

## **HJ 1: Initiative and Referendum Requirements 2008 Budget Session**

**Sponsor: Rep. Kermit Brown (R-H14, Laramie); co-sponsors Reps. Edward Buchanan (R-H4, Torrington), Roy Cohee (R-H35, Casper), Bernadine Craft (D-H17, Rock Springs) Keith Gingery (R-H23, Jackson), Tom Lubnau (R-H31, Gillette), Monte Olsen (R-H22, Daniel), Colin Simpson (R-H24, Cody) and Sens. Bruce Burns (R-S21, Sheridan), Ken Decaria (D-S15, Evanston), Grant Larson (R-S17, Jackson), Phil Nicholas (R-S10, Laramie), Tony Ross (R-S4, Cheyenne), John Schiffer (R-S22, Kaycee), Michael Von Flatern (R-S24, Gillette)**

HJ 1 proposed an amendment to the Wyoming Constitution to modify the signature requirement for a petition for an initiative or referendum to be placed on the ballot. It was the second attempt by the Legislature in two years to get the proposed amendment on the ballot.

Currently, a petition must be signed by at least 15% of the qualified voters in at least two-thirds of the counties of Wyoming, as determined by those who voted in the last general election. The proposed amendment would change the requirement to at least 15% of the qualified voters in at least two-thirds of the state's senate districts.

To pass a resolution to amend the Constitution, at least two-thirds of the members of the House and Senate, voting separately, must approve the identical resolution. Then, the resolution will be placed on the next general election ballot, where it must be passed by a majority of the voters who vote in that election to be adopted as a part of the Constitution.

Proponents of HJ 1 noted that the proposed amendment would reduce the chance that the state would be sued over petition signature requirements. The current petition signature requirements are unconstitutional, because the county distribution requirement is in conflict with the constitutional requirement of equal representation (counties have different sized populations, so county representation gives more weight to individual citizens in less populated counties). Because senate districts are distributed based on population, signature requirements based on senate districts would offer more equal representation.

Some opponents of HJ 1 believed the signature requirements were still too high to provide a reasonable opportunity for volunteer petition efforts to succeed, and that only paid petition efforts (those that pay signature gatherers) could succeed under the current requirements. They noted that requiring signatures of 15% of voters in two-thirds of either counties or senate districts very effectively makes the initiative process impossible for anything but moneyed interests to use, and that Wyoming voters and citizens will have been put to the expense and bother of two constitutional amendments (the first one to set the current requirements, and now this one) just to maintain the influence of wealthy interests over our public policies.

Both chambers of the Legislature passed HJ 1 by the required two-thirds majority (the House, 56-4 and the Senate, 22-8), so the bill will be placed on the November ballot for a vote by the electors of Wyoming.

The votes listed below are the House and Senate third reading (final passage) votes. A YES vote means the legislator wanted to place a proposed Constitutional amendment to modify signature requirements for initiative petitions on the November ballot. A NO vote means the legislator did not want to place this proposed Constitutional amendment on the ballot.

<b>Bighorn Basin Legislators</b>		<b>HJ 1 H 3rd</b>	<b>HJ 1 S 3rd</b>
S 18	Hank Coe (R)		Yes
H 24	Colin Simpson (R)	Yes	
H 50	Pat Childers (R)	Yes	
S 19	Ray Peterson (R)		Yes
H 25	Alan Jones (R)	Yes	
H 26	Elaine Harvey (R)	Yes	
S 20	Gerald E. Geis (R)		Yes
H 27	Debbie Hammons (D)	Yes	
H 28	Lorraine Quarberg (R)	Yes	

<b>Casper-Area Legislators</b>		<b>HJ 1 H 3rd</b>	<b>HJ 1 S 3rd</b>
S 27	Bill Landen (R)		Yes
H 35	Roy Cohee (R)	Yes	
H 36	Mary Hales (R)	Yes	
S 28	Kit Jennings (R)		Yes
H 56	Tim Stubson (R)	Yes	
H 57	Thomas A. Lockhart (R)	Yes	
S 29	Drew A Perkins (R)		Yes
H 37	Steve Harshman (R)	Yes	
H 59	Mary Gilmore (D)	Yes	
S 30	Charles K. Scott (R)		Yes
H 38	Bob Brechtel (R)	Yes	
H 58	Lisa Shepperson (R)	Yes	

