

Citizen Initiative Act

Overview

What would this legislation do?

If passed, the *Citizen Initiative Act*, would allow Albertans to bring forward important matters to the Legislature for consideration.

If enough support is received through a public petition, Albertans would be able to:

- submit proposed legislative and policy changes to the legislative assembly for consideration; and
- submit proposed constitutional referendum questions to the provincial government.

Process for bringing an initiative forward

The *Citizen Initiative Act* would allow any eligible Alberta voter to bring forward an initiative for consideration.

First, an Albertan would apply to the Chief Electoral Officer to start a petition for their initiative.

The application for a petition must include:

- The name and contact information of the applicant;
- A statement of the idea for the initiative or proposed legislation or for a proposed constitutional referendum, a proposed question; and
- The application fee.

If the Chief Electoral Officer approves the application, the petitioner, at their own cost, would need to gather signatures of eligible voters. They would need:

- 10 per cent of voters province-wide for legislative and policy initiatives; and
- For constitutional initiatives, petitioners would need the signatures of 20 per cent of voters province-wide, and would need that level of support in two-thirds of Alberta's constituencies.

The Chief Electoral Officer will issue the petition including the signing sheets to be used to collect signatures. The petitioner would be responsible for all costs associated with gathering the required number of signatures, but they can accept contributions toward their initiative, subject to the financing rules that will be set out in the regulation.

The Chief Electoral Officer would then review the signatures and determine if the petition has been successful. Successful legislative and policy initiatives would then be referred to a committee of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for consideration. If the committee does not support a legislative initiative, a public vote would be held.

Successful constitutional initiatives will proceed through the process established in the *Referendum Act*.

Additional information

In fall 2020, the Select Special Democratic Accountability Committee held public meetings and accepted written submissions on citizen initiative legislation. The all-party committee tabled their [final report](#) on Nov. 16, 2020.

If passed, the *Citizen Initiative Act* will come into force upon proclamation.