNLESS THE AMENDMENT IS APPROVED BY AT LEAST FIFTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE VOTES CAST THEREON; EXCEPT THAT THIS PARAGRAPH (b) SHALL NOT APPLY TO AN INITIATED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THAT IS LIMITED TO REPEALING, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, ANY PROVISION OF THIS CONSTITUTION.

SECTION 2. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, Section 2(1) of article XIX is amended to read:

Section 2. Amendments to constitution - how adopted. (1) (a) Any amendment or amendments to this constitution may be proposed in either house of the general assembly, and, if the same shall be voted for by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, such proposed amendment or amendments, together with the ayes and noes of each house thereon, shall be entered in full on their respective journals. The proposed amendment or amendments shall be published with the laws of that session of the general assembly. At the next general election for members of the general assembly, the said amendment or amendments shall be submitted to the registered electors of the state for their approval or rejection, and such as are approved by a majority of those voting thereon OR, IF APPLICABLE THE NUMBER OF VOTES REQUIRED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (1), shall become part of this constitution.

(b) IN ORDER TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO AMEND THIS CONSTITUTION, A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT SHALL NOT BECOME PART OF THIS CONSTITUTION UNLESS THE AMENDMENT IS APPROVED BY AT LEAST FIFTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE VOTES CAST THEREON; EXCEPT THAT THIS PARAGRAPH (b) SHALL NOT APPLY TO A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THAT IS LIMITED TO REPEALING, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, ANY PROVISION OF THIS CONSTITUTION.