

CHAPTER THREE

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PETITIONS

- 3.1 **Initiative** petitions must be signed by a minimum of fifteen (15%) percent of the qualified electors of the City, computed on the vote for the candidates for mayor at the last preceding general municipal election at which a mayor was elected.
- 3.2 Through the November **2013**, General Election, initiative petitions require **12,730** valid signatures.
- 3.3 In no event shall the City Clerk accept an initiative petition which was issued for circulation more than twenty-four (24) months prior to the date of the election at which the measure is to be included on the ballot.
- 3.4 **Initiative** petitions which have not been filed with the City Clerk as of 5:00 p.m. on the day four (4) months prior to the ensuing general election after their issuance are null and void.
- 3.5 To be placed on the **November 3, 2015** general election ballot, an initiative petition must have been issued for circulation no earlier than **November 6, 2013** and must be filed with the City Clerk during regular business hours no later than 5:00 p.m., **July 2, 2015**.
- 3.6 **Referendum** petitions must be signed by a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the qualified electors of the City, computed on the whole number of votes cast at the last preceding municipal election at which a mayor or council member was elected.¹
- 3.7 Through the November **2013**, General Election, referendum petitions require **8,487** valid signatures.
- 3.8 **Referendum** petitions must be filed with the City Clerk within thirty (30) days of the adoption of the ordinance to be referred, except that if the City Clerk is unable to provide petitioners' with a copy of the ordinance at the time of application for an official petition number or on the same business day of the application, the thirty (30) day period shall be calculated from the date such ordinance is made available from the City Clerk.

¹ A.R.S. § 19-142(A). Tucson Charter, Ch. XX, §1 requires that petitions be signed by “ten (10) percent of the entire vote cast for all candidates for mayor at the last preceding general municipal election at which a mayor was elected.” The Arizona Court of Appeals held that A.R.S. § 19-142(A) pre-empts conflicting city charter provisions. *JONES v. PANIAGUA* 212 P.3d 133, 221 AZ 4:41, 212 (2009). The Arizona State Supreme Court declined to hear the case on appeal.