

**INITIATIVE PETITION
TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

We, the undersigned, being qualified electors request the following initiated law be placed on the ballot as provided by law.

SPONSORING COMMITTEE

The following are the names and addresses of the qualified electors of the State of North Dakota who, as the sponsoring committee for the petitioners, represent and act for the petitioners in accordance with the law.

Lydia R Gessele, Chairperson 631 32 nd Ave NE Chaseley ND 58423	Majorie J Kleinsasser 503 1 st St N Fessenden ND 58438	Jackie Bauerle 2650 32 nd Ave NE Harvey ND 58341
Cheryl Ryan 709 Cedar Ave Harvey ND 58341	Michael Coachman 405 Barrett Ave Larimore ND 58251	Vicki N Coachman 405 Barrett Ave Larimore ND 58251
Claudette Bennett 4245 28 th Ave S Apt 209 Fargo ND 58104	Judy Prom 4245 28 th Ave S #301 Fargo ND 58104	Kathy J Monti 1201 282 nd St SW Berthold ND 58718
Shawn McFarland 403 Montana Ave Mott ND 58646	Vicki L Laraway 1022 N 1 st St Bismarck ND 58501	Jeanette Martin 8100 Hwy 52 S Minot ND 58701
Robert Martin 8100 Hwy 52 S Minot ND 58701	Kenneth A Shaffer 2454 43 rd St NE McCanna ND 58251	Karen Boelter 1028 N 1 st St Bismarck ND 58501
Betty Mertz 338 N 31 st St Apt 1 Bismarck ND 58501	Karen L Banner 2454 43 rd St NE McCanna ND 58251	Jeff Magrum 6332 1 st Ave SW Hazelton ND 58544
Donna Steckler 10700 Rose Dr Bismarck ND 58503	Ben Makay 303 1 st Ave S New Rockford ND 58356	Larry Danduran 1754 67 th Ave NE New Rockford ND 58356
Jason Steidl 216 Dakota Ave Driscoll ND 58532	Ann Hoggarth 101 5 th Ave SE Buchanan ND 58420	Michael Reidhammer 1902 39 th St NE Larimore ND 58251

Robyn Wade 916 Box Elder St Williston ND 58801	Jeffrey Wade 916 Box Elder St Williston ND 58801	Dawn Bruner Hollingsworth 2503 29 th Ave W Williston ND 58801
Kevin Hunter 5509 Kingston Ave Williston ND 58801	Kasey Draper 1607 Aspen Loop Williston ND 58801	John Wepasnick 107 7 th St E Williston ND 58801
Katherine F Walton 5117 142 nd Ave NW Williston ND 58801	Robert Rudnick 2618 24 th Ave W #37 Williston ND 58801	Troy Johnson 811 24 th St. E Williston ND 58801
Hubert D Muller 1910 4 th Ave E Williston ND 58801	Charles Cartier 13532 62 nd St NW Williston ND 58801	Mark A Rovik 415 11 th Ave W Williston ND 58801
Tammy Rovik 415 11 th Ave W Williston ND 58801	Arnold F Meduna 1808 8 th Ave E Williston ND 58801	Shona McIntyre 1609 Bison Dr Williston ND 58801
Dennis Nehring 14968B 49 th St NW Williston ND 58801	Catherine Therese Cartier 13532 62 nd St NW Williston ND 58801	Kathryn Meduna 1808 8 th Ave E Williston ND 58801
Sherry L Garrigan 1405 2 nd Ave SW #4 Minot ND 58701	Jeanne Waterman 1428 Cottonwood St Grand Forks ND 58201	David M Waterman 1428 Cottonwood St Grand Forks ND 58201
Val Veum 1713 E Rosser Ave #15 Bismarck ND 58501	Vince Tweedy 1713 E Rosser Ave #15 Bismarck ND 58501	Melissa Faris 302 W Ave SW Unit #3 PO Box 53 Granville ND 58741
Susan H Welch 5008 S Bay Dr SE Mandan ND 58554	Lori Van Winkle 2600 22 nd St SE Minot ND 58701	Terry Kemmet 3949 38 th Ave SE Tappen ND 58487
Melissa Kessler 707 6 th St NW Mandan ND 58544	Charles Tuttle 623 11 th St NW Minot ND 58703	Jerol W Gohrick 10619 77 th St NW McGregor ND 58755

PETITION TITLE

This initiated measure amends Article III of the North Dakota Constitution. This constitutional amendment prohibits: early voting, voting by mail (except for absentee ballots), ranked-choice voting, approval voting, electronic processing devices for ballot counting, voting machines, any law limiting how circulators of a petition may be paid, and unsupervised public drop boxes. It raises the state legislature's threshold for putting a constitutional amendment on the ballot from a simple majority vote of each house to a two-thirds supermajority vote of each house. It increases the number of days within which a referendum petition may be submitted after a legislatively-enacted measure is filed with the secretary of state from ninety days to one hundred eighty days. It lowers the threshold to place the recall of a state, county, or legislative official on the ballot from twenty-five percent of those who voted at the preceding applicable general election to just ten percent. It requires elections to be administered by elected (as opposed to appointed) county auditors and requires ballots to be counted by hand. It allows any citizen of any state in the United States to audit a North Dakota election at any time. It requires that individual ballots be made public on the Office of Secretary of State's website for no less than 6 years. It also requires that anyone found in violation of sections 11 through 21 of Article III, as enacted by this measure, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

