

**First Regular Session
Seventy-Seventh General Assembly
STATE OF SAN ANDREAS**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0728.01 Asa Miller x2741

HOUSE BILL 26-023

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Castillo

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Sarah Gomes, Mabrey, Medrano

House Committees

Not assigned

Senate Committees

Not assigned

A BILL FOR AN ACT

**CONCERNING PETITION SIGNATURE THRESHOLDS FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION
BALLOT.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <https://saleg.uscgov.com>)

This bill establishes uniform statewide petition signature requirements for candidates seeking placement on primary election ballots and refers the measure to the voters for approval at the November 2026 general election as Proposition A.

The bill sets fixed signature thresholds based on the scope of the office sought. Candidates for school board, city council, and mayor must submit at least 500 valid

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Underlining denotes SENATE amendment.

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.

Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

signatures. Candidates for the State House of Representatives must submit 1,000 signatures. Candidates for county commissioner and other county offices must submit 1,300 signatures. Candidates for the State Senate must submit 1,500 signatures. Candidates for statewide executive branch offices, including Governor and other constitutional officers, must submit 3,000 valid signatures.

All signatures must be obtained from eligible electors residing within the jurisdiction of the office sought. The Secretary of State and relevant election officials are responsible for verification and certification of submitted petitions.

The purpose of the Act is to create clear, consistent, and proportionate ballot access standards designed to ensure candidates demonstrate a measurable level of public support prior to appearing on primary election ballots.

The Act is referred to the people and will take effect only if approved by a majority of voters at the November 2026 general election. If approved, it will take effect upon the Governor’s official declaration of the vote.

1 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San***
2 ***Andreas:***
3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.** This act shall be known and cited
4 as the “Primary Ballot Petition Signature Threshold Act.”
5 **SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.** (a) The
6 General Assembly finds and declares that: (I) Ballot access
7 requirements should ensure that candidates demonstrate a
8 meaningful level of public support prior to appearing on a primary
9 election ballot; (II) Signature thresholds should be clear, uniform,
10 and proportionate to the scope of the office sought; (III)
11 Reasonable petition requirements promote orderly elections while
12 preserving open access to candidacy; (IV) It is the intent of the
13 General Assembly to establish fixed statewide petition signature
14 thresholds for placement on primary election ballots for specified
15 public offices. **SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.** For purposes of this

1 Act, unless the context otherwise requires: (a) “Primary election”
2 means an election conducted for the purpose of nominating
3 candidates of a political party for public office. (b) “Petition
4 candidate” means a candidate seeking placement on the primary
5 ballot through the submission of voter signatures. (c) “Eligible
6 elector” means a registered voter qualified to vote in the relevant
7 jurisdiction and party primary. **SECTION 4. PETITION**
8 **SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIMARY BALLOT**
9 **ACCESS.** (a) A petition candidate seeking placement on a
10 primary election ballot shall submit valid signatures from eligible
11 electors in the following amounts: (I) School Board, City Council,
12 or Mayor: Not fewer than five hundred (500) valid signatures. (II)
13 State House of Representatives: Not fewer than one thousand
14 (1,000) valid signatures. (III) County Commissioner or County
15 Office: Not fewer than one thousand three hundred (1,300) valid
16 signatures. (IV) State Senate: Not fewer than one thousand five
17 hundred (1,500) valid signatures. (V) State Executive Branch
18 Offices, including Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of
19 State, Attorney General, and State Treasurer: Not fewer than three
20 thousand (3,000) valid signatures. (b) All signatures must be
21 obtained from eligible electors residing within the jurisdiction of
22 the office sought. (c) The Secretary of State shall verify signatures
23 in accordance with existing election procedures. **SECTION 5.**
24 **VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION.** (a) Petition signatures
25 shall be submitted two months before the scheduled primary
26 election. (b) The Secretary of State or appropriate county election
27 official shall review and certify whether the required number of
28 valid signatures has been submitted. (c) Candidates failing to meet
29 the required threshold shall not be placed on the primary ballot.
30 **SECTION 6. UNIFORM APPLICATION.** The signature
31 thresholds established in this Act shall apply uniformly across all
32 political parties and petition candidates unless otherwise required
33 by federal law. **SECTION 7. PARTY-AFFILIATED**

1 SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS. (a) Except as provided in
2 subsection (c) of this section, a petition candidate seeking
3 placement on a political party's primary election ballot shall
4 obtain petition signatures only from eligible electors who are
5 registered members of the same political party as the candidate at
6 the time the signature is collected. (b) Election officials shall
7 verify that each petition signature corresponds to a registered
8 elector affiliated with the political party for which the candidate
9 seeks nomination. Signatures from electors not affiliated with that
10 political party shall be deemed invalid. (c) Minor Party Exception.
11 (I) If, within the jurisdiction of the office sought, the total number
12 of registered electors affiliated with a political party is less than
13 three times the required petition signature threshold established in
14 Section 4 of this Act, the candidate may obtain signatures from:
15 Registered electors affiliated with the candidate's political party;
16 and Unaffiliated registered electors residing within the
17 jurisdiction. (II) In no event shall a candidate rely exclusively on
18 signatures from a different political party. (d) The Secretary of
19 State shall publish annually the number of registered electors
20 affiliated with each political party by jurisdiction to determine
21 eligibility for the minor party exception. (e) Nothing in this
22 section shall apply to independent or unaffiliated candidates
23 where separate statutory provisions govern ballot access.

24 **SECTION 8. REFERENDUM.** Pursuant to Section 4 of Article
25 VII of the Constitution of the State of San Andreas, this Act shall
26 be submitted to the registered electors of the State of San Andreas
27 for their approval or rejection at the general election to be held in
28 November 2026. The ballot title shall be designated as
29 "PROPOSITION A", and the measure shall take effect only if
30 approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon. If approved, this
31 Act shall take effect upon the official declaration of the vote by
32 the Governor.