

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO ELECTIONS

THE CITY OF LEWISTON HEREBY ORDAINS:

Chapter 32 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lewiston, Maine is hereby amended as follows:

CHAPTER 32

ELECTIONS

ARTICLE II. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

Sec. 32-27. How to invoke.

The submission to the vote of the people of any proposed or enacted ordinance, order or resolve, or question, may be accomplished by the presentation of a petition therefor to the council in the manner provided in this article. Any ten qualified voters of the city may originate a petition putting in operation the initiative or the referendum by signing a petition application at the office of the city clerk. The petition application shall be available to accept signatures for 10 working days. Whenever requested by ten such voters, the clerk shall prepare the proper petition with a copy of the ordinance, order or resolve to be submitted attached thereto, and upon its being signed by the ten voters, the clerk shall issue the petition forms to the ten voters and upon the request of any registered voter within the city, who shall for 60 days thereafter collect signatures of qualified voters of the city. Any signatures collected outside of the 60-day period shall be deemed invalid. Prior to the close of business on the 60th day, or in the event said day is a nonbusiness day, the immediate next business day, the petition forms shall be submitted to the city clerk, the city clerk shall declare the petition closed, shall verify the signatures on the petition within ten business days, and shall at the first regular meeting of the council thereafter present the petition with verification of the number of valid signatures thereto attached to the council. If the number of valid signatures to such petition shall amount to seven percent of the number of votes cast in the City of Lewiston at the last gubernatorial election or greater, the council shall order that the question proposed in the petition be submitted to the voters of the city at the next available, scheduled election following.

Provided, that in the case of the referendum, the entire repeal of the ordinance, order or resolve sought to be referred, and in the case of the initiative, the passage by the council of the desired ordinance, order or resolve, shall put an end to all proceedings under the petition.

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