

Proposition 134
Initiative; Referendum; Signatures; Legislative Districts
Fiscal Analysis

Estimated Impact

Proposition 134 would amend provisions of the Arizona Constitution related to the minimum signature requirements for statewide initiative and referendum measures. The proposition would require these measures to have signatures from at least the following percentage of qualified electors in each legislative district: 1) statewide referendum – 5%; 2) statewide initiative measures – 10%; and 3) initiative constitutional amendments – 15%. Under current law, these same percentages apply, but the requirements are calculated statewide rather than by legislative district.

Under the existing statewide signature requirements, initiative and referendum petitions submitted to the Secretary of State are organized by county. The Secretary of State removes signatures which are not correctly organized by county and implements a random sample of remaining qualified signatures. County governments then validate signatures from the sample for electors who reside in their county. Based on the overall results of the county signature validation, the Secretary of State makes one calculation to determine compliance with the statewide signature requirement.

Proposition 134 would instead require this signature validation process to be based on each of the 30 legislative districts rather than the 15 counties. The measure is expected to increase the Secretary of State's workload as the agency will be required to check that submitted petitions are correctly organized across the 30 legislative districts. County governments are expected to have increased workload if they are required to validate samples for multiple legislative districts within the county. In addition, after receiving the county sample validation, the Secretary of State will be required to calculate that the minimum signature percentages were met for each of the 30 legislative districts instead of making one statewide calculation. The magnitude of these increased costs to state and local governments cannot be determined in advance.

7/18/24