

CHARTER OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Section 23

1. Original Charter section approved by voters April 7, 1931

Section 23. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM AND RECALL. The right to recall municipal officers and the powers of the initiative and referendum on all questions which the Council is authorized to control by legislative action are hereby reserved to the people of the City; such powers shall be exercised in the manner provided by the Constitution and general laws of the State of California. Ordinances may be initiated, or the Referendum exercised on ordinances passed by the Council, and any elective official may be recalled from office, under the provisions of the Constitution and the general laws of the State, provided that the number of signatures necessary to initiate an ordinance for the consideration of the Council shall be five percent of the entire vote cast in the City at the last preceding election for the office of governor; that for the direct submission of a measure to the people it shall require a petition signed by fifteen percent of the entire vote cast in the City at the last preceding election for the office of governor; that for a referendum upon an ordinance passed by the Council it shall require a petition signed by seven percent of the entire vote cast in the City at the last preceding election for the office of governor; and that for the recall of an elected officer it shall require a petition signed by twenty-five percent of the entire vote cast in the City at the last preceding election for the office of governor. Petitions for the Initiative, Referendum, or Recall shall be on forms prescribed by an ordinance of the Council and shall state in full the ordinance to be initiated or referred or the officer to be recalled with reasons for such recall. This statement shall appear at the head of each petition, followed by the signature and legal residence of each petitioner written in ink or indelible pencil, and by the affidavit of the person in charge of the petitions that the signatures have all been made in his presence by the persons whose names they purpose to be, and are legal signatures to the best of his belief. The City Clerk shall pass on the number and legality of the signatures attached to each petition and shall give notice of the sufficiency or insufficiency of signatures on each petition. Supplementary petitions or additional signatures may be presented in the form and procedure provided above.

2. Amendment voted 04/22/1941; effective 05/08/1941

Section 23. INITIATIVE REFERENDUM AND RECALL. The right to recall municipal officers and the powers of the initiative and referendum are hereby reserved to the people of the City. Ordinances may be initiated; and referendum may be exercised on any ordinance passed by the Council, except an ordinance which by the provisions of this charter takes effect immediately upon its passage; and any elective officer may be recalled from office. The Council shall include in

the election code ordinance required to be adopted by Section 8, Article II, of this charter, an expeditious and complete procedure for the exercise by the people of the initiative, referendum and recall, including forms of petitions; provided that the number of signatures necessary on petitions for the initiation of an ordinance for the consideration of the Council shall be three per cent of the registered voters of the City at the last general election; that for the direct submission of a measure to the people it shall require a petition signed by ten per cent of the registered voters of the City at the last general City election; that for a referendum upon an ordinance passed by the Council it shall require a petition signed by five per cent of the registered voters of the City at the last general City election; and that for the recall of an elected officer it shall require a petition signed by fifteen per cent of the registered voters of the City at the last general City election.

3. Amendment voted 11-08-1988; effective 04-03-1989

Section 23: Initiative, Referendum and Recall

The right to recall municipal officers and the powers of the initiative and referendum are hereby reserved to the people of the City. Ordinances may be initiated; and referendum may be exercised on any ordinance passed by the Council except an ordinance which by the provisions of this Charter takes effect immediately upon its passage; and any elective officer may be recalled from office. The Council shall include in the election code ordinance required to be adopted by Section 8, Article II, of this charter, an expeditious and complete procedure for the exercise by the people of the initiative, referendum and recall, including forms of petitions; provided that the number of signatures necessary on petitions for the initiation of an ordinance for the consideration of the Council shall be three percent of the registered voters of the City at the last general City election; that for the direct submission of a measure to the people it shall require a petition signed by ten per cent of the registered voters of the City at the last general City election; that for a referendum upon an ordinance passed by the Council it shall require a petition signed by five per cent of the registered voters of the City at the last general election; and that for the recall of an elected officer who is elected by all of the electors of the City, it shall require a petition signed by fifteen per cent of the registered voters of the City at the last general City election; and that for the recall of a Council member other than the Mayor it shall require a petition signed by fifteen percent of the registered voters of the Councilmanic District at the last general City election.

4. Amendment voted 11-08-2016; effective 12-19-2016

See current Charter.