

PETITIONS PROCESS



**Process once submitted to the
Registrar of Voters**

**THIS PETITION PROCESS INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION IS
INTENDED TO PROVIDE GENERAL INFORMATION AND DOES NOT
HAVE THE FORCE AND EFFECT OF LAW.**

**IT IS DISTRIBUTED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SAN
DIEGO COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS IS NOT RENDERING
LEGAL ADVICE AND, THEREFORE, THIS INFORMATIONAL
PRESENTATION IS NOT TO BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR LEGAL
COUNSEL FOR THE INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION USING IT.**

**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE READER OF THIS DOCUMENT
TO OBTAIN THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION AVAILABLE,
REFLECTING CHANGES IN LAWS OR PROCEDURE SUBSEQUENT
TO THE PUBLICATION OF THIS INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION.**

PETITIONING YOUR GOVERNMENT

The freedom of petition is the right to ask your government to do something or to refrain from doing something. The freedom of petition gives you the right to write to your elected representatives and request them to work for the passage of laws you favor, or it could be as detailed as a statewide petition seeking the passage of new laws. The right of petition also helps government officials to know what citizens think and what actions they want the government to take.

Under the right of petition, individuals and groups of citizens may seek a new law (initiative process) or seek to overturn a law (referendum process). There are different requirements depending on the type of petition. The Registrar's office is the filing office for countywide, school district and special district petitions. The Secretary of State is the filing office for statewide petitions while your local city clerk is the filing office for local petitions. Recall petitions have different requirements than initiative and referendum petitions.

PETITIONING YOUR GOVERNMENT

- This powerful tool can be used by citizens to adopt or change laws and constitutional amendments or to recall an elected official.
- Generally, any issue that is subject to legislation can become an initiative measure.
- Each initiative may have only one subject matter.

WHAT ARE PETITIONS USED FOR?



- Initiative = changes laws and can amend the California Constitution
- Referendum = repeals laws
- Recall = removes elected officials

For preliminary information contact:

- **Statewide petitions:**
California Secretary of State
<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures>
- **Countywide petitions, School and Special Districts:**
[San Diego County Registrar of Voters](#)
- **Municipal District petitions:**
[City Clerk](#)

It is strongly recommended that you seek your own legal advice before filing your notice of intent.

