

 **COPY**

Mike Groene
9523 Canal Road
North Platte, Nebraska 69101
308-530-7741

1-20-2012

Nebraska Secretary of State
John Gale

Sir,

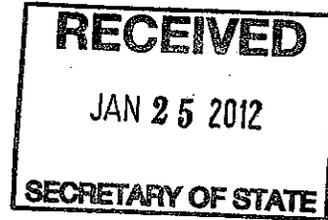
I have agreed to be a sponsor of a petition initiative along with Kent Bernbeck, from Omaha, and Marc Scneiderjans, from Lincoln to place a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to lower the signature thresholds for statewide petition drives in Nebraska.

I have agreed to the language of the initiative presented by Mr. Bernbeck.

Best regards,



Mike Groene



Date: January 20, 2012

To: Kent Bernbeck
From: Marc Schniederjans
Subject: Sponsorship of "Second House Amendment"

Dear Kent:

Please accept this document as my sworn statement committing to sponsor the Second House Amendment seeking to lower the signature thresholds on petitions conducted here in the State of Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Marc Schniederjans

Marc J. Schniederjans
5901 S. 72nd Street
Lincoln, NE 68516
Phone: 402-483-7898
Email: MJS4835665@aol.com

January 25, 2012

Secretary of State John Gale
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE.

Dear Secretary,

Please accept this as my sworn statement to sponsor an initiative petition for a constitutional amendment to lower signature thresholds to be known as the 'Second House Amendment'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent Bernbeck', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kent Bernbeck
20725 Rawhide Rd.
Elkhorn, NE. 68022
402-570-3519

III-2 "The first power reserved by the people is the initiative by which laws may be enacted and constitutional amendments adopted by the people independently of the Legislature. To initiate the enactment of a law or the adoption of a constitutional amendment, a petition shall be circulated which contains the entire proposed law or constitutional amendment. The petition shall be filed with the Secretary of State. If the petition is signed by the required number of registered voters appropriately distributed, the Secretary of State shall submit the proposed law or constitutional amendment to the electors of the state at the first general election held not less than four months after the petition is filed. The required number of signatures for a law is seven percent of the votes which were cast for Governor at the general election next preceding the filing of the petition. The required number of signatures for a constitutional amendment is ten percent of the votes which were cast for Governor at the general election next preceding the filing of the petition. The distribution of the registered voters signing a petition for a law or a constitutional amendment shall include signatures equal in number to five percent of the votes cast for Governor at the general election next preceding the filing of the petition from each of two-fifths of the counties in the state. The same measure, either in form or in essential substance, shall not be submitted to the people by initiative petition, either affirmatively or negatively, more often than once in three years. If conflicting measures submitted to the people at the same election are approved, the one receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall become law as to all conflicting provisions. The constitutional limitations as to the scope and subject matter of statutes enacted by the Legislature shall apply to those enacted by the initiative."

III-3 "The second power reserved is the referendum which may be invoked against any act or part of an act of the Legislature, except those making appropriations for the expense of the state government or a state institution existing at the time of the passage of such act. To refer an act or part of an act of the Legislature, a petition shall be circulated which sets out the title of the act against which the referendum is invoked and, if only a portion of the act is sought to be referred, the number of the section or sections or portion of sections of the act designating such portion. The petition shall be filed with the Secretary of State within ninety days after the Legislature at which the act sought to be referred was passed has adjourned sine die or for more than ninety days. If the petition is signed by the required number of registered voters appropriately distributed, the Secretary of State shall refer the act or the part of the act to the electors for approval or rejection at the first general election to be held not less than thirty days after the filing of the petition. The required number of signatures is five percent of the votes which were cast for Governor at the general election next preceding the filing of the petition. The distribution of the registered voters signing a referendum petition shall include signatures equal in number to five percent of the votes cast for Governor at the general election next preceding the filing of the petition from each of two-fifths of the counties in the state.

When the referendum is invoked as to any act or part of an act, other than emergency acts or those for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, by petition signed by registered voters equal in number to ten percent of the number of votes which were cast for Governor at the general election next preceding the filing of the petition distributed so as to include signatures equal in number to five percent of the votes cast for Governor at the general election next preceding the filing of the petition from each of two-fifths of the counties in the state, it shall suspend the taking effect of such act or part of an act until the same has been approved by the electors of the state."

INITIATIVE PETITION



The object of this petition is to: (See reverse side for actual text of measure)

For Sec of State Use Only

Amend the Constitution to lower the signature thresholds for statewide petitions. If the voters approve, it would return the thresholds to the levels in place for 82 years before the state supreme court doubled the requirements.

