



# In-Depth Guide to Citizen-Initiated Proposals (CIPs)

## 1. Overview and Legal Foundation

The right for citizens to propose legislation comes from **Article XIV, Section 4** of the San Andreas Constitution, which grants any qualified voter the power to introduce written proposals directly to the General Assembly.

Unlike the **initiative petition** process (Art. XIV § 2) that bypasses the legislature, a *citizen-initiated proposal* (CIP) **must enter and pass through the full legislative process** before ever reaching the ballot. **The Initiative Petition process ONLY applies to constitutional amendments and cannot be used for statutory amendments.** Furthermore, the CIP process **CANNOT** be used for constitutional amendments.

## 2. What a Citizen Can and Cannot Do

### ✓ Citizens *Can*:

- **Draft and submit legislation** written in proper legislative format to the presiding officer of the General Assembly.
- **Sponsor the measure publicly**, with their names listed as citizen proponents.
- **Attend committee hearings** and be present during legislative debate.
- **Advocate for or against the measure publicly**, campaign for it during the referendum, and help gather voter support.
- **Provide a full reading of the proposal** only to introduce it to the General Assembly.

### ✗ Citizens *Cannot*:

- **Debate on the floor**, vote, or perform any duties reserved for legislators.
- **Amend the proposal after submission** except through formal legislative procedure.
- **Circumvent legislative review**; the General Assembly must consider and pass the measure before it can proceed to voters.
- **Request legal or fiscal analysis from the Legislative Legal Council**, as that service applies only to legislative sponsors.

### 3. Step-by-Step Path from Proposal to Law

#### Step 1 — Drafting the Proposal

- Draft your bill in compliance with the **Legislative Drafting Rules** (Times New Roman, proper sectioning, etc.).
- Include key sections such as:
  1. **Short Title** – A simple name for citation.
  2. **Legislative Declaration** – The intent or justification of the proposal.
  3. **Substantive Provisions** – The actual legal changes, new programs, or amendments.
  4. **Funding and Appropriation** – Specify any fiscal implications.
  5. **Mandatory Referendum Section** – When required (see below).
  6. **Effective Date Section** – When the act will become operative.

#### Step 2 — Submission to the General Assembly

- The written proposal is transmitted to the **presiding officer of the General Assembly**.
- It receives a **CIP number** (e.g., “CIP 12”).
- The Clerk of the House acknowledges receipt and confirms whether the draft satisfies constitutional submission standards.

#### Step 3 — Legislative Process

- The CIP follows the same route as any ordinary bill:
  1. **First Reading and Referral to Committee** in the House of Representatives.
  2. **House Debate and Vote** — requires a simple majority.
  3. **Senate Debate and Vote** — also requires a simple majority.
  4. **Governor’s Approval** — must sign the bill before it goes to the voters.

☐ If the General Assembly fails to pass the bill, or if the Governor vetoes it, **it cannot be placed on the ballot.**

#### Step 4 — Mandatory Referendum

Certain proposals must be approved by voters before taking effect.

Under **Article VII § 4**, a referendum is **mandatory** for measures involving:

- **Taxes or revenue measures**
- **Appropriations from the State Treasury**
- **Changes to elections, education, or the state constitution** (You cannot propose amendments to the constitution through a CIP)

When this applies, include a section like:

“Because this measure creates a new state fund and appropriates taxpayer resources, it shall be submitted to the registered electors at the next general election for approval or rejection.” (Other quotes avail. on previous bills)

## Step 5 — Ballot Vote

- If signed by the Governor, the measure appears on the **November general-election ballot**.
- **Statutory proposals** require a **simple majority (50% + 1)** to pass.
- The ballot must offer “Yes — to approve” or “No — to reject.”

## Step 6 — Certification and Enactment

- Once voters approve the measure, the **Governor formally proclaims the vote**, making the law effective either immediately or on the stated date in the bill.

# 4. When to Include a Mandatory Referendum

A **Mandatory Referendum Section** is required when:

- The act **creates or alters state funds**.
- The act **imposes new or increased taxes**, or **appropriates taxpayer money**.
- The act **proposes changes** to the **structure of elections**.
- The act **affects statewide education or treasury policy**.

This ensures compliance with **Art. VII § 4** and prevents legal invalidation for bypassing voter approval.

# 5. Creating an Effective Date

Every bill, including CIPs, must end with an **Effective Date Section** that clearly states when it becomes law.

Two standard forms exist:

## A. Standard Legislative Effective Date

“This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the General Assembly, unless a referendum petition is filed...” Full quote available on Leg. Drafting Guide

This applies to ordinary statutes **not requiring a mandatory referendum**.

## B. Post-Referendum Effective Date

“This act shall take effect upon approval by a majority of the electors voting thereon at the general election and upon the date of the official declaration of the vote by the Governor.”