**Once guidelines
are received &
legal advice is
sought**



**Proponent
submits notice of
intent to the
appropriate entity**



**Proponent works
to gather
signatures**



**Statewide,
County, School
& Special
District Petitions**

Go to

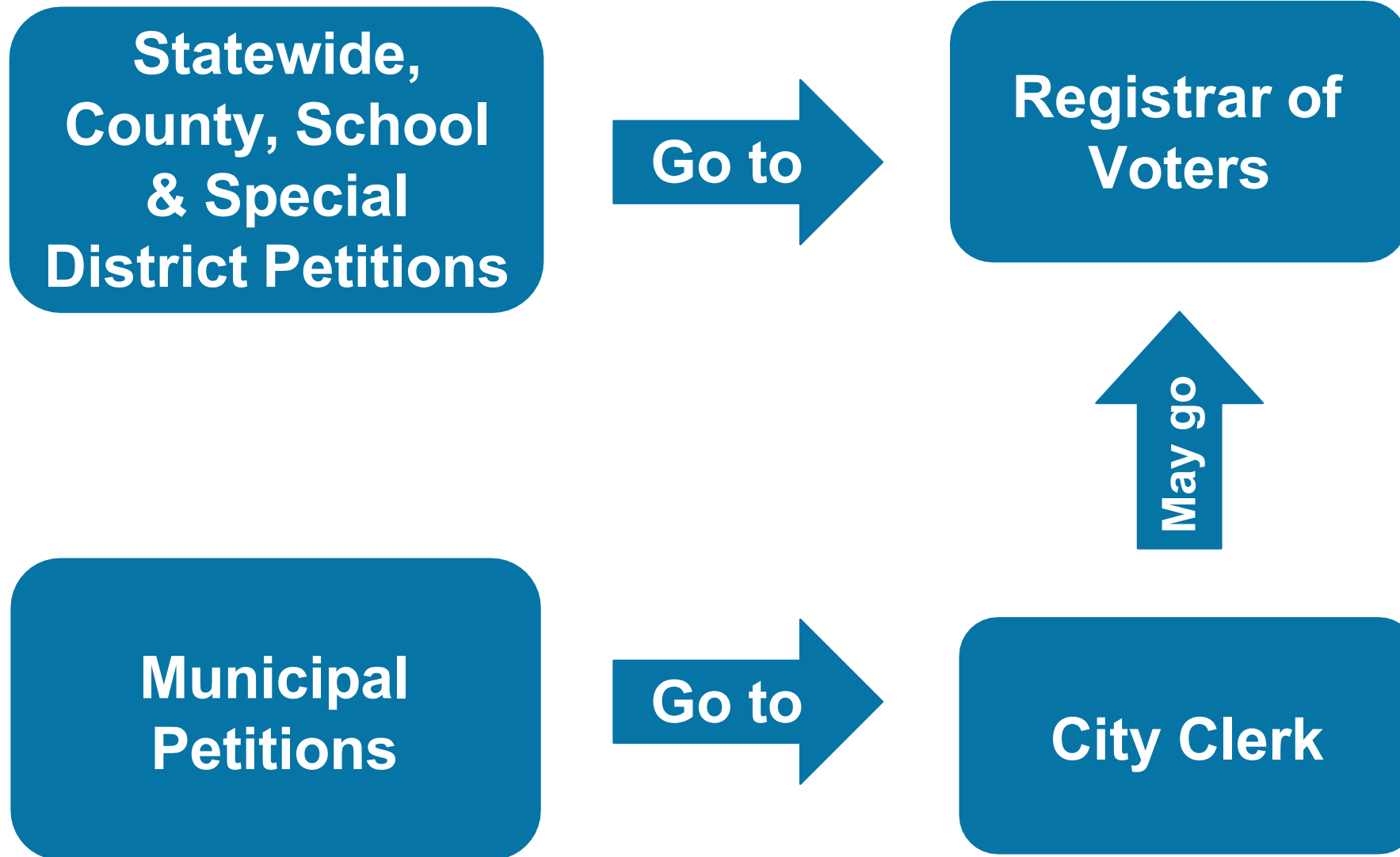
**Registrar of
Voters**

May go

**Municipal
Petitions**

Go to

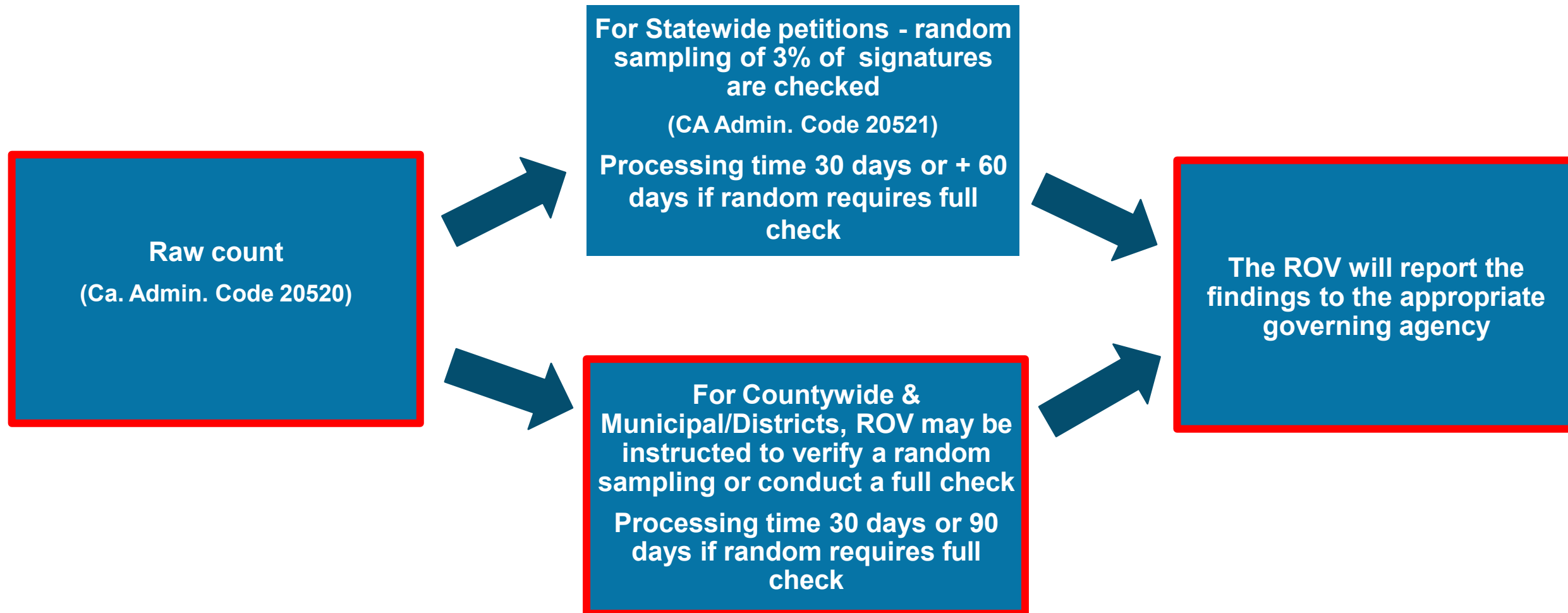
City Clerk



Process of a petition once submitted to the Registrar of Voters (ROV)



Petition Received by Registrar's Office (ROV)



To review the petition processing and signature verification regulation visit the following link:

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/regulations/current-regulations/elections/petition-processing-signature-verification-ballot-processing-and-ballot-counting>

These are the California Secretary of State's regulations for processing and verifying signatures for initiative, referendum, recall, nomination, and signature in lieu of filing fee petitions.

Signatures excluded from raw count total:

- Cross outs (clearly and completely crossed out)
- Section is missing or has detached pages (this will invalidate all signatures in that section)

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INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS

The Attorney General of San Diego has prepared the following circulating title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure: **(00-1212.) UNLIMITED COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS FOR REGISTRAR OF VOTERS EMPLOYEES DURING AN ELECTION CYCLE.** Requires the Registrar of Voters Office to provide unlimited, freshly brewed coffee, using beans of Columbian or Arabic origin, to be readily available at 7:00 a.m. daily until 5:00 p.m. during an election cycle commencing no later than E-60 ("ee minus sixty"). Requires the Registrar of Voters Office to maintain a replenished supply of baked fresh daily doughnuts. The doughnuts shall be of a varied type, having no less than fifty-percent glazed and no less than ten-percent jelly-filled. The doughnuts shall be strategically placed around the office in such a way that allows employees to supply themselves as often as they wish without being subject to criticism. Fiscal impact: minimal if coffee is purchased at Costco Warehouse and doughnuts at the corner doughnut shop.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:

THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR A VOUNTEER. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK.

All signers of this petition must be registered in San Diego County.

Official Use Only

