



Shasta Election Times

SHASTA COUNTY CLERK/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

MAY 2015 EDITION

Initiatives? Petitions? Measures?

What are all of these and how do they wind up on our ballots?

This is just a short introduction to this subject!

For those of you who would like more information, two websites are listed at the end of this article. It is a complicated subject but with clear guidelines and steps to follow if someone wants to get an issue on a ballot, or just understand the process.

Note: A petition is the form that voters sign to get an initiative or measure on the ballot. More information on signing petitions is on page 2.

Here is a quote from our **Shasta County Guide** on **How-to-Place-a-Measure-on-the-Ballot**:

OVERVIEW — “The Shasta County Board of Supervisors (BOS) and other governing bodies adopt laws to govern the people in the county, city, or districts. An initiative is the power of the voters to propose a new law or to change an existing ordinance. A referendum is a challenge to a law that the governing body passed *but is not yet effective*.”

This guide describes the general process you can use to place an initiative or referendum on the ballot. It also describes the process a governing body uses to place an initiative or bond measure on the ballot. “

What is a Measure?

“In general, a measure is any constitutional amendment or other proposition *submitted to a popular vote* at any election. A county measure includes any proposed new or amendment to a county law, a proposition for the issuance of a bond, or any other question or proposition *submitted to the voters* of a county or district.

Sometimes people use the term measure

interchangeably to refer to different types of measures. Typically, an initiative or referendum becomes a measure *after the petition qualifies* for the ballot. “

Common Types of Measures

Initiatives
Referendums
School Bonds
Special District Bonds

For more information, go to the Shasta County link listed below.

<https://www.elections.co.shasta.ca.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/How-to-place-Measure.2013.pdf>

You can also get to our Shasta County information by following these links:

www.elections.co.shasta.ca.us
Click on “Resources”
Click on “Election Guidebooks”
Then click on “How to Place a Measure on the Ballot”

The **Secretary of State’s website** contains valuable information as well. Here is the introductory part of the State Guide:

How to Qualify an Initiative Statewide Ballot Initiative Guide

“This is a summary of the statewide initiative procedure and the requirements for preparing and qualifying initiatives. This guide is intended for statewide initiatives only. For information regarding the qualification of local initiatives, please contact your county elections official or city clerk.

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We are on the web!

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Initiatives? Petitions? Measures? *Continued from page 1...*

“Please note: Since July 2011, initiative measures only appear on statewide general election ballots.

The current initiative signature requirements according to the California Constitution, Article II, Section 8(b); Elections Code section 9035 are as follows:

Initiative Statute: 365,880

Initiative Constitutional Amendment: 585,407

“Background — In a special election held on October 10, 1911, California became the 10th state to adopt the initiative process. That year, Governor Hiram Johnson began his term by promising to give citizens a tool they could use to adopt laws and constitutional amendments without the support of the Governor or the Legislature. The new Legislature put a package of constitutional amendments on the ballot that placed more control of California politics directly into the hands of the people. This package included the ability to recall elected officials, the right to repeal laws by referendum, and the ability to enact state laws by initiative.

The initiative is the power of the people of California to propose statutes and to propose amendments to the California Constitution. (Cal. Const., art. II, § 8(a).) Generally, any matter that is a proper subject of legislation can become an initiative measure; however, no initiative measure addressing more than one subject area may be submitted to the voters or have any effect. (Cal. Const., art. II, §§ 8(d) and 12.) An initiative measure is placed on the ballot after its proponents successfully satisfy the requirements described in this guide and it is certified by the Secretary of State on the 131st day before a statewide general election.”

Here is the link to the Secretary of State’s (SOS) website:

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/how-qualify-initiative/>



Staff Spotlight: Charlene Osborn

Like many in the office, Char began her career in Elections as extra help. In February 2012 she interviewed for the Board, duplicating ballots. Due to her skills she started downstairs instead, assisting with voter registration. “As soon as I stepped in the door it felt like home,” Char beams. On April 17, 2012, Char was hired as a permanent member of the Election Family.

Her official role in the Elections process centers around processing voter registration updates and petition signature verifications. She thrives in the routine and consistency of her position, but the camaraderie in the office is what makes every day fun. Char is the office artist. Her talent is displayed annually on the front windows for everyone’s enjoyment. In addition to an amazing painting talent, she also loves to shop, garden, and create beautiful jewelry. Her fun, bubbly personality and beautiful voice puts a song in all our ears and hearts every day.

Char’s advice to poll workers, “Don’t assume, ask. We are here to support you and we appreciate all of your hard work!”

TRIVIA TIME

Question: Which Presidential Election featured the most lopsided vote in U.S. history?

Hint: Big hair was in fashion, and MTV came on the scene in this decade.

Answer: 1984. Ronald Reagan

Follow up Question: How big was Reagan’s win?

Follow up Answer:

Reagan captured nearly 60% of the popular vote, defeating Mondale by almost 17 million votes! He garnered a record 525 electoral votes from 49 states.