

In support of HB 0816, Election Law - Petitions and Ballot Questions - Contents, Plain Language Requirement, and Procedures

As a constituent, I favor this bill because you can't be too clear with voters about potential legislation. With a petition, people are approached in parking lots and sidewalks, in heat and snow and rain. They are carrying children and/or have children in tow, and they may not be paying full attention or be able to concentrate. Also, not everyone reads at a college level and can parse complex language while standing up in poor light.

It is crucial to democracy that voters be able to grasp what petitions ask of them quickly and clearly. Plain language and summaries are essential. Obscuring the outcome ("yes" and "no") and using complicated or negative language run counter to fairness and democracy. Therefore I support this bill.

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