<div>Print your Name: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div> <div>Sign As Registered: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div> <div>To Vote: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div>	<div>Residence Address ONLY: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div> <div>City: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div> <div>Zip: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div>	<div>101012</div>
<div>Print your Name: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div> <div>Sign As Registered: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div> <div>To Vote: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div>	<div>Residence Address ONLY: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div> <div>City: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div> <div>Zip: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div>	<div>101013</div>
<div>3. Print your Name: <u>Lily M. Voter</u></div> <div>Sign As Registered: <u>Lily M Voter</u></div> <div>To Vote: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div>	<div>Residence Address ONLY: <u>5454 1st St</u></div> <div>City: <u>San Diego</u></div> <div>Zip: <u>92123</u></div>	<div>101014</div>
<div>4. Print your Name: <u>Java Joe Jackson</u></div> <div>Sign As Registered: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div> <div>To Vote: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div>	<div>Residence Address ONLY: <u>333 Caffeinated Dr.</u></div> <div>City: <u>Carlsbad</u></div> <div>Zip: <u>92008</u></div>	<div>101015</div>
<div>5. Print your Name: <u>Eddie Eclair</u></div> <div>Sign As Registered: <u>Eddie Eclair</u></div> <div>To Vote: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div>	<div>Residence Address ONLY: <u>999 Calorie Ct</u></div> <div>City: <u>Carlsbad</u></div> <div>Zip: <u>92008</u></div>	<div>101016</div>
<div>6. Print your Name: <u>Pam Fritz</u></div> <div>Sign As Registered: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div> <div>To Vote: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div>	<div>Residence Address ONLY: <u>325 Degraus St</u></div> <div>City: <u>San Diego</u></div> <div>Zip: <u>92123</u></div>	<div>101017</div>
<div>7. Print your Name: <u>Ben Yeigh</u></div> <div>Sign As Registered: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div> <div>To Vote: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div>	<div>Residence Address ONLY: <u>65 Curds Ann Wy</u></div> <div>City: <u>Ramona</u></div> <div>Zip: <u>92065</u></div>	<div>101017</div>
<div>8. Print your Name: <u>Min T. Julip</u></div> <div>Sign As Registered: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div> <div>To Vote: <u>[REDACTED]</u></div>	<div>Residence Address ONLY: <u>1313 S Harbor Blvd</u></div> <div>City: <u>Oceanside</u></div> <div>Zip: <u>92003</u></div>	

