

Petitions: What Does Your Signature Do?

ACT Missouri

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Any and all registered Missouri voters have the right to sign petitions to introduce new or change legislation on the ballot. Your signature on an initiative petition says, "Yes, I would like this item to appear on the next ballot and let the voters decide if it should become a law."

Initiative Petition— Collects signatures to get a proposed law change on the next ballot. The change will either be in the form of an initiated **STATUTE** or a constitutional **AMENDMENT**



The **signature requirements** are based on the number of votes cast in the most recent election where we elected a governor.

In Missouri, that was the 2008 Hulshof vs. Nixon election, in which **2,878,408** gubernatorial votes were cast across the **9** districts.

What's the difference?

STATUTE

- Changes or makes a new state law
- Requires at least 91,818 signatures*
- Legislators can introduce a bill to over turn the voter's decision. (Ex: recent puppy mill statute) That bill is then subject to the same veto/sign process as any other bill that the legislators would introduce
- Also known as a "referendum"

AMENDMENT

- Changes the state constitution
- Requires at least 146,907 signatures*
- Can not be overturned by legislators, nor vetoed by the governor.
- The Supreme Court only evaluates state laws as constitutional or unconstitutional during cases where the Court determines that a question of general interest or importance is involved and that the laws should be re-examined.²

How many signatures does it take?

*To get a statute or amendment the next ballot, you need to have 6 out of the 9 districts collect their respective number of signatures¹:

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
# of votes to put a STATUTE on the ballot (5% of gubernatorial votes in 2008 election)	15,080	19,148	15,609	15,313	15,585	16,542	16,300	13,931	16,416
# of votes to put an AMENDMENT on the ballot (8% of gubernatorial votes in 2008 election)	24,128	30,637	24,974	24,501	24,935	26,467	26,080	22,289	26,266

For more information, contact your local Regional Support Center.

To locate your Regional Support Center, contact ACT Missouri 866-669-2280 or actmissouri.org

1. Carnahan, Robin. "Make Your Voice Heard Missouri's Initiative Petition Process and the Fair Ballot Access Act" Revised 2010. Retrieved from: <http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/pubs/>
 2. *Your Missouri Courts— The Judicial Branch of State Government*. Retrieved from: <http://www.courts.mo.gov/page.jsp?id=27>

Congressional District Map– 2001

This map is from the Secretary of State's Office. It shows the congressional districts as they were appointed according to House Bill 1000, 91st General Assembly, 1st Regular Session.

NOTE: Legislative and congressional districts will be reapportioned in 2012

