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#### INITIATIVE PETITION

## Attorney General's Explanation

<u>Title</u>: An initiated measure allowing certain elections to be conducted through a voting-by-mail process.

# **Attorney General Explanation:**

This initiated measure gives county commissioners the authority to require elections to be held by mail ballot. It also gives county auditors the authority to require voting by mail in precincts with less than 200 registered voters. The measure applies only to primary, special, and general elections conducted by the county auditor. Voters will receive advance notice that elections will be conducted by mail.

In most circumstances, if an election is conducted by mail the measure requires that ballots must be mailed to voters at least 14 days before the election. Upon completing the ballot, the voter must sign the provided envelope and return the ballot. Ballots may be returned by mail, delivered to the county courthouse, or deposited at designated ballot drop-off sites that are secure and publicly accessible 24 hours a day. Ballots must be received by 8:00 p.m. on the date of an election. A ballot will be counted if the auditor determines the voter's signature on the envelope matches the signature in the voter's registration record.

The measure creates felony and misdemeanor criminal offenses related to voting by mail.

Name of Sponsor:

Rick Weiland (605) 274-8706

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**SECRETARY OF STATE** 

This petition circulator is a paid petition circulator and is being paid \$10 per hour.

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This petition circulator is a volunteer and is not receiving any monies to circulate this petition.