

FIFTEEN FACTS: THE WAR ON PETITIONS

FACT #1: In 1932, citizens protested a 10-cent per pound state tax on margarine passed by the legislature, controlled by dairy farmers. (That equals a dollar per pound today.) Citizens signed a petition to vote down that big new tax; it lost in a landslide. Angry at voters, legislators began declaring EVERY BILL an “emergency” not open to petition.

See examples of phony emergencies at PetitionRights.com under Research. The total over 90 years--**35,000 lies!** PRA allows nine “emergencies” yearly, plus the budget.

FACT #2: Politicians block state petitions starting from April to December in an election year, an 8-month blackout of our constitutional rights! See 1-40-106 (1) C.R.S.

The First Amendment in the Bill of Rights protects five rights—religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition. So does our state constitution. What right is next at risk—praising God, public speaking, printing papers, or group meetings? (Can you say “lock down?”) Even a two-thirds ban on one right is unAmerican. PRA protects your rights every day.

FACT #3: The legislature subverts petitions. In 40 years, more anti-petition actions from Colorado have been reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court than from all other states. That’s a national disgrace! PRA ends illegal attacks by our legislature on your right to petition.

FACT #4: Legislators routinely gut or void petitions to change regular laws. They now rewrite our constitution without an election. They say taxes are “fees” and multi-year borrowing is not debt. With PRA, only voter-approved petitions may change petitions.

FACT #5: The state bans local petitions--county, school, or special district. Cities put higher burdens on city petitions. PRA adopts one set of short and simple rules for all.

FACT #6: The state constitution does not limit how long citizens have to collect entries. Politicians imposed a six-month cap. We now have the shortest time; if we add CO, 75% of states will allow one year or more. PRA allows one year to get state petition entries.

FACT #7: From 1912 to 1994, our constitution let private citizens dispute entries; then the state heard their proof. Now the state rejects petitions on its own; no more neutrality! PRA restores checks and balances and the rule of law. Government must be fair.

FACT #8 State issues are single subjects, but lack finality. Today, single subject disputes can start AFTER petitions win! PRA settles all legal issues before petition drives start.

FACT #9: A two-week delay for questions slows petitions. A court can delay it *forever*, denying us our right to petition and to vote. PRA limits total hurdles to two weeks.

FACT #10: State law says “Ballot titles shall be brief.” Three state lawyers set them in “legalese.” They once wrote a 324-word ballot title (one sentence!) for PRA! They want you to blame us for that. PRA allow “up to 60 words in plain English.” Clear and fair.

FACT #11: Petition reviews check only 5% of entries; if one is cut, the state secretly rejects 19 more. The state may pick invalid entries to kill petitions. One petition lost 2,200 entries; a senior citizen “omitted” her middle initial in her 22 affidavits. But she *had* no middle initial; *state records were wrong*. PRA treats each entry equally.

FACT #12: Our liberal supreme court has said we have two days in two years to raise state taxes, but only one day to lower them, or vote on any other topic. Their theory? “Voters want to raise taxes faster.” PRA permits petitions on any topic each November.

FACT #13: The state **repealed majority rule**. It now takes 55% to pass some petitions; 46% of votes outweigh 54%. That’s unAmerican. PRA supports majority rule for all.

FACT #14: Petitioners now face geographic quotas in all 35 state senate districts. If you fall one entry short in one district, *you lose your right to vote*. Politicians need only 67 votes in Denver to advance their issues to the ballot. We should treat all petitions equally.

FACT #15: THE BIGGEST FRAUD OF ALL

1998: 58,656 future petition entries required by the test in the 1910 constitution

2002: 62,437 2006: 67,828 2010: 79,287

2014: 86,104 2018: 98,492 2022: 124,632 2026: 124,238

(illegally-inflated state average 33% entry rejection rate now requires filing 187,000!)

Petition entries are now 5% of the last vote for secretary of state. In 2018, average 4-year increases in five prior votes were under 8,000. After 2018, it was 26,140—3.25 times the average increase. Population did not double since 2002. What happened? Ballot fraud. Co. Const. Article V section 1 (6) says entries are presumed valid (until disproved by foes). PRA sets a 100,000 entry limit, which may grow 6,000 every four years. Believe in America.

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