

City Council Workshop

Agenda Item #2

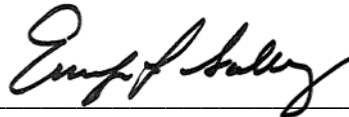
May 8, 2017

Proposed Amendments to Ch. 6  
(Elections) re Citizen Initiative and  
Referendum Petitions

This item is brought forward to address a Charter issue that arose last summer related to the citizen initiative petition process: there is no specific time period set forth in the Charter for the circulation of citizen initiative petitions.

The proposed amendments to Chapter 6 (Elections) are made pursuant to Section 1115 of the Charter, which provision authorizes the City Council to enact regulations by ordinance to carry out the provisions of Article XI of the Charter related to citizen initiative and referendum. A forty-five (45) day circulation time period is proposed for citizen initiative petitions.

Staff will be present at the workshop to answer any questions Councilors may have.



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City Clerk

**PROPOSED CH. 6 ELECTIONS ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS RE CITIZEN  
INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PETITIONS**

Additions are underlined; deletions are ~~struck out~~.

**Chapter 6**

**ELECTIONS**

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Secs. 6-24 to 6-29. Reserved.

**ARTICLE III. IN GENERAL**

**Sec. 6-30. Purpose.**

This article is enacted pursuant to Section 1115 of the Charter, which provision authorizes the City Council to enact regulations by ordinance to carry out the provisions of Article XI of the Charter related to citizen initiative and referendum.

**Sec. 6-31. Petition form.**

The petition form used to invoke the initiative or the referendum power shall be prepared by the City Clerk. The form shall include space for the City Clerk to note the issuance and return dates. Upon issuance, the City Clerk shall record the issuance date on each blank form.

**Sec. 6-32. Petition circulation.**

An initiative petition may be circulated for up to forty-five (45) calendar days from the date of the City Clerk's issuance of the petition and must be returned to the City Clerk no later than forty-five (45) calendar days from the issuance date. A referendum petition must be circulated and returned to the City Clerk within twenty (20) days after the date of the enactment by the City Council of any ordinance that is subject to a referendum.

**Sec. 6-33. Number of signatures.**

The petition shall be signed by at least 5% of the qualified electors of the City of South Portland at the last regular municipal election.

**Sec. 6-34. Filing of the petition.**

Upon return, the City Clerk shall record the return date on each form that comprises the petition. A petition certified by the City Clerk as insufficient may not be amended or supplemented.

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