DECLARATION OF CIRCULATOR

(to be completed in circulator's own hand after above signatures have been obtained)

I, Jerry Littres, am registered to vote in the county (or City and County) of San Diego or am qualified to register to vote in California. My residence is 7676 High Street Hwy, SD.

I circulated this section of the petition and witnessed each of the appended signatures being written. Each signature of this petition is, to the best of my information and belief, the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be.

All signatures on this document were obtained between the dates of June 7, 2016 and Nov 8, 2016.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on Nov 8th, 2016, at San Diego, (place of signing).

[Signature]
(complete signature indicating full name)

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cdm

Signatures excluded from raw count total:

- Whiteout used to change signer's information
- If a signature is crossed out, everything on that line must be completely crossed out or a number will be assigned to it, and it will affect the validity rate of the signatures. It will not be excluded.

3. Print your Name: <u>Lily M. Voter</u> Sign As Registered To Vote: <u>Lily M. Voter</u>	Residence Address ONLY: <u>5454 1st St</u> City: <u>San Diego</u> Zip: <u>92123</u>
4. Print your Name: <u>Jana Joe Jackson</u> Sign As Registered To Vote: <u>Jana Joe Jackson</u>	Residence Address ONLY: <u>123 54th St</u> City: <u>Carlsbad</u> Zip: <u>92123</u>
5. Print your Name: <u>Eddie Eclair</u> Sign As Registered To Vote: <u>Eddie Eclair</u>	Residence Address ONLY: <u>999 Caliente Ct</u> City: <u>Carlsbad</u> Zip: <u>92008</u>
6. Print your Name: <u>Pam Fritz</u> Sign As Registered To Vote: <u>Pam Fritz</u>	Residence Address ONLY: <u>325 Degrees St</u> City: <u>San Diego</u> Zip: <u>92123</u>
7. Print your Name: <u>[Redacted]</u> Sign As Registered To Vote: <u>[Redacted]</u>	Residence Address ONLY: <u>65 Curds Ann Wy</u> City: <u>Ramona</u> Zip: <u>92065</u>
8. Print your Name: <u>Min T. Julip</u> Sign As Registered To Vote: <u>Min T. Julip</u>	Residence Address ONLY: <u>1313 S Harbor Blvd</u> City: <u>Oceanside</u> Zip: <u>92003</u>

DECLARATION OF CIRCULATOR
(to be completed in circulator's own hand after above signatures have been obtained)

I, Jerry Jitters am registered to vote in the county (or City and County) of San Diego or a to register to vote in California. My residence is 7676 High Street Hwy. 3D.

I circulated this section of the petition and witnessed each of the appended signatures being written. Each signature is, to the best of my information and belief, the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be.

