

PEOPLE POWER INDIANA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON AMENDMENTS & LAW CHANGES

The Indiana Constitution puts major barriers in the way of the People to change their own state constitution and laws. Legislators need not be the only place from whence laws and constitutional changes flow. WHEREFORE, the following language shall be added to the Indiana Constitution to create direct involvement by the Indiana voters in legislation and constitutional changes that govern them and their interests.

Indiana Constitution, [Article 16, Section 1](#) shall include an additional subsection (d) as follows:

(d)(1) People power constitutional amendments. Any Indiana elector (registered voter) may submit an amendment to the Indiana Constitution by petition to the Secretary of State, which petition shall include signatures from 5,000 registered voters. Upon certification of the signatures by the Secretary of State, the proposed amendment shall be placed on the ballot at the next general election for a yeah/nay vote and

upon the yes vote being approved by over 50% of the vote, that amendment shall take effect on January 1 of the following year.

(d)(2) People power laws and abrogations of law. Additionally, any Indiana elector (registered voter) may submit a proposed law or abrogation of law with 1,000 registered voter signatures by petition to the Secretary of State. Upon certification of the signatures on the petition by the Secretary of State, the proposed law or abrogation shall be placed on the ballot at the next general election for a yeah/nay vote and upon the yes vote being approved by over 50% of the vote, that amendment shall take effect on January 1 of the following year.

(d)(3) Limitations. In order for a constitutional amendment or law change to be accepted by the Secretary of State, such proposed change must be no longer than 300 words for each separate change petition. Amendments and law changes that would restrict civil liberties may not be proposed under this subsection.

(d)(4) Manner of collecting signatures. Signatures may be collected in any manner that demonstrates the intention of the voters in favor of a change under a petition of this subsection. Signatures may be collected as assent over the phone, assent via email, assent on a website, or any

other electronic means. Signatures absolutely are not required to be on paper or in ink, though the signatures may be in ink and on paper and scanned to PDF format for submission. A petition's "signatures" need merely be a list of registered voters who have assented and there shall not be litigation over signatures or challenges to them, merely certification by the Secretary of State that the voters listed are indeed registered voters. To facilitate communication with voters, every voter shall provide an email address associated with that voter's voter registration. Any U.S. citizen may request the complete voter roll with this list of email addresses associated with voters. The Secretary of State shall provide this roll with the emails on request within 14 days of the request.

(d)(5) Electronic and other acceptance and communication. The Secretary of State shall accept petitions both by paper means and via electronic means, including email. An email may provide a link to a PDF version of the petition and the Secretary of State shall download that petition. No particular form shall be required, but the Secretary of State shall generate a form and provide it on the website. A webpage shall be provided by the Secretary of State which shall explain the petition

process and provide an email address to take questions and accept emailed petitions.

(d)(6) Deadlines, posting petitions, and assent. The deadline for emailing a petition is August 1 prior to any general election and proposed amendments or laws with adequate signature assents shall be placed on the next general election after that deadline. All petitions under this subsection shall be placed in their entirety on the Secretary of State website for people power amendments and law changes within 3 days of certification of voter assent. If a voter objects that her or his name was wrongly placed on such a petition, that voter shall be stricken from the petition by the Secretary of State without any litigation or comment and such a stricken name shall be considered a withdrawn assent.

(d)(7) Court treatment of law changes. The Indiana courts shall treat amendments made under this subsection as coequal with amendments made under other parts of this section and an amendment shall repeal any inconsistent prior provision in the Indiana Constitution. Similarly, a law or abrogation shall repeal any inconsistent Indiana law.

(d)(8) Indiana Constitution and People Power. The Preamble of the Indiana Constitution shows that a people power amendment is right and

proper and fits perfectly with the intention of the people of Indiana to govern themselves without undue grants of power to government, which leads to abuses:

TO THE END, that justice be established, public order maintained, and liberty perpetuated; **WE, the People of the State of Indiana,** grateful to ALMIGHTY GOD for the free exercise of **the right to choose our own form of government,** do ordain this Constitution.

The above amendment is proposed by Virginia Attorney Andrew U. D. Straw. andrew@andrewstraw.com