

FIFTEEN FACTS: THE WAR ON PETITIONS

FACT #1: In 1932, legislators passed a 10-cent per pound tax on margarine to aid dairy farms. (That's over \$1.20 a pound now.) People signed a petition to reject that huge tax, which lost in a landslide. Angry at voters, legislators began declaring EVERY BILL an "emergency" not open to petition. Phony "emergencies" in 90 years? **35,000 lies!**

FACT #2: Politicians block petitions, an 8-month blackout of our rights! 1-40-106 (1) C.R.S. The First Amendment saves five rights—religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition. So does our state constitution. What's next—praising God, public speaking, printing papers, or group meetings? (Can you say "lock down?") PRA protects us.

FACT #3: CO legislators subvert petitions. In 40+ years, more anti-petition CO laws have been voided by the U.S. Supreme Court than all other states--a national disgrace! The Petition Rights Amendment ends illegal political attacks on our right to petition.

FACT #4: Legislators routinely gut or kill petitions to change laws. They rewrite our constitution without election. They say taxes are "fees" and borrowing is not debt. Under PRA, only another voter-approved petition may change most petitions.

FACT #5: The state limits local petitions--county, school, or special district. Cities have different burdens on city petitions. PRA adopts short and simple rules for all.

FACT #6: Our 1910 constitution does not limit entry collection time. Politicians imposed the shortest time of any state. PRA allows 300 days. Expiration is not like a quart of milk.

FACT #7: From 1912 to 1994, private citizens could dispute entries; then the state heard their proof. Now the state rejects petitions by itself; no more neutrality! PRA restores checks and balances (the rule of law). Government must be fair to petitions, not hostile.

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: Delays for questions slow petitions. A court can delay it *forever*, denying our rights to petition and to vote. PRA limits total preliminary procedures to three weeks.

FACT #10: State law says, "Ballot titles shall be brief." Three state lawyers twist them in "legalese." They once wrote a 324-word ballot title (one sentence!) Whose fault is that? PRA requires "up to 60 words in plain English." That's clear and fair.

FACT #11: Petition reviews check only 5% of entries; if one is bad, 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 fairly.

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

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: Petitions now face geographic quotas in all 35 state senate districts. 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 must treat all petitions equally.

FACT #15: THE BIGGEST FRAUD OF ALL

1998: 58,656 future petition entries filed as required by the test in the 1910 constitution
2002: 62,437 2006: 67,828 2010: 76,047
2014: 86,104 2018: 98,492 2022: 124,632 2026: 124,238
(state illegally presumes a 32% “error” rejection rate, so now requires filing 185,000!)

Petition entries now take 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? Rigged ballots? Co. Const. Article V section 1 (6) says (in Latin) entries are presumed valid (until disproved in court by foes). PRA sets a fixed 100,000 entry goal. Believe in America. Keep it simple.

P. S. If you don’t report your petition’s progress, the state can fine you **\$1,500**. That is the latest attack. Did you know your sacred First Amendment rights have a price tag?

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