

Circulator Handout: Initiated Amendment to Protect Initiative & Referendum Rights

Attorney General's Title: "An Amendment to the South Dakota Constitution Requiring Legislative Changes to Initiative and Referendum Procedures to be Approved by a Vote of the People."

Attorney General's Explanation:

The State Constitution gives citizens the right to propose constitutional amendments and state laws under the initiative process. The Constitution also gives citizens the right to challenge laws passed by the Legislature through the referendum process.

Currently, the procedures for initiative and referendum are set out in state law. Those procedures can be changed or repealed by the Legislature through the regular legislative process.

Under this constitutional amendment, the Legislature may still pass legislation that changes or repeals laws affecting initiative and referendum procedures. But that legislation does not become effective unless approved by the voters at the next general election.

Sponsor: Richard P. Weiland
605-610-8146 | info@dakotans4health.com

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SD Secretary of State

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March 2025

Monae L. Johnson

SECRETARY OF STATE

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