

THE CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE REFERENDUM AND RECALL REFORM ACT! SO WHY CIRRA?

Background Information:

Since 1911, ALL CA voters have had the ability to participate more directly in our government at all levels due to three processes being added to our state constitution which were designed to support our right to vote, known as Initiative, Referendum and Recall!

These added processes have been used with varying degrees of success over the past hundred years or so, but they have come to mostly serve a very limited amount of people, mostly millionaires, billionaires, and very well funded special interest groups, who can more easily overcome the inherent difficulties which otherwise keep average voters from using these mechanisms of political oversight the way they were originally intended. The right to propose our own legislative solutions, stop their laws, and replace elected officials to be more specific!

What are the difficulties with the way it currently works?

- Our California population doubles about once per decade, which makes the requirement to gather pen and paper signatures, on the legal petitions required to get any one of these three types of proposals, more and more difficult as time goes on!
- Difficulties like trying to find which people in CA are not only registered voters, but who are up to date having accurate voter information. People move, get married, have their names changes, etc. These issues can become hidden reasons that disqualify support as these otherwise valid voter endorsements won't count!
- We live in a very busy time for most people who are working hard and raising families and trying to enjoy what little time we get in between, which becomes the only time we get to volunteer to circulate petitions and help run these otherwise, very costly campaigns especially when it comes time to pay other people to do the job for us! We simply don't have the time or money and must make huge sacrifices to personally try and collect signatures in this way!
- If the petition is not printed just so, not filled out properly, or maybe the 20 signatures obtained from voters on it get thrown out because the person circulating abbreviated their address in the declaration section. This all becomes reasons to throw out our signatures.
- For each invalidated and/or duplicated signature found, there is a percentage taken off the total of all signatures collected given the way it currently gets processed, and this becomes a strategy for political opposition to undermine any given proposal by intentionally putting in signatures that will prove costly!
- Standing or sitting out in front of Grocery stores and Walmart like locations can bring ridicule and scrutiny as volunteers must endure all of these well known obstacles and the fact is, none of this is necessary! Some topics are meant to be private and folks shouldn't have to share their support publically or even with strangers in these settings, or subject their voter information to being taken and used illegally. Paid signature gatherers have the opportunity to collect our voter information and signature samples and use them potentially in an illegal way for any given proposal they can get \$5 to \$10 per signature circulating!
- The bottom line is that the campaign industry, including signature gathering companies, have been profiting from the inefficiency of this system for decades, and we have had a simple solution to all of these problems for many years, but our elected officials won't fix it! The reason they won't fix it is because Initiative Referendum and Recall processes, if they were able to efficiently serving all voters of CA would turn the concentration of political power upside down putting we the people back in charge! They don't want that but we should!

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Do we want to have a government that is run by the people and for the people or not? If so, we must fix our ability to sign petitions and turn on these political oversight mechanisms!

In doing so, we will be fixing:

- The entire Initiative, Referendum and Recall system by simply making electronic signature gathering legal for all our petitions!
- Our ability to propose our own legislative solutions directly to the voters of CA and give all voters the opportunity to participate in not only signing petitions they support, but actually proposing a solution for all to consider! This is a great need in a very politically divided state indeed and we all have issues with some type of political discrimination or injustice, whether perceived or real, yet we typically never get answers to our questions because our elected officials can't agree and/or they refuse to even present any such solutions or attempt to resolve our differences, leaving them unresolved for the ages and breaking promise after promise to fix things!
- Helps our voting system become more potent and representative of what the voters actually want here in CA. Get it right or we will get it right for them and not just rely on voting them out of office in the hope someone else will keep their political promises! Let's face it they serve the money backed special interests and only use voters to get elected! Once in they can go about doing whatever pays the most money for them to get done!
- Not having to endure all of the problems associated with pen and paper signature gathering, and there are many, and it really takes understanding the entire system, and seeing it fail over and over again, to realize how bad it truly is! Let's face it, this is not a desired activity for any of us to have to perform, and people only do it when they feel compelled to stand up for things they feel are not being represented on! Or, they are getting paid!
- Our ability to stop laws we don't want! Seriously, we are wearing laws left and right that are literally pissing off people throughout our state, dividing us harder and harder along political lines and because we can't get our elected officials to represent us they really don't care what we as a voting body of citizens think anymore. When politicians excise people with the laws they pass because they do not fit their political agenda, we have a huge problem! This solution changes all this!
- Our ability to replace elected officials who choose to not serve the people! This process is even more rigorous than the others due to increased numbers of signatures being required and added reporting and filing requirements.
- Political corruption, legislation without representation and the ability to be included politically! The voters are excluded here and really only get an either or choice as to which political party gets to run things and even that choice is slowly being removed. Absolute power corrupts absolutely and we are quickly approaching that threshold!
- The way all political solutions get presented to the voters of CA!
- The ability to represent ourselves vs. having to protest, lobby, resort to civil disobedience, and/or essentially beg elected officials to help! We have lost trust in our system of government in so many ways and fixing this simply has to become a priority. The vast majority of our citizens don't even care to participate the way it currently works and this gives us each reason to start caring!
- The list goes on and on and getting this proposal qualified will trigger the debate of the century on whether or not We the people are going to maintain a form of government that is truly by the people and for the people!