

THE SLOW TORTURE BEGINS

If you've read the text of the Petition Rights Amendment (PRA), you know the first paragraph is about the initial process—filing, word review, title setting, protest, and petition forms. To show the tedious process we want to fix, here are legislative staff questions both proponents had to answer in person at the Capitol November 30, 2020 (during the shut down!) Live in Durango? Tough.

This was the first hurdle of the 2021-2022 election season. We face rigorous scrutiny before getting a ballot title. Three state lawyers must now allow us a ballot title before we can collect one signature.

We started years ago, but kept getting delayed by lawyers. They kept refusing a ballot title. We had to cut words about 10 times to please them, then start over. We ran out of time in May 2020, the last supreme court review. Our volunteers were angered by state employees, paid to put barriers in our path. The first paragraph of our simplified PRA reform will let people petition. Trying 10+ times to please bureaucrats so they will “let us” petition the state for a vote is frustrating and very unfair.

We must now start over with yet another analysis by state staff who know zilch about petitioning. Their questions show it. We answered their questions three or four times--questions like “What do you mean by four days?” and “Why are you defining the word petitions?” PRA is half a page, written at an eighth-grade level. It is 519 words in law that replace 1563 words in the state constitution from 1910. It is simpler, shorter, and more fair.

Even for the seventh staff review, they insist we read aloud written answers in person to 100+ questions and sub-questions. They waste two weeks before the rigid hearing date, but give us their questions only two days ahead.

We suggest you read one question-one answer at a time. You can see they want to prod us to give up. That would mean you never get the right to vote on PRA. PRA lets you petition for your right to vote on ballot issues. That right is a threat to their power to control elections. Want another real shock? Read the two-page summary of problems—Fifteen Facts. Welcome to Deep State politics. Join us.