All signatures on this document were obtained between the dates of June 7, 2016 and Nov 8, 2016.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on Nov 8th, 2016, at San Diego (place of signing)

Jerry Jitters
(complete signature indicating full name)

Common mistakes that invalidate signatures:

- Signer is not registered or is registered at a different address when they signed the petition
- Missing city and zip
- Circulator fills in names and addresses instead of the voters personally affixing their information (EC 100(b))

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(00-1212.) **UNLIMITED COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS FOR REGISTRAR OF VOTERS EMPLOYEES DURING AN ELECTION CYCLE.** Requires the Registrar of Voters Office to provide unlimited, freshly brewed coffee, using beans of Columbian or Arabic origin, to be readily available at 7:00 a.m. daily until 5:00 p.m. during an election cycle commencing no later than E-60 ("ee minus sixty"). Requires the Registrar of Voters Office to maintain a replenished supply of baked fresh daily doughnuts. The doughnuts shall be of a varied type, having no less than fifty-percent glazed and no less than ten-percent jelly-filled. The doughnuts shall be strategically placed around the office in such a way that allows employees to supply themselves as often as they wish without being subject to criticism. Fiscal impact: minimal if coffee is purchased at Costco Warehouse and doughnuts at the corner doughnut shop.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:
THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR A VOUNTEER. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK.

All signers of this petition must be registered in San Diego County.

Official Use Only

1. Print your Name: <u>[Redacted]</u> Sign As Registered: <u>[Redacted]</u> To Vote: <u>[Redacted]</u>	Residence Address ONLY: <u>[Redacted]</u> City: <u>[Redacted]</u> Zip: <u>[Redacted]</u>	
2. Print your Name: <u>[Redacted]</u> Sign As Registered: <u>[Redacted]</u> To Vote: <u>[Redacted]</u>	Residence Address ONLY: <u>[Redacted]</u> City: <u>[Redacted]</u> Zip: <u>[Redacted]</u>	
3. Print your Name: <u>Lily M. Voter</u> Sign As Registered: <u>Lily M Voter</u> To Vote: <u>[Redacted]</u>	Residence Address ONLY: <u>5454 1st St</u> City: <u>San Diego</u> Zip: <u>92123</u>	101012
4. Print your Name: <u>Java Joe Jackson</u> Sign As Registered: <u>[Redacted]</u> To Vote: <u>[Redacted]</u>	Residence Address ONLY: <u>333 Caffeinated Dr.</u> City: <u>Carlsbad</u> Zip: <u>92008</u>	101013
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7. Print your Name: <u>Ben Yeigh</u> Sign As Registered: <u>[Redacted]</u> To Vote: <u>[Redacted]</u>	Residence Address ONLY: <u>65 Curds Ann Wy</u> City: <u>Ramona</u> Zip: <u>92065</u>	101016
8. Print your Name: <u>Min T. Julip</u> Sign As Registered: <u>[Redacted]</u> To Vote: <u>[Redacted]</u>	Residence Address ONLY: <u>1313 S Harbor Blvd</u> City: <u>Oceanside</u> Zip: <u>92003</u>	101017

DECLARATION OF CIRCULATOR
(to be completed by circulator if signatures have been obtained)

I, Jerry Littres, am registered to vote in the county (or City and County) of San Diego or am qualified to register to vote in California. My residence is 7676 High Street Hwy, SD.

I circulated this section of the petition and witnessed each of the appended signatures being written. Each signature of this petition is, to the best of my information and belief, the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be.

All signatures on this document were obtained between the dates of June 7, 2016 and Nov 8, 2016.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Anxiety that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on Nov 8th, 2016, at San Diego (place of signing).

[Signature]
(complete signature indicating full name)

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✓ ✓ edm

How does the Registrar's office determine whether each signature is valid?

We verify that the signer....

is a registered voter and signature compares to what is on file?

is registered at address written down at the time petition was signed?

is registered in appropriate county, city or district and eligible to sign petition?

Petition Snapshot

- The following slide provides a sample snapshot of a petition report and depicts different reasons why a signature may be challenged.
- Many of these could be caught by the circulator and corrected while the voter is still present such as no address, no signature, city and zip code missing, not registered, etc.

Petition Snapshot

Petition Statistics

Total Sigs Required	46,447
Total Sigs Submitted	60,015
Total Sample Size	60,015
Total Sigs Verified	58,561

Challenged

Circulator Issue	161
City and Zip Code Missing	45
Max Number of Times Signed	65
Ditto Marks	2
No Sig./Not His/Her Signature	76
No Address	27
Registered at Different Address	5019
Not Registered	5896
Underage at Signing	7
Out of County/State	19
Po Box	16
Wrong District	131
Wrong Registration Date	650
<u>Total Challenged</u>	12,114
<u>Total Valid</u>	46,447

3% Random Sampling

- Done if raw count signatures = 100% or more of total number of signatures required to qualify (Elections Code 9030)
- Computer generated random 3% or 500 signatures
- Results used to project if enough verified signatures
- If projected less than 95% petition fails
- If projected to be more than 110% petition successful, made eligible to appear on election ballot
- If count is between 95%-110% a full check is triggered

Vs.

