

## 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 \$1.50 a pound now.) People signed a petition to reject that huge tax; it lost in a landslide. Angry at voters, legislators began calling EVERY BILL an "emergency" not open to petition. Fake "emergencies" in 93 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 protects five rights—religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition. So does our state constitution. Is the next threat 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 laws in CO were voided by the U.S. Supreme Court than in all other states--a national disgrace!

**FACT #4:** Legislators gut or kill petitions. They say taxes are "fees" and borrowing is not debt. PRA says 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; the state then heard their proof. Now the state rejects petitions by itself; no more neutrality! PRA restores checks and balances (the rule of law). Our government must not be hostile to petitions.

**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:** Long delays for questions slow petitions. They can stall it *forever*, denying our rights to petition and to vote. PRA limits preliminary petition procedures to three weeks.

**FACT #10:** State law now says, "Ballot titles shall be brief." Three state lawyers twist that in "legalese." They once wrote a 324-word ballot title (one sentence!) Whose fault is that? PRA requires "Ballot titles 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. It may pick invalid entries to kill petitions. One petitioner 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 supreme court ruled we have two days in two years to vote to raise state taxes, but only one day to lower them, or vote on other topics. Their claim? “Voters want to raise taxes faster.” PRA permits petitions on *any* topic any year.

**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 quotas in all 35 senate districts. Fall ONE entry short in ONE district, *you lose your right to vote*. Politicians need only 67 votes in Denver to put their issues on the ballot. 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: 76,047 2014: 86,104 2018: 98,492 2022: 124,632

2026: 124,238 (state now presumes a 32% error rejection rate, so now requires 185,000!)

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. Why? Co. Const. Article V section 1(6) says (in Latin) entries are presumed valid until disproven.

**P. S.** If you don’t report your petition’s progress, the state can fine you **\$1,500**. That is the 2025 attack. Did you know your sacred First Amendment rights have a price tag?