



DELBERT HOSEMANN
Secretary of State

CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES
Public Hearing Guidelines

1. Nine (9) public hearings will be hosted by the Secretary of State's Office, as required by state law, to provide citizens the opportunity to express their opinion regarding each of the three Constitutional Initiatives to be decided in the November 2, 2011 General Election.
2. Public Hearings will begin at 5:30 p.m.
3. Individuals who wish to speak publically either for or against one or more of the three Constitutional Initiatives may register beginning at 5 p.m. at the sign-in desk. Speakers will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis as allotted time permits.
4. Public comments will be strictly limited to two (2) minutes each. A timekeeper will give speakers a one-minute and a 30-second time check.
5. Public comments will alternate between "pro" statements and "con" statements in an order determined by sign-in/registration order.
6. Each side – pro and con – will have a total of 16 minutes of public comment from the audience. Individuals may also submit written comments to be posted on the Secretary of State's website: www.sos.ms.gov/elections/initiatives. Comments will be reviewed by Secretary of State staff members prior to posting. The Secretary of State's Office reserves the right not to publish any inflammatory or inappropriate language to the website.
7. Comment cards may be submitted at the Public Hearings or written comments may be mailed to:
Initiatives – Secretary of State
P.O. Box 136
Jackson, MS 39205
8. Public comments may also be emailed to: initiatives@sos.ms.gov. All emailed comments must provide the author's full name, phone number and hometown. Authors will be contacted to verify information prior to posting on the Secretary of State's website.
9. Prior to posting, staff will contact the author by phone or email to verify the comments are authentic and permission is granted to post on the public website.
10. No unverified comments will be posted.
11. The author's name and hometown will accompany each posting. No street address, phone number or email will be posted to the website.
12. At the Public Hearing, initiatives will be presented in the order in which they were filed with the Secretary of State's Office:
 - Definition of 'Person'
 - Voter Identification
 - Eminent Domain
13. A five (5) minute break will be taken between each Initiative discussion to allow those who wish to leave to do so and for those wishing to participate in the next discussion to move forward.
14. A professional transcription will be made of each Public Hearing and will be posted on the Secretary of State's website for public review.