Americans Want a Direct Say in Government:
Survey Results in All 50 States on Initiative & Referendum
Citizens in Charge and Citizens in Charge Foundation jointly commissioned Pulse Opinion Research to conduct a poll in each of the 50 states between May 26 and July 19 of this year to determine public support for initiative and referendum.

Respondents in each state were asked this question:

"In 26 states, citizens can sign a petition to put laws or constitutional amendments on the ballot to be decided by the voters at a statewide election. This process is known as initiative and referendum. Would you favor or oppose the initiative and referendum process in your state?"

The results were clear across the country. In every single state, Americans supported the initiative and referendum process by better than two-to-one margins. In 48 of the 50 states, the margin of support was greater than three-to-one; in 40 of 50 states, citizens supported the initiative process by a four-to-one or greater margins.

Support was highest in South Dakota, where 79 percent favored initiative and referendum, compared to only 9 percent opposed. Support for initiative and referendum was lowest in Hawaii, though support still outnumbered opposition better than two-to-one with 58 percent in favor against 21 percent opposed.

South Dakota has a statewide process of initiative and referendum, while Hawaii does not. On average, support was higher in the 26 states with the initiative and/or referendum process than in the 24 states with neither statewide initiative nor referendum.

Each state survey had 500 respondents providing a margin of error of +/- 4.5 percentage points with a 95 percent level of confidence. The national average of these 50 state polls – containing a total of 25,000 respondents – was 67 percent in favor of initiative and referendum with 14 percent opposed and 19 percent not sure.

“Americans in every state want a direct say in their government,” said Paul Jacob, president of Citizens in Charge and Citizens in Charge Foundation. “By whopping super-majorities the voters support initiative and referendum, but only roughly half the states have the process available to them.”
State by State Results

Alabama
Favor 71%
Oppose 11%
Not Sure 18%

Colorado
Favor 65%
Oppose 21%
Not Sure 14%

Alaska
Favor 65%
Oppose 14%
Not Sure 17%

Connecticut
Favor 65%
Oppose 14%
Not Sure 20%

Arizona
Favor 71%
Oppose 12%
Not Sure 17%

Delaware
Favor 59%
Oppose 19%
Not Sure 23%

Arkansas
Favor 71%
Oppose 10%
Not Sure 19%

Florida
Favor 67%
Oppose 15%
Not Sure 18%

California
Favor 64%
Oppose 10%
Not Sure 17%

Georgia
Favor 60%
Oppose 17%
Not Sure 22%

Note: The sample size in each state is 500 respondents. The margin of sampling error is ±4.5 percentage points with a 95 percent level of confidence. See the memo on the last page for a more detailed explanation of the methodology.
Note: The sample size in each state is 800 respondents. The margin of sampling error is ±4.5 percentage points with a 95 percent level of confidence. See the memo on the last page for a more detailed explanation of the methodology.
Note: The sample size in each state is 500 respondents. The margin of sampling error is +/- 4.5 percentage points with a 95 percent level of confidence. See the memo on the last page for a more detailed explanation of the methodology.
New Mexico
Favor 61%
Oppose 14%
Not Sure 25%

Oklahoma
Favor 65%
Oppose 12%
Not Sure 23%

New York
Favor 67%
Oppose 13%
Not Sure 20%

Oregon
Favor 68%
Oppose 10%
Not Sure 15%

North Carolina
Favor 67%
Oppose 12%
Not Sure 21%

Pennsylvania
Favor 66%
Oppose 12%
Not Sure 20%

North Dakota
Favor 73%
Oppose 13%
Not Sure 14%

Rhode Island
Favor 72%
Oppose 13%
Not Sure 15%

Ohio
Favor 66%
Oppose 13%
Not Sure 20%

South Carolina
Favor 70%
Oppose 10%
Not Sure 20%

Note: The sample size in each state is 500 respondents. The margin of sampling error is +/- 4.5 percentage points with a 95 percent level of confidence. See the notes on the last page for a more detailed explanation of the methodology.
South Dakota
Favor 70%
Oppose 0%
Not Sure 13%

Virginia
Favor 61%
Oppose 13%
Not Sure 26%

Tennessee
Favor 65%
Oppose 12%
Not Sure 23%

Washington
Favor 73%
Oppose 18%
Not Sure 9%

Texas
Favor 60%
Oppose 13%
Not Sure 19%

West Virginia
Favor 60%
Oppose 13%
Not Sure 21%

Utah
Favor 71%
Oppose 13%
Not Sure 17%

Wisconsin
Favor 63%
Oppose 16%
Not Sure 21%

Vermont
Favor 58%
Oppose 20%
Not Sure 22%

Wyoming
Favor 71%
Oppose 12%
Not Sure 17%

Note: The sample size in each state is 500 respondents. The margin of sampling error is ±4.5 percentage points with a 95 percent level of confidence. See the memo on the last page for a more detailed explanation of the methodology.
To:        Whom It May Concern
Fr:        Pulse Opinion Research
RE:        Survey Data
Date: July 22, 2010

Between May 26 and July 19, 2010, Pulse Opinion Research conducted a telephone survey of
500 likely voters in all 50 states asking a standard question about the initiative process.

The margin of sampling error for the full sample is +/- 4.5% percentage points with a 95% level of
confidence. This means that an identical survey conducted under the same circumstances would
generate a result within the margin of sampling error 19 times out of 20.

There are other potential sources of error in any survey including question wording. Pulse Opinion
Research did not develop the question for this survey.

The survey was conducted using an established automated polling methodology. Calls were placed
to randomly-selected phone numbers through a process that insures appropriate geographic
representation. After the calls are completed, the raw data is processed through a weighting
program to insure that the sample reflects the overall population in terms of age, race, gender,
political party, and other factors. The processing step is required because different segments of
the population answer the phone in different ways. For example, women answer the phone more
than men, older people are home more and answer more than younger people, and rural residents
typically answer the phone more frequently than urban residents.

The population targets were based upon census bureau data, a series of screening questions to
determine likely voters, and other factors. Pulse Opinion Research determines its partisan
weighting targets through a dynamic weighting system that takes into account voting history,
national trends, and recent polling.

Pulse Opinion Research does not comment on any survey work commissioned by clients. All media
inquiries concerning the survey should be directed to Paul Jacob at (703) 492-1776 or
paul@citizensincharge.org.

For additional information, see www.PulseOpinionResearch.com