



Elections Office of the Registrar of Voters

2012 Presidential General Election

Measures Information Sheet

1. Submittal of Ballot Measures:

A. Measures can be placed on the ballot in several ways:

- A registered voter can file an initiative petition with the elections official of the governing board for their County, City, School District, or Special District. The petition must be signed by the required number of registered voters.
- The Board of Supervisors or the legislative body of a jurisdiction has the authority to place measures before voters on the ballot.

2. Impartial Analysis:

A. If a measure qualifies to appear on the ballot, the election official of the County, City, School District, or Special District provides a copy of the measure to the County Auditor and to Legal Counsel. Legal Counsel will prepare an impartial analysis of the measure showing the effect of the measure on existing law and the operation of the measure.

B. The impartial analysis is printed in the Voter Information Guide.

3. Labeling of Measures:

A. The election official will assign a letter to each qualifying measure.

B. If more than one qualifying measure is submitted, the Registrar of Voters will conduct a drawing to determine the letter assignment and the order in which measures will appear on the ballot.

4. Public Examination Period:

A. The Elections Office will provide any requesting person with copies of the impartial analysis, arguments for and against measures, and rebuttal arguments during a ten-day period following submittal of the document.

5. Arguments For or Against Measures:

A. Submitting Arguments:

- The Board of Supervisors, City Council, governing bodies within the jurisdiction, and any registered voter eligible to vote on the measure, may file a written argument for or against a measure.
- No argument shall exceed 300 words in length.
- The deadline for submitting arguments is August 23.

B. Selecting Arguments:

- If more than one argument for or against the proposed measure is submitted, the Registrar of Voters selects and prints one of the arguments for and one of the arguments against the measure for publication in the Voter Information Guide.

C. End of Public Examination Period for Arguments:

- Ten days immediately following the deadline for submitting arguments.

6. Rebuttals:

A. Submitting Rebuttals:

- The authors of the arguments may submit rebuttal arguments to the Elections Office.
- The rebuttals may not exceed 250 words.
- The deadline for submitting rebuttals is August 31.

B. End of Public Examination Period for Rebuttals:

- Ten days immediately following the deadline for submitting rebuttal arguments.

7. Election Day:

A. The qualifying measures appear on the ballot for consideration by registered voters.

B. If the required amount of voters on a proposed measure vote in its favor, the measure becomes a valid and binding ordinance of the jurisdiction and is considered adopted, depending on the laws of that jurisdiction.