<b>Cheyenne-Area Legislators</b>		<b>HJ 1 H 3rd</b>	<b>HJ 1 S 3rd</b>
S 4	Tony Ross (R)		Yes
H 7	Doug Samuelson (R)	Yes	
H 41	Ken A Esquibel (D)	Yes	
S 5	Robert (Bob) Fecht (R)		No
H 8	Lori Millin (D)	No	
H 42	Pete Illoway (R)	Yes	
S 6	Wayne H. Johnson (R)		Yes
H 9	David Zwonitzer (R)	Yes	
H 10	Rodney "Pete" Anderson (R)	Yes	
S 7	Kathryn Sessions (D)		No
H 11	Mary Throne (D)	No	
H 43	Dan Zwonitzer (R)	Yes	
S 8	E. Jayne Mockler (D)		No
H 12	Amy L Edmonds (R)	Yes	
H 44	Floyd Esquibel (D)	No	

<b>Gillette-Area Legislators</b>		<b>HJ 1 H 3rd</b>	<b>HJ 1 S 3rd</b>
S 23	John Hines (R)		Yes
H 31	Thomas E. Lubnau II (R)	Yes	
H 52	Sue Wallis (R)	Yes	
S 24	Michael Von Flatern (R)		Yes
H 32	Timothy Hallinan (R)	Yes	
H 53	Erin Mercer (R)	Yes	

<b>Lander/Riverton-Area Legislators</b>		<b>HJ 1 H 3rd</b>	<b>HJ 1 S 3rd</b>
S 25	Cale Case (R)		No
H 33	W. Patrick Goggles (D)	Yes	
H 54	Del McOmie (R)	Yes	
S 26	Eli Bebout (R)		Yes
H 34	Frank Philp (R)	Yes	
H 55	David Miller (R)	Yes	

<b>Northeast/East Central WY Legislators</b>		<b>HJ 1 H 3rd</b>	<b>HJ 1 S 3rd</b>
S 1	C.L. Townsend (R)		Yes
H 1	Mark Semlek (R)	Yes	
H 2	Ross Diercks (D)	No	
S 2	Jim Anderson (R)		Yes
H 5	Matt Teeters (R)	Yes	
H 6	Dave Edwards (R)	Yes	
S 3	Curt Meier (R)		Yes
H 3	Deborah Alden (R)	Yes	
H 4	Edward A. Buchanan (R)	Yes	

<b>Sheridan-Area Legislators</b>		<b>HJ 1 H 3rd</b>	<b>HJ 1 S 3rd</b>
S 21	Bruce Burns (R)		Yes
H 29	Jerry Iekel (R)	Yes	
H 51	Rosie Berger (R)	Yes	
S 22	John Schiffer (R)		Yes
H 30	Jack Landon (R)	Yes	
H 40	Mike Madden (R)	Yes	

<b>South Central WY Legislators</b>		<b>HJ 1 H 3rd</b>	<b>HJ 1 S 3rd</b>
S 9	Mike Massie (D)		No
H 13	Jane Warren (D)	Yes	
H 45	Kevin A. White (R)	Yes	
S 10	Phil Nicholas (R)		Yes
H 14	Kermit C. Brown (R)	Yes	
H 46	James Slater (R)	Yes	
S 11	Bill Vasey (D)		Yes
H 15	George Bagby (D)	Yes	
H 47	William Steward (R)	Yes	

<b>Southwest WY Legislators</b>		<b>HJ 1 H 3rd</b>	<b>HJ 1 S 3rd</b>
S 12	Rae Lynn Job (D)		No
H 48	Marty Martin (D)	Yes	
H 16	Pete Jorgensen (D)	Yes	
S 13	John M Hastert (D)		No
H 17	Bernadine Craft (D)	Yes	
H 60	Bill Thompson (D)	Yes	
S 14	Stan Cooper (R)		Yes
H 18	Allen Jaggi (R)	Yes	
H 39	Stan Blake (D)	Yes	
S 15	Ken Decaria (D)		Yes
H 19	Owen Petersen (R)	Yes	
H 49	Sandra Meyer (D)	Yes	

<b>West Central WY Legislators</b>		<b>HJ 1 H 3rd</b>	<b>HJ 1 S 3rd</b>
S 16	Pat Aullman (R)		No
H 20	Kathy Davison (R)	Yes	
H 21	Dan Dockstader (R)	Yes	
S 17	Grant Larson (R)		Yes
H 22	Monte Olsen (R)	Yes	
H 23	Keith Gingery (R)	Yes	
See Southwest Region for H 16 and S 12			