

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 573**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:  
**Mark V. Falzone**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:  
A proposal to amend the Constitution to increase the signature threshold for ballot initiatives.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Mark V. Falzone	9th Essex
Matthew C. Patrick	3rd Barnstable
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## *PROPOSAL for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to increase the signature threshold for ballot initiatives*

A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the following Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become a part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of the next General Court and approved by the people at the state election next following]:  
ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

Section 1. Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution, as amended by article LXXXI, is hereby further amended by striking out in section 2, under the heading "*Joint Session*.", the words "such number of voters as will equal three per cent of the entire vote cast for governor at the preceding biennial state election" and inserting in place thereof the following:- such number of voters as will equal three per cent of the entire number of registered voters in the commonwealth at the time of the preceding general presidential election.

Section 2. Section 1 of that part of said Article XLVIII, as amended by article LXXXI, under the heading "*Legislative Procedure*.", is hereby further amended by striking out the words "such number of voters as will equal three per cent of the entire vote cast for governor at the preceding biennial state election" and inserting in place thereof the following:- such number of voters as will equal three per cent of the entire number of registered voters in the commonwealth at the time of the preceding general presidential election.

Section 3. Section 2 of that part of said Article XLVIII, as amended by article LXXXI, under the heading "*Amendment by Petitioners*.", is hereby further amended by striking out the words "such number of voters as will equal one half of one per cent of the entire vote cast for governor at the preceding biennial state election" and inserting in place thereof the following:- such number of voters as will equal one half of one per cent of the entire number of registered voters in the commonwealth at the time of the preceding general presidential election.