



925 University Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
[www.reformCAL.com](http://www.reformCAL.com)

## CITIZEN LEGISLATURE ACT

### Project of Citizens for California Reform

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

##### Citizen Legislature

**What is a Citizen Legislature?** A Citizen Legislature is composed of every-day citizens, not professional politicians, who meet on a part-time basis to pass the state budget and consider new legislation.

**Why does California need a Citizen Legislature?** California's experiment with a "full-time" Legislature has failed. The result has been a legislature dominated by career politicians beholden to special interests that continually fail to accomplish their most important job, passing a balanced state budget on time.

**How will a Citizen Legislature help California?** A Citizen Legislature will break the stranglehold of special interests, provide Californians with better representation and shakeup the status quo in Sacramento. It will also reduce the number of unnecessary and self-servicing bills and will result in a more responsible and accountable government institution.

**Is California too big for a Part-Time Citizen Legislature?** No, but California is too big for a legislature that fails year after year to pass an on time budget and is no long responsive to the people. Most states have a part-time Legislature, including some of the largest and most populous.

##### Proposed Changes

**What part of the constitution does the Citizen Legislature Initiative change?** Section 3.5 of Article IV will be modified: allow the Legislature to meet for a maximum of 30 calendar days in January, followed by a maximum of 60 days in May, an optional five days to reconvene to consider bills vetoed by the Governor to take effect December 2012.

On or before end of fiscal year 2012 Section 8 of Article III will be modified to reduce the annual salary of Members of the Legislature by at least 50%.

**How often does the California legislature meet now?** Currently there is no limit on the amount of time that the California legislature can meet. In 2007 and 2008 the legislature worked around 130 days each year.

## **Citizen Legislature Act Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Proposed Changes (cont'd)**

**Who will decide on the salary for the Citizen Legislature?** The California Citizen's Compensation Board will continue to make that determination after the minimum 50% legislative pay reduction on or before end of fiscal year 2012.

### **Initiative Process**

**What is the current status of the initiative petition?** The original initiative request was filed May 20 to reduce the legislature to part time status. An amended initiative request was filed on September 11 to include the provision that reduces legislators' pay by 50%. The revised initiative is pending with the State Attorney General's office. We anticipate release by mid November.

**What happens next?** Once we received the revised initiative language CCR will release a new petition with the amended language and begin petition circulation for signatures. We will have 150 days from receipt of the new initiative to gather nearly one million signatures to qualify for the November 2010 ballot.

**Citizens for California Reform filed the initiative. Who are they?** Citizens for California Reform is a non-partisan public interest advocacy organization. Its goal is to improve the quality of life in California by advancing a more limited and transparent state government.

**When will the Citizen Legislature Act be on the ballot?** Once qualified, The Citizen Legislature Act will appear on the November 2010 ballot.

For more information visit [www.reformcal.com](http://www.reformcal.com) or contact

Gabriella Holt, President/CEO @ [Gabriella@reformcal.com](mailto:Gabriella@reformcal.com)

310-732-1240 (ofc)

Twitter with us at Reformcal or join

our facebook group Citizens for California Reform.

***Gabriella Holt, a former 54<sup>th</sup> Assembly District candidate and Palos Verdes Peninsula School Board President, is President/CEO of Citizens for California Reform and a Los Angeles County Probation Commissioner.***

Citizens for California Reform (CCR) is committed to advancing more limited and transparent government. CCR seeks to establish, through a stream lined government, high quality, cost-efficient government services; increased personal responsibilities and civic involvement; protection of individual liberties and freedom of speech; the continued promotion of free market principles and decreased tax burdens on California residents and businesses. Contributions to CCR are not tax deductible.