



# FLORIDA'S NEW LAW ON CITIZEN-LED BALLOT INITIATIVES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Overview of HB1205: Changing the Process for Proposing Constitutional Amendments in Florida

## UNDERSTANDING CITIZEN-LED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Florida's constitution allows citizens to propose changes to state law through a process known as a **citizen-led constitutional amendment**. This process gives voters the ability to place proposed amendments directly on the statewide ballot—but only if they meet strict legal and procedural requirements.

To qualify for the ballot, an amendment must go through several steps:

- Drafting the proposed language in compliance with state law
- Collecting a required number of verified signatures from registered Florida voters across multiple congressional districts
- Undergoing legal and constitutional review by the Florida Supreme Court
- Earning at least 60% approval from voters in a general election

Because constitutional amendments permanently change the state's foundational legal document, Florida places safeguards around the process to ensure that only well-vetted, lawfully organized initiatives appear before voters. Over the years, this process has been used for a wide range of issues—some with long-term consequences for state policy and budgeting.

## THE PROBLEM

In 2024, two high-profile initiatives—one that could have allowed abortion up to birth and another for recreational marijuana—were pushed onto Florida's ballot with the help of millions in out-of-state funding. National organizations and political groups hired paid signature gatherers, many with no connection to Florida, to fast-track these amendments. These campaigns exposed key vulnerabilities:

- Outside money driving Florida policy
- Paid circulators flown in to collect signatures
- Little oversight on who participates in the process
- Permanent constitutional changes that bypass elected leaders

For many Floridians, the process felt hijacked. Rather than homegrown grassroots efforts, the ballot became a target for national agendas—raising questions about whether the rules were strong enough to protect Florida's constitution from outside influence.

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### THE SOLUTION

To restore integrity to Florida's amendment process, lawmakers passed **HB1205** in 2025. The law responded to growing concerns about outside influence, lack of oversight, and permanent policy changes being pushed by national groups.

- Anyone gathering more than 25 signatures must **register with the state** and complete a training course.
- Only Florida residents who are U.S. citizens and have had their civil rights restored can gather signatures.
- Certain violations may result in felony charges.
- Petitions must be returned within 10 days, instead of 30.
- Government resources cannot be used to support or oppose any amendment campaign.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

If you're collecting signatures:

- You must register and complete state training if gathering more than 25.
- You must be a Florida resident, U.S. citizen, and have restored civil rights.
- Return all petitions within 10 days or risk fines and penalties.

If you're signing a petition:

- You'll need to provide a valid voter ID, driver's license, or the last 4 digits of your SSN.
- Your information becomes part of the public record.

**[Learn more about Florida's Constitutional Amendments/Initiatives](#)**

