

Step-by-Step Guide to Proposing a Constitutional Amendment

Step 1: Drafting the Amendment

- Write the full text of your proposed constitutional amendment.
- The amendment must:
 - Contain **only one subject**.
 - Clearly express that subject in the **title**.
- Be sure your language specifies **where in the Constitution the amendment will be added** (e.g., “to be added as Article VII, Section 5”).
- Keep in mind that amendments cannot conflict with other sections unless they explicitly revise or repeal them.
- If your amendment changes or removes existing provisions of the constitution or state law, include full citations (e.g., “Amending Article VII, Section 4” or “Repealing Section 8 of Article X, Repealing Title 42, Article 8, Section 182”).

Step 2: Submit the Draft to the Legislative Legal Council

- Before collecting signatures, you must **submit your written draft** to the **Legislative Legal Council of the General Assembly**.
- The Council will:
 - Review the proposal for **constitutional conformity** and **legal drafting standards**.
 - Provide **technical assistance** to correct errors, inconsistencies, or format issues.
 - Work collaboratively with you, the **citizen sponsor**, to finalize the language.
- Once the amendment is approved by the Council, a **final copy** is filed and made public on the General Assembly website for **legislative recordkeeping**.

Step 3: Prepare the Initiative Petition

- Create an **initiative petition form** that includes:
 - The **full text** of the amendment as approved.
 - A **clear title and summary** of the measure.
 - **Signature lines** for qualified electors (registered voters).
- The **Secretary of State** prescribes the official form, verification standards, and submission procedures.

Step 4: Collect Signatures

- Circulate the petition for signatures from **qualified electors**.
- The required number of signatures is:
 - **At least 10%** of the total electorate in the State of San Andreas, **or**
 - **30%** of the total electorate within a defined legislative district (if the amendment pertains to that district only).
- Collect signatures honestly and ensure each signer is a **qualified elector**.

Step 5: Include a Ballot Analysis

Every proposed amendment must include a **Ballot Analysis** prepared by or in consultation with the LLC. This document:

- Summarizes the **intent and effects** of the amendment in plain language.
- Explains the **current law** and **how it would change** if the amendment is adopted.
- States any **fiscal or administrative impacts**, such as cost implications or changes to state operations.
- Must be written **clearly and impartially**, avoiding persuasive or misleading language.

This analysis is later used by the **Secretary of State** for inclusion on the **official ballot title and summary**.

Step 6: File the Petition with the Secretary of State

- Petitions must be **filed no later than two (2) months before the next general or coordinated election**.
- The **Secretary of State** will:
 - Verify signatures.
 - Ensure compliance with all legal requirements.
 - **Certify the petition** for placement on the ballot if it meets the signature threshold.

Step 7: Judicial Review (If Applicable)

- The **Supreme Court of San Andreas** has **original jurisdiction** to determine whether:
 - The amendment contains **only one subject**.
 - The subject is **clearly expressed in its title**.
- This review must occur **before October 1st** prior to the November election.

Step 8: Placement on the Ballot

- Once certified, the Secretary of State shall place the proposed amendment on the **next general or coordinated election ballot**.
- The proposal will be presented to the **people for a vote**.

Step 9: Voter Approval

- The amendment passes if **at least 55% of qualified electors** voting on the measure approve it, as required by **Article VII, Section 4**.

Step 10: Proclamation and Enactment

- Upon voter approval, the **Governor** shall **proclaim the results**.
- The amendment:
 - **Takes effect immediately** upon proclamation, unless otherwise specified in the amendment.
 - Is **not subject to gubernatorial veto**.

Step 11: Recordkeeping and Publication

- The approved amendment becomes an official part of the **San Andreas Constitution**.
- It is recorded and published by the **Secretary of State** for permanent recordkeeping.

Optional Advisory Note

While not required, citizen sponsors are encouraged to:

- Study the Constitution to determine the most appropriate **Article and Section placement** for their amendment.
- Seek informal legal consultation early in the drafting stage.
- Reference **Article VII (Elections)** or **Article II (Bill of Rights)** for amendments concerning voting rights or fundamental liberties, respectively.

Constitutional Citations

Art. VII § 4

The Legislature may initiate a referendum for a constitutional or statutory amendment. A referendum shall be initiated for any proposed amendment or revision to this Constitution, as well as for any changes regarding elections, taxes, education, or matters related to the state treasury. A referendum shall be voted upon by the citizenry during the November general election. All referendums must be finalized for the ballot no later than one calendar month prior to the election. A constitutional amendment must receive an in-favor vote of at least fifty-five percent (55%) of the voters to be passed. A statutory amendment must receive a simple majority vote of at least fifty percent (50%) to be passed.

Art. XIV § 2

- (a) The people of the State of San Andreas reserve to themselves the power to propose amendments to this Constitution through the process of initiative petition, independent of the General Assembly.
- (b) An initiative petition to propose a constitutional amendment shall contain the full text of the proposed amendment and shall be signed by a number of qualified electors equal to at least ten percent (10%) of the total electorate in the State of San Andreas, or thirty percent (30%) of the total electorate within a defined legislative district.
- (c) Petitions shall be filed with the Secretary of State no later than two (2) months prior to the next general or coordinated election. The Secretary of State shall prescribe by law the form, verification, and submission of such petitions and shall certify valid petitions for placement on the ballot.
- (d) Upon certification, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the people at the next general or coordinated election. The amendment shall become part of this Constitution if approved by at least fifty-five percent (55%) of the qualified electors voting thereon, as prescribed by Article VII, Section 4.
- (e) No initiative amendment shall contain more than one subject, and the subject of the amendment shall be clearly expressed in its title. The Supreme Court of San Andreas shall have original jurisdiction to determine compliance with this provision prior to the referendum date of the first day of October before the general or coordinated election in November.
- (f) An amendment proposed by citizen initiative shall not be subject to gubernatorial veto and shall take effect immediately upon proclamation of the vote by the Governor, unless the amendment provides otherwise.