Full Check

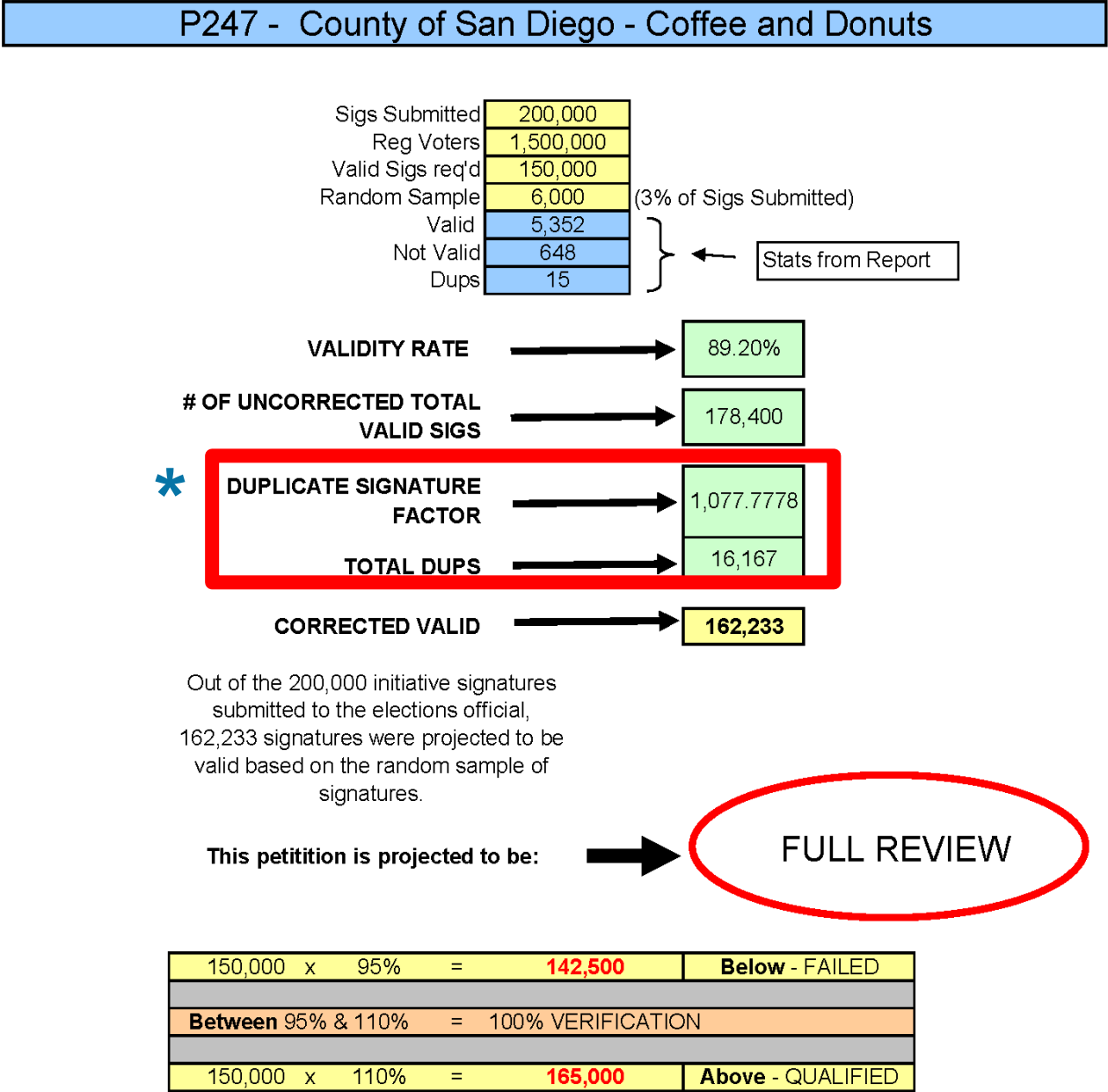
- Must be used if random sample number of valid signatures fall between 95% - 110 %
- Every signature will be counted and verified until number of valid signatures reaches total number needed
- Will add an additional 60 days to processing
- If upon completion of full check required number of valid signatures met- then eligible to appear on election ballot (Elections Code 9031)

