

## Initiative, Referendum and Recall by the Numbers

The following table lists the number of signatures needed for successful Initiative, Referendum and Recall efforts for different possible requirements in a Cleveland Heights Charter. The numbers are based on data from the Board of Elections and were shared at the last meeting.

The **bolded numbers** in **Table 1** summarize the requirement for an initiative to amend a charter. The requirement is in *Sections 9* and *14* of the **Ohio Constitution**. Thus, amending a charter by initiative is not part of home rule.

Regular Municipal Elections are held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November of odd numbered years. Regular State Elections are held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November of even numbered years. General Elections are held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November of each year. Thus, the Regular Municipal Election is a General Election in odd numbered years and the Regular State Election is a General Election in even numbered years.

**Table 1 Signatures by Percentages Based on Most Recent Elections**

Percentage	Regular Municipal Election	Regular State Election	General Election
5%	559	1,272	559
<b>10%</b>	<b>1,118</b>	2,544	1,118
15%	1,677	3,816	1,677
20%	2,236	5,089	2,236
25%	2,795	6,361	2,795

Some charters base signature requirements on the number of electors. An elector is defined as a registered voter. A voter is an elector who actually cast a ballot in an election. Table 2 list signature numbers by electors, that is, registered voters. The number of registered voters, electors, must be determined as of a specific date which needs to be clearly stated. The date could be a specific event, such as the date of the last regular municipal election. That date was used to calculate the numbers in **Table 2** below.

**Table 2 Signatures by Percentages Based on the Number of Electors**

Percentage	Number of Electors
5%	1,725
10%	3,450
15%	5,175
20%	6,901
25%	8,626