

From: Jagger, Carolyn

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2009 6:17 AM

To: Stockwell, Brent; 'Alan B. Kaufman'; 'Charlie Smith'; 'Cindi Eberhardt'; 'Jim Derouin'; 'Lisa Johnson Stone'; 'Steve Twist'; 'Susan Bitter Smith'

Cc: City Council; Scott, Sherry R; La Sota, Tim

Subject: Petition Signature Requirements Under a Districting System

Dear Chairman Twist and Charter Review Task Force Members,

A Charter Review Task Force Member has asked if the election of councilmembers by district would change the number of signatures required for initiative, referendum, and recall petitions. Below is my response to the question. This information also will be included in the packet of materials that will be provided to you next week.

Initiative signature requirements, per City ordinance, are based on the total number of registered voters at the City's last preceding general election. The required number of signatures for an initiative would not change under a districting system.

Referendum signature requirements are based on the whole number of ballots cast at the last preceding City election at which a mayor or councilmember was chosen. The required number of signatures for a referendum would not change under a districting system.

Recalls are based on the total votes cast for all candidates at the last general election. Because, under a districting system, our Mayor would be elected at large, the recall signature requirement for Mayor would not change. However, if the person being recalled is a councilmember elected by district, a straight 25% of the votes cast for that office at the last general election is used to calculate the required number of signatures. So, for councilmembers elected by district, the number of signatures for a recall would change.

Listed below are the City's current signature requirements for initiatives, referendums, and recalls.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Carolyn Jagger, City Clerk
480-312-2411

INITIATIVE

Total number of registered voters at last preceding General Election (September 2, 2008): 128,199

Initiative Petition requires 19,230 signatures (15%)

REFERENDUM

Whole number of ballots cast at last preceding city election at which a mayor or a councilmember was chosen (November 4, 2008): 116,255

Referendum Petition requires 11,625 signatures (10%)

RECALL*

Mayor:

W.J. "Jim" Lane, Mayor

Total votes cast for all candidates at last General Election
for office of mayor (September 2, 2008): 34,683

Number of seats filled: 1

Recall petition signature requirement: 8,671

(25% of 34,683)

Councilmembers:

**Lisa Borowsky, Suzanne Klapp, Wayne Ecton, Robert Littlefield,
Ron McCullagh, Tony Nelssen**

Total votes cast for all candidates at last General Election
for office of city councilmember (September 2, 2008): 86,237

Number of seats being filled: 3

Recall petition signature requirement: 7,187

(86,237 Divided by 3 = 28,746; 28,746 X 0.25 = 7,187)