To the Honorable John Gale, Secretary of State for the State of Nebraska:

We, the undersigned residents of the State of Nebraska and the county of _____, respectfully demand that the following proposed amendment to the Constitution of Nebraska shall be referred to the registered voters of the state for their approval or rejection at the general election to be held on the 6th day of November 2012, and each for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition on the date opposite my name; I am a registered voter of the State of Nebraska and county of _____ and am qualified to sign this petition or I will be so registered and qualified on or before the date on which this petition is required to be filed with the Secretary of State; and My printed name, date of birth, street and number or voting precinct, and city, village, or post office address are correctly written after my signature.

WARNING TO PETITION SIGNERS— VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS OF LAW MAY RESULT IN THE FILING OF CRIMINAL CHARGES: Any person who signs any name other than his or her own to any petition or who is not qualified to sign the petition shall be guilty of a Class I misdemeanor. Any person who falsely swears to a circulator's affidavit on a petition, who accepts money or other things of value for signing a petition, or who offers money or other things of value in exchange for a signature upon any petition shall be guilty of a Class IV felony.

	Date	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	Date of Birth	ADDRESS (Street name & number)	CITY OR VILLAGE	Zip Code
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
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20							

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
) ss. _____ (name of circulator) being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he or she
 COUNTY OF _____) is the circulator of this petition containing _____ signatures, that each person whose name appears on the petition personally
 signed the petition in the presence of the affiant, that the date to the left of each signature is the correct date on which the signature was
 affixed to the petition and that the date was personally affixed by the person signing such petition, that the affiant believes that each signer has written his or her name, street and
 number or voting precinct, and city, village, or post office address correctly, that the affiant believes that each signer was qualified to sign the petition, and that the affiant stated to each
 signer the object of the petition as printed on the petition before he or she affixed his or her signature to the petition.

 Circulator

 Address

 City, State, Zip

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public, this _____ day of _____, 20____ at _____, Nebraska.

(Seal)

 Notary Public

Proposed Constitutional Amendment Language

(underscored language indicates added language, ~~strike through~~ indicates language being removed)

Article III, section 2 shall be amended as follows:

The first power reserved by the people is the initiative whereby laws may be enacted and constitutional amendments adopted by the people independently of the Legislature. This power may be invoked by petition wherein the proposed measure shall be set forth at length. If the petition be for the enactment of a law, it shall be signed by ~~seven percent of the registered voters of the state,~~ by registered voters at least equal in number to seven percent of those voting for Governor in the preceding gubernatorial election, and if the petition be for the amendment of the Constitution, the petition therefor shall be signed by ~~ten percent of such registered voters,~~ by registered voters at least equal in number to ten percent of those voting for Governor in the preceding gubernatorial election. In all cases the registered voters signing such petition shall be so distributed as to include ~~five percent of the registered voters~~ registered voters at least equal in number to five percent of those voting for Governor in the preceding gubernatorial election of each of two-fifths of the counties of the state, and when thus signed, the petition shall be filed with the Secretary of State who shall submit the measure thus proposed to the electors of the state at the first general election held not less than four months after such petition shall have been filed. The same measure, either in form or in essential substance, shall not be submitted to the people by initiative petition, either affirmatively or negatively, more often than once in three years. If conflicting measures submitted to the people at the same election be approved, the one receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall thereby become law as to all conflicting provisions. The constitutional limitations as to the scope and subject matter of statutes enacted by the Legislature shall apply to those enacted by the initiative. Initiative measures shall contain only one subject. The Legislature shall not amend, repeal, modify, or impair a law enacted by the people by initiative, contemporaneously with the adoption of this initiative measure or at any time thereafter, except upon a vote of at least two-thirds of all the members of the Legislature.

Article III, section 3 shall be amended as follows:

The second power reserved is the referendum which may be invoked, by petition, against any act or part of an act of the Legislature, except those making appropriations for the expense of the state government or a state institution existing at the time of the passage of such act. Petitions invoking the referendum shall be signed by ~~not less than five percent of the registered voters of the state,~~ by registered voters at least equal in number to five percent of those voting for Governor in the preceding gubernatorial election, distributed as required for initiative petitions, and filed in the office of the Secretary of State within ninety days after the Legislature at which the act sought to be referred was passed shall have adjourned sine die or for more than ninety days. Each such petition shall set out the title of the act against which the referendum is invoked and, in addition thereto, when only a portion of the act is sought to be referred, the number of the section or sections or portion of sections of the act designating such portion. No more than one act or portion of an act of the Legislature shall be the subject of each referendum petition. When the referendum is thus invoked, the Secretary of State shall refer the same to the electors for approval or rejection at the first general election to be held not less than thirty days after the filing of such petition.

When the referendum is invoked as to any act or part of act, other than emergency acts or those for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, by petition signed by ~~not less than ten percent of the registered voters of the state~~ by registered voters at least equal in number to ten percent of those voting for Governor in the preceding gubernatorial election distributed as aforesaid, it shall suspend the taking effect of such act or part of act until the same has been approved by the electors of the state.