FULL TEXT OF THE MEASURE:

IF MATERIAL IS UNDERSCORED, IT IS NEW MATERIAL WHICH IS BEING ADDED. IF MATERIAL IS OVERSTRUCK BY DASHES, THE MATERIAL IS BEING DELETED. IF MATERIAL IS NOT UNDERSCORED OR OVERSTRUCK, THE MATERIAL IS EXISTING LAW THAT IS NOT BEING CHANGED.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA:

North Dakota Constitution is amended and reenacted as follows:

ARTICLE III

ELECTION INTEGRITY ACT AND POWERS RESERVED TO THE PEOPLE

Section 1. While the legislative power of this state shall be vested in a legislative assembly consisting of a senate and a house of representatives, the people reserve the power to propose and enact laws by the initiative, including the call for a constitutional convention; to approve or reject legislative Acts, or parts thereof, by the referendum; to propose and adopt constitutional amendments by the initiative; and to recall certain elected officials. This article is self-executing and all of its provisions are mandatory. Laws may be enacted to facilitate and safeguard, but not to hamper, restrict, or impair these powers.

Section 2. A petition to initiate or to refer a measure must be presented to the secretary of state for approval as to form. A request for approval must be presented over the names and signatures of twenty-five or more electors as sponsors, one of whom must be designated as chairman of the sponsoring committee. The secretary of state shall approve the petition for circulation if it is in proper form and contains the names and addresses of the sponsors and the full text of the measure.

The legislative assembly may provide by law for a procedure through which the legislative council may establish an appropriate method for determining the fiscal impact of an initiative measure and for making the information regarding the fiscal impact of the measure available to the public.

Section 3. ~~The petition shall be circulated only by electors. They~~ An initiative petition shall be submitted only by citizens of North Dakota. Circulators of petitions shall swear thereon that the electors who have signed the petition did so in their presence. Each elector signing a petition shall also write in the date of signing and his post-office address. No law shall be enacted limiting the number of copies of a petition. The copies shall become part of the original petition when filed. No law shall be enacted limiting how circulators of a petition may be paid.

Section 4. The petition may be submitted to the secretary of state if signed by electors equal in number to two percent of the resident population of the state at the last federal decennial census.

Section 5. An initiative petition shall be submitted not less than one hundred twenty days before the statewide election at which the measure is to be voted upon. A referendum petition may be submitted only within ~~one-hundred-eighty ninety~~ days after the filing of the measure with the secretary of state. The submission of a referendum petition within ninety days after the filing of the measure with the secretary of state shall suspend the operation of any measure enacted by the legislative assembly except emergency measures and appropriation measures for the support and maintenance of state departments and institutions. The submission of a petition against one or more items or parts of any measure shall not prevent the remainder from going into effect. A referred measure may be voted upon at a statewide election or at a special election called by the governor.

Section 6. The secretary of state shall pass upon each petition, and if the secretary of state finds it insufficient, the secretary of state shall notify the "committee for the petitioners" and allow twenty days for correction. All decisions of the secretary of state in regard to any petition are subject to review by the supreme court. But if the sufficiency of the petition is being reviewed at the time the ballot is prepared, the secretary of state shall place the measure on the ballot and no subsequent decision shall invalidate the measure if it is at the election approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon. If proceedings are brought against any petition upon any ground, the burden of proof is upon the party attacking it and the proceedings must be filed with the supreme court no later than seventy-five days before the date of the statewide election at which the measure is to be voted upon.

Section 7. All decisions of the secretary of state in the petition process are subject to review by the supreme court in the exercise of original jurisdiction. A proceeding to review a decision of the secretary of state must be filed with the supreme court no later than seventy-five days before the date of the statewide election at which the measure is to be voted upon. If the decision of the secretary of state is being reviewed at the time the ballot is prepared, the secretary of state shall place the measure on the ballot and no court action shall invalidate the measure if it is approved at the election by a majority of the votes cast thereon.

Section 8. If a majority of votes cast upon an initiated or a referred measure are affirmative, it shall be deemed enacted. An initiated or referred measure which is approved shall become law thirty days after the election, and a referred measure which is rejected shall be void immediately. If conflicting measures are approved, the one receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall be law. A measure approved by the electors may

not be repealed or amended by the legislative assembly for seven years from its effective date, except by a two-thirds vote of the members elected to each house.

Section 9. A constitutional amendment may be proposed by initiative petition. If signed by electors equal in number to four percent of the resident population of the state at the last federal decennial census, the petition may be submitted to the secretary of state. All other provisions relating to initiative measures apply hereto. Notwithstanding the legislative assembly's authority to propose amendments to this constitution under article IV, section 16 thereof, the legislature may only propose a constitutional amendment with a two-thirds supermajority of votes of each house. Any amendment to this constitution initiated or referred shall only be placed on the even year November general election ballot. In any case of a conflict between any provision of this article and any other provision of this constitution, the provisions of this article shall control.