This applies to measures **requiring voter approval**, as demonstrated in the *Term Limits Act of 1992*

## 6. Key Constitutional Cross-References

Subject	Article & Section	Summary
<b>Citizen Veto of Legislative Acts</b>	<b>Art. II § 15</b>	Citizens may veto Acts through petition; defines process and timing for referendums.
<b>Mandatory Referendum Topics</b>	<b>Art. VII § 4</b>	Elections, taxes, education, treasury—must go to voters.
<b>Constitutional Initiatives</b>	<b>Art. XIV § 2</b>	Allows citizens to propose constitutional amendments via petition (distinct from CIP).
<b>Citizen-Initiated Proposals</b>	<b>Art. XIV § 4</b>	Grants citizens the power to propose legislation directly to the General Assembly.

## 7. Practical Tips for Citizen Drafters

- **Work collaboratively** with civic or legal advisors before submission to ensure statutory consistency.
- **Anticipate a referendum** if the proposal involves funding or taxation.
- **Keep to one subject** and express it clearly in the title (required by Art. XIV § 2(e)).
- **Include fiscal and implementation details**, since the Legislative Legal Council will not review CIPs.
- **Track your bill** through the legislative website (<https://saleg.uscgov.com/bills>) using its assigned CIP number.

## 8. Example Summary

Using the “Term Limits Act of 1992” as a model:

1. Citizens drafted a proposal under Art. XIV § 4.
2. The Clerk acknowledged it as **CIP 115**.
3. The General Assembly debated and voted.
4. The Governor signed it, triggering the **mandatory referendum** (because of elections).
5. Upon voter approval, it took effect on the **Governor’s proclamation date**.

## 9. Extra Support

We are unable to assist with drafting your bill due to potential conflicts of interest, as we aim for this to be a genuinely citizen-initiated proposal. While you may seek assistance from a private attorney, our legal counsel for the General Assembly and our legislators cannot offer support for drafting or proofreading the bill. If you require further assistance, it might be more beneficial to approach your legislator with your idea and explore their willingness to draft and sponsor it themselves.

### Summary Checklist for a Successful CIP

Stage	Key Action	Reference
Draft	Prepare short title, declaration, sections, referendum, effective date	Legislative Drafting Rules
Submit	Deliver to General Assembly Clerk	Art. XIV § 4
Process	Pass both chambers → Governor signs	Acknowledgement Letter
Referendum	Required if changes to tax, education, treasury, elections, constitutional amendments, etc.	Art. VII § 4
Vote	Majority of electors approve	Art. II § 15 / Art. VII § 4
Enactment	Governor proclaims results	Effective Date Section

# Constitutional Citations:

## **Art. II § 15**

(a) The people of the State of San Andreas reserve unto themselves the power to veto any Act, or any portion thereof, passed by the General Assembly.

(b) Within ninety (90) days after the final adjournment of the legislative session in which such Act was passed, a petition requesting a referendum on said Act may be filed with the Secretary of State. Such petition shall bear the signatures of registered electors equal in number to at least twenty-five (25%) of qualified electors statewide.

(c) Upon verification of the petition, the Secretary of State shall submit the challenged Act, or portion thereof, to the qualified voters of the State at the next general or coordinated election, or at a special election if so designated by the Governor.

(d) The ballot shall provide the options “Yes” (to approve the Act) and “No” (to reject the Act). If a majority of the votes cast are “No,” the Act, or the portion thereof in question, shall be repealed and have no further force or effect.

(e) No Act subject to a pending referendum shall take effect until the result of the vote is certified, except those necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health, or safety, expressly declared as such by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the General Assembly.

(f) The General Assembly shall enact such laws as are necessary to carry this section into effect.

## **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.

#### **Art. XIV § 4**

(a) Any citizen of the State of San Andreas, qualified to vote under this Constitution, shall possess the right to propose legislation to the General Assembly.

(b) A proposal submitted by a citizen shall be introduced in writing, in a form consistent with the rules of legislative drafting, and transmitted to the presiding officer of the General Assembly. Such proposal shall thereupon be referred to the appropriate committee or body as determined by the rules of the Assembly.

(c) Citizens exercising this right shall not be deemed members of the General Assembly and shall not participate in debate upon the floor, nor cast any vote upon legislation. Their power shall be limited to the introduction of bills, resolutions, or amendments for the consideration of the Assembly.

(d) The General Assembly shall, by law, prescribe procedures for the submission, review, and consideration of citizen-proposed legislation, ensuring that such procedures are fair, accessible, and consistent with the orderly conduct of legislative business.

(e) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to diminish the rights of the people to propose laws or constitutional amendments through initiative or referendum, as may otherwise be provided by this Constitution.