

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. Do you live in Durango? Tough.

This was the first hurdle of the election season. We face rigorous scrutiny before getting a ballot title. Three state lawyers must allow us a ballot title before we can collect one signature. We face the shortest collection time (six months) of any state with a petition process.

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. 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 (which is our constitutional right) is frustrating and very unfair.

We 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 376 words in law and substitutes for 1563 words written in the state constitution in 1910. It is simpler, shorter, and more fair.

Staff reviewers insist we read aloud answers in person to 100+ questions and sub-questions. They waste two weeks before the rigid hearing date, but send their questions less than two days ahead.

We suggest you read one question-one answer at a time. You can see they want to goad 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.