



SIERRA CLUB

MONTANA CHAPTER

Oppose HB 384 and 385: Attacks on Citizen Ballot Initiatives

If passed, HB 384 and HB 385 would make it substantially more difficult for Montanans to propose a citizen-initiated statewide ballot initiative

OPPOSE HB 384: Increasing qualified electors required to sign a statutory initiative petition (Representative Steve Gunderson)

- In order to propose a citizen-initiated ballot initiative, people are required to gather signatures from 5% of qualified voters in one-third of Montana's legislative districts.
- This bill would **double** the signatures to 10% and require that the signatures come from 1/3 of Montana's legislative districts.
- In opposition to the bill, Representative Kathy Kelker of Billings states that it is "almost impossible" to get a citizen initiative on the ballot as the law currently stands, according to an [article](#) in the Montana Free Press.
- Citizen-initiated ballot initiatives give voice to Montanans who want to make change, and HB 384 and 385 are attacks on an important democratic tool.
- Opponents of this bill include the MontPIRG (Montana Public Interest Research Group), the ACLU of Montana, Forward Montana and the Montana Federation of Public Employees.

OPPOSE HB 385: Increasing qualified electors required to sign constitutional initiative (Representative Steve Gunderson)

- HB 385 increases the number of signatures required for getting a constitutional amendment on the ballot from 10% to 20% of qualified voters, including at least 20% of voters in three-fifths of Montana's legislative districts.

See the [current bill text](#) to learn more & check out our [citizen lobbying resource](#) to get involved.

For more information about our legislative work, contact Caitlin Piserchia at caitlin.piserchia@sierraclub.org.