Section 10. Any elected official of the state, of any county or of any legislative or county commissioner district shall be subject to recall by petition of electors equal in number to ~~twenty-five~~ ten percent of those who voted at the preceding general election for the office of governor in the state, county, or district in which the official is to be recalled.

The petition shall be filed with the official with whom a petition for nomination to the office in question is filed, who shall call a special election if he finds the petition valid and sufficient. No elector may remove his name from a recall petition.

The name of the official to be recalled shall be placed on the ballot unless he resigns within ten days after the filing of the petition. Other candidates for the office may be nominated in a manner provided by law. When the election results have been officially declared, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be deemed elected for the remainder of the term. No official shall be subject twice to recall during the term for which he was elected.

Section 11. The intent of this Article is to ensure the people's right to free and fair elections by ensuring election integrity by providing transparency for the verification of the election process and election results.

Section 12. An election is not a legally binding election if the election process and the election results cannot be verified or audited by the qualified electors of the state.

Section 13. Because voting integrity is essential to ensuring freedom and individual liberty, all voting in North Dakota elections shall be done by paper ballots and counted by hand starting on the day of the election and continuing uninterrupted until hand counting is completed. The hand counting of ballots shall be administered by a duly elected county auditor. Any qualified electors of the state shall be allowed to observe the hand counting process of any election. The use of unsupervised public drop boxes to collect ballots is prohibited.

Section 14. Use of any type of voting machines or electronic processing devices for ballot counting in North Dakota elections are prohibited.

Section 15. All voting will be completed only on election day. Early voting is prohibited.

Section 16. All county precincts must have an open polling location(s) and all county precincts shall have a paper poll book specific to that precinct. All ballots shall have precinct specific watermarks and bear the seal of the county in which it will be used;

Section 17. Absentee ballots will only be mailed to voters who request one for a specific election in writing within a reasonable time period prior to Election Day. Absentee ballots will not be automatically sent to voters without a written request submitted for each election. Mail-in ballots are otherwise prohibited;

Section 18. Ranked-Choice voting and Approval voting are prohibited in the State of North Dakota.

Section 19. The secretary of state shall adopt rules providing for the preservation and scanning of all ballots cast in an election. The rules must require the following:

- a. 24 hours after all ballots have been counted by hand, all ballots cast in an election shall be scanned electronically;
- b. Each ballot cast in an election shall be preserved at least until the ballot is scanned;
- c. Electronic versions of the scanned ballots from all elections shall be made available on the secretary of state's website for no less than six years; and
- d. A paper copy of a scanned ballot(s) from any election shall be made available to any individual upon request and payment of a nominal fee to be set by the secretary of state.

Section 20. The people of the State of North Dakota shall be guaranteed free and fair elections with results which are able to be audited. All elections shall be verified or audited at any time by any qualified elector(s) of the state or citizen(s) of the United States who requests to do so. No citizen will be denied access to election information resulting from an auditable election with the exception that the identity of individual voters shall not be revealed on ballots that have been cast;

Section 21. The requirements of this Article shall not be suspended for any reason;

Section 22. Penalty. Any person that has been found by a court of general jurisdiction of violating the requirements of sections 11 through 21 of this Article shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor and shall have personal civil liability to those whose rights under this Article they have violated;

Section 23. This Article is self-executing and effective retroactively to June 1, 2024.

Section 24. The provisions of this article are severable, and if any provision is held to be invalid, either on its face or as applied, the remaining provisions and their application shall not be affected thereby. In any case of a conflict between any provision of this article and any other provision of this constitution, the provisions of this article shall control.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PETITION SIGNERS: You are being asked to sign a petition. You must be a qualified elector. This means you are eighteen years old, you have lived in North Dakota thirty days, and you are a United States citizen. All signers shall also legibly print their name, complete residential address or rural route or general delivery address, and the date of signing on the petition. Every qualified elector signing a petition must do so in the presence of the individual circulating the petition.

QUALIFIED ELECTORS:

	Month, Day, Year	PRINTED Name of Qualified Elector	SIGNED Name of Qualified Elector	Residential Address or Complete Rural Route or General Delivery Address	City, State, Zip Code
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	Month, Day, Year	PRINTED Name of Qualified Elector	SIGNED Name of Qualified Elector	Residential Address or Complete Rural Route or General Delivery Address	City, State, Zip Code
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STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)
) SS.
COUNTY OF _____)
(county where signed)

I, _____, being sworn, say that I am a qualified elector; that I reside at
(circulator)

_____ ; that each signature contained on the attached petition was executed in
(address)
my presence; and that to the best of my knowledge and belief each individual whose signature appears on the attached petition is a
qualified elector; and that each signature contained on the attached petition is the genuine signature of the individual whose name it
purports to be.

(signature of circulator)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ____ day of _____, 20____, at _____, North Dakota.
(city)

(NOTARY STAMPING DEVICE)

(signature of notary)