APPLICATION FOR INITIATIVE OR REFERENDUM PETITION SERIAL NUMBER

Secretary of State
1700 W. Washington Street, 7th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The undersigned intends to circulate and file an INITIATIVE or a REFERENDUM (circle the appropriate word) petition and hereby makes application for the issuance of an official serial number to be printed in the lower right-hand corner of each side of each signature sheet of such petition. Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes § 19-111, attached hereto is the full text, in no less than eight point type, of the MEASURE or CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (circle appropriate word) intended to be INITIATED or REFERRED (circle appropriate word) at the next general election.

SUMMARY: A description of no more than one hundred words of the principal provisions of the proposed law, constitutional amendment or measure that will appear in no less than eight point type on the face of each petition signature sheet to be circulated.

This initiative aims to make Arizona elections more democratic by instituting ranked-choice voting in races with more than two candidates. This voting method asks voters to rank the candidates in order from the first, most-preferred choice to the least preferred and can be used for any candidate election. The majority winner of the election is calculated using voter preferences. Although everyone casts just one effective vote, it always counts, regardless of whether a preferred candidate prevails. Due to preferential ranks, a vote will be "lost" from one candidate to another, so election results reflect the true wishes of the people.

Signature of Applicant
Emerson French

Printed Name of Applicant
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Date of Application April 22, 2008

Signatures Required 153,305

Deadline for Filing July 3, 2008

Serial Number Issued J-21-2008

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

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Emerson French, Chairman

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Revised 11/92

CF # 200810135
OFFICIAL TITLE

AN INITIATIVE MEASURE
AMENDING TITLE 16, CHAPTER 4, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES BY
ADDITION A NEW ARTICLE 15; RELATING TO THE ARIZONA CONDORCET
RANKED VOTING ACT

TEXT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Be it enacted by the People of Arizona:

Sec. 1-1. Short Title
This act may be cited as the “Arizona Condorcet Ranked Voting Act”.

Sec. 1-2. Intent of Legislation
This legislation provides for more democratic, open, and fair elections by allowing
Arizona’s voters to rank their candidate preferences in order, so that ultimately, the
candidate most preferred by the majority of citizens is selected, without the substantial
costs of runoff elections. This is necessary in an age where politics are dominated by
division, and at times, the choices are few.

Sec. 2. Form of Ballot
The ballot shall be substantially in the form established under law, except that, in
elections with more than two candidates, it shall be altered by the Secretary of State to
read, “Rank all of the following candidates in order of preference, marking 1 for your
first choice, 2 for the second, and so on. More than one candidate may not be assigned the
same rank. Unranked candidates will be tallied as least-preferred. The winning candidates
will be chosen by comparing voter preferences for each candidate to preferences towards
every other candidate. The most-preferred candidate in each case will be declared the
winner. This ballot entitles you to ONE (1) VOTE; however, your given preference order
will be used to tabulate the winner of this election.” Beside the name of each candidate
for each office will be a box for the rank number. Ballot instructions shall read, “RANK
BY MARKING IN THE BOX”. For offices where multiple candidates are elected, an
additional instruction shall read, “Mark up to [number of positions for election]. Rank
these as with other offices, with candidates 1 to [number] being your choices for
election.” Below the ballot lines for nominated candidates or other candidates with ballot
status shall be a line for marking write-in candidates as for other elections, and a box for
marking the desired rank.

Sec. 3. Method of Counting for Single-Person Offices
A. A rank of “1” shall indicate most-preferred, and the lowest possible ranking, or no
rank, shall indicate a least-preferred candidate. No ballot marking multiple candidates
with the same rank shall be counted, although multiple unranked candidates is permitted.
B. Using the voter preferences, compare the numbers of voters preferring one candidate
over every other in pairs, and mark in each case, the candidate with the greater number of
votes (the winner), the candidate with the lesser number of votes, and also indicate ties.
The results should be tallied using a matrix, with all the candidates listed as column and row headings.
C. After completing the pairwise comparisons, tally the numbers of wins, losses, and ties for each candidate. Declare the candidate with the greatest number of wins, the Condorcet winner (the majority winner of the election).

Sec. 4. Method of Counting for Boards, Commissions, and Other Multiple-Seat Elections
The method of counting shall be the same as in section (3), except that the appropriate number of top winners shall reflect the winning combination of seats.

Sec. 5. Method for Resolving Ambiguities
A. List the pairwise comparisons for the set of candidates defeating all other candidates not on the list, along with the number of preference votes for the winning candidate in each pairwise comparison.
B. If a smaller list of candidates exists inside the full list, which defeats all candidates not on the smaller list, remove all candidates not on the smaller list, until no such smaller lists remain. The smallest set shall be referred to as the “Schwartz set”.
C. Remove the winner of a preference comparison, who received the fewest number of total votes from the Schwartz set, and repeat the process with the new, truncated list, starting at (A).

Sec. 6. Elections in Counties, Cities, and Towns
This law will apply to elections in counties, cities, towns, and other subdivisions, with all duties performed here by state officials, by the respective local officials.

Sec. 7. Publication of Results
The matrix used to display the pairwise comparisons, the tally of pairwise victories, the Schwartz set, and the Condorcet winner or winners of the election(s) shall be published in electronic and print formats for archival and other purposes, and when full results of an election are available, in all the major newspapers in the state.

Sec. 8. Severability
If a provision of this act or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are severable.