- Duplicate signatures have a large negative impact on a petition because of the weighted average assigned
- Crossing out any duplicate and invalid signatures will help the validity rate of a petition
- Clearly and completely cross out any duplicate and invalid signatures.
- Invalid signatures require research and documentation, adding to the processing time (invalid signatures decrease the validity rate of a petition)



- For a random sample, the totals are applied to this formula to determine the projected valid signatures (CA. Admin. Code 20530, 20532)

*Notice the Duplicate Signature Factor (CA. Admin. Code 20531)



Petition Process FAQs:

- **Once a petition is submitted to the Registrar's office for processing, can the proponent or any individual get an update on how a particular petition is doing?**

No. The Registrar's office cannot disclose any information while the petition is being processed.

- **What is considered a section of a petition?**

A section of a petition may be a single page or multiple pages that are securely bound together with one declaration of circulator.

Petition Process FAQs:

- **Are there key things I should consider when circulating a petition?**

Yes. Here are some important considerations for any signature gatherer:

- If a voter is not sure if they are registered at their current residence address, have the voter check their registration status and if needed re-register by completing a new registration form on or before the date they sign the petition. It's easy! They can check their registration status and if needed re-register to vote online at [Check Your Registration \(sdvote.com\)](https://sdvote.com).
- Registration forms should be turned in immediately. The Registrar's office compares the signature date on the registration form (or the date the registration form is received if the signature date is missing) to the date the petition was signed.
- The declaration of circulator section must be accurately filled out by the circulator with their name, signature, and most importantly the circulation dates otherwise the signatures in that section could be invalidated.

Petition Process FAQs:

- **Are there key things to avoid when circulating a petition?**

Yes. There are three critical errors any signature gather should avoid:

1. Never fill in anything for a signer,
2. Never allow a signer to sign a petition more than once, and
3. Never tamper with the petition by removing staples, removing copies, or by using whiteout to make a correction.

If a signer needs assistance due to a disability, the circulator may offer to assist. The signer must provide their own mark or signature and the circulator must make a note of the assistance provided and sign as a witness.

Petition Process FAQs:

- **Can petition signatures be turned in at different times to the Registrar's office?**

No. Petition signatures must be turned in all at the same time. Exception would be statewide recall petitions.

- **Can anyone turn in petition signatures to the Registrar's office?**

No. Only proponents or someone authorized by the proponent may deliver petition signatures.

- **Can a signer withdraw their signature from a petition?**

Yes. A signer may request to withdraw their signature prior to the day the petition is filed.

Petition Process FAQs:

- **Can a signer of a petition sign the petition more than once?**

No. Duplicate signatures have a large negative impact on a petition because of the weighted average assigned (on a random sampling).

- **Can the proponent of a petition check for duplicate signers before turning in the petition to the Registrar of Voters office?**

Yes. Crossing out any duplicate and invalid signatures will help the validity rate of a petition.

Petition Process FAQs:

- **Does the Registrar's office prioritize the processing of petitions submitted?**

No. Petitions are processed in the order that they are received by the Registrar's office.



