



Amending the California State Constitution

The Process

Constitution Requires:

Pathway 1: (Legislature)

"The Legislature by rollcall vote entered in the journal, two-thirds of the membership of each house concurring, may propose an amendment or revision of the Constitution and in the same manner may amend or withdraw its proposal. Each amendment shall be so prepared and submitted that it can be voted on separately."

Pathway 2: (Convention)

"The Legislature by rollcall vote entered in the journal, two-thirds of the membership of each house concurring, may submit at a general election the question whether to call a convention to revise the Constitution. If the majority vote yes on that question, within 6 months the Legislature shall provide for the convention. Delegates to a constitutional convention shall be voters elected from districts as nearly equal in population as may be practicable."

Pathway 3: (Initiative)

"The electors may amend the Constitution by initiative."

"The initiative is the power of the electors to propose statutes and amendments to the Constitution and to adopt or reject them."

"An initiative measure may be proposed by presenting to the Secretary of State a petition that sets forth the text of the proposed statute or amendment to the Constitution and is certified to have been signed by electors equal in number to 5 percent in the case of a statute, and 8 percent in the case of an amendment to the Constitution, of the votes for all candidates for Governor at the last gubernatorial election."

"The Secretary of State shall then submit the measure at the next general election held at least 131 days after it qualifies or at any special statewide election held prior to that general election. The Governor may call a special statewide election for the measure."

"A proposed amendment or revision shall be submitted to the electors and, if approved by a majority of votes cast thereon, takes effect on the fifth day after the Secretary of State files

the statement of the vote for the election at which the measure is voted on, but the measure may provide that it becomes operative after its effective date. If provisions of two or more measures approved at the same election conflict, the provisions of the measure receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall prevail.”

What this means:

Pathway 1: (Legislature)

Step 1: Amendment is approved by two-thirds of the membership of each house (80 Assembly, 40 Senate members, total).

Step 2: Amendment goes on a statewide ballot and agreed upon by a majority of voters.

Pathway 2: (Convention)

Step 1: Legislature, by two-thirds of the membership of each house, may submit at a general election (November 3, 2020) the question whether to call a convention.

Step 2: If a majority of electors vote in favor thereof, the Legislature shall provide for the convention within six months. Delegates for a constitutional convention shall be voters elected from districts as nearly equal in population as may be practical.

Pathway 3: (Initiative)

Step 1: A petition is presented to the Secretary of State and contains the amendment and is certified to have been signed by electors equal to eight percent of the votes for all candidates for Governor at the last gubernatorial election (5,522,686).

Step 2: Secretary of State shall submit petition at the next general election held at least 131 days after or at a special election held prior to the general election.

Step 3: Amendment is submitted to the electors and needs to be approved by a majority thereof. Amendment takes effect on the fifth day after the Secretary of State files the statement of the vote.

To Learn More About the California Green Amendment Movement:

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