

**The Experiences of Other States –
A Comparison of the Initiative and
Referendum**

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures –

<http://www.ncsl.org/programs/legman/elect/irstates.htm>

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Statutes				Constitution	
State	Initiative	Citizen Petition Referendum	Legislative Referendum	Initiative	Legislative Referendum
Alaska	D*	Yes	No	None	Yes
Arizona	D	Yes	Yes	D	Yes
Arkansas	D	Yes	Yes	D	Yes
California	D	Yes	Yes	D	Yes
Colorado	D	Yes	No	D	Yes
Florida	None	No	No	D	Yes
Idaho	D	Yes	Yes	None	Yes
Illinois	None	No	Yes	D	Yes
Kentucky	None	Yes	Yes	None	Yes
Maine	I	Yes	Yes	None	Yes

Maryland	None	Yes	Yes	None	Yes
Massachusetts	I	Yes	Yes	I	Yes
Michigan	I	Yes	Yes	D	Yes
Mississippi	None	No	No	I	Yes
Missouri	D	Yes	Yes	D	Yes
Montana	D	Yes	Yes	D	Yes
Nebraska	D	Yes	Yes	D	Yes
Nevada	I	Yes	Yes	D	Yes
New Mexico	None	Yes	Yes	None	Yes
North Dakota	D	Yes	Yes	D	Yes
Ohio	I	Yes	Yes	D	Yes
Oklahoma	D	Yes	Yes	D	Yes
Oregon	D	Yes	Yes	D	Yes

South Dakota	D	Yes	Yes	D	Yes
Utah	D & I	Yes	Yes	None	Yes
Washington	D & I	Yes	Yes	None	Yes
Wyoming	D*	Yes	No	None	Yes
US Virgin Is.	I	Yes	Yes	I	Yes

Initiative - a law and/or constitutional amendment introduced by the citizens either to the legislature or directly to the voters.

D - Direct Initiative; proposals that qualify go directly on the ballot

I - Indirect Initiative; proposals are submitted to the legislature, which has an opportunity to act on the proposed legislation. Depending on the state, the initiative question may go on the ballot if the legislature rejects it, submits a different proposal or takes no action.

D* -- Alaska and Wyoming's initiative processes exhibit characteristics of both the direct and indirect initiative. Instead of requiring that an initiative be submitted to the legislature for action (as in the indirect process), they require only that an initiative cannot be placed on the ballot until after a legislative session has convened and adjourned. The intent is to give the legislature an opportunity to address the issue in the proposed initiative, should it choose to do so. The initiative is not formally submitted to the legislature.

Referendum - a process by which voters may express their judgment on statutes and/or constitutional amendments enacted by the legislature.