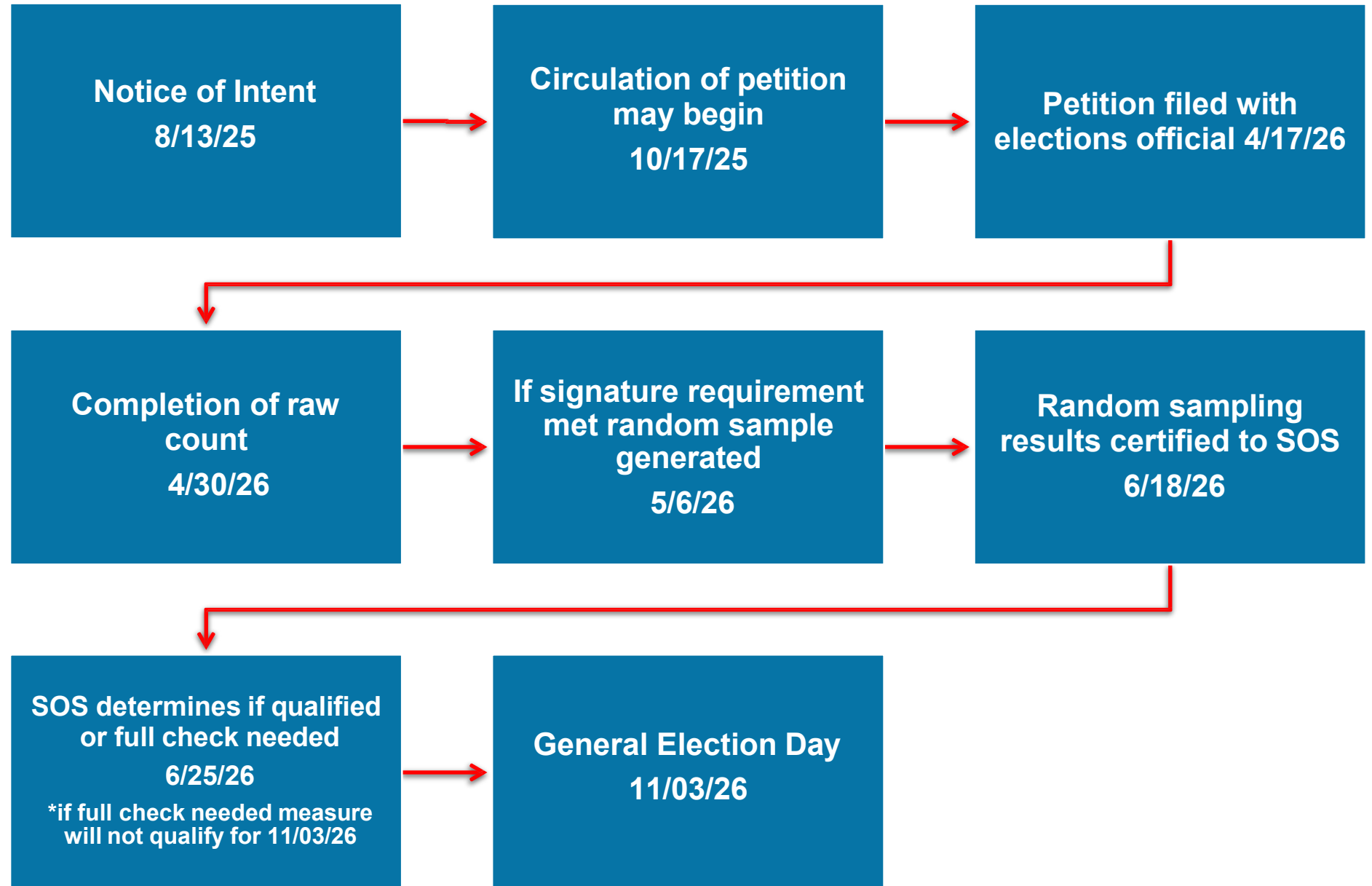
Petition Process FAQs:

- **What happens when the Registrar's office completes the processing of a petition?**

The Registrar's office will report the findings to the appropriate governing body or agency:

- ✓ Findings for countywide petitions go to the County Board of Supervisors.
- ✓ Findings for city petitions will be presented to the appropriate city clerk.
- ✓ Findings for district petitions will be presented to the appropriate agency.
- ✓ In a statewide initiative, referendum or recall petition, the Registrar's office presents findings to the California Secretary of State. Once findings are gathered, the Secretary of State will determine if the petition had sufficient signatures statewide.

Timeline of Petition



Petition Statistics: General Election Years

Year	Number of State/Local Petitions	Number of Candidates	Signatures Submitted	Signatures Verified
2010	17	496	1,092,775	161,936
2012	18	427	926,486	136,465
2014	12	270	658,662	195,658
2016	27	459	1,257,341	150,174
2018	34	306	2,050,140	226,362
2020	14	83	1,274,017	90,201
2022	16	262	1,438,040	323,032
2024	19	17	387,850	29,522

Thank you!