



# Sarasota County DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## **PETITION NAME: Ban Assault Weapons NOW**

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### **Petition Talking Points**

- The measure would ban possession of semiautomatic rifles and shotguns. The definition of a Semiautomatic is rifles and shotguns capable of holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition at once, either in a fixed or detachable magazine, or any other ammunition feeding device.
- Exempts military and Law Enforcement personnel in their official duties.
- Requires registration of assault weapons within one year after the measure's effective date.
- The amendment creates criminal penalties for violation of the amendment.
- Violating the provisions of the measure once it is law would be a third-degree felony.



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### **Petition Description**

The measure would ban possession of semiautomatic rifles and shotguns. Semiautomatic is defined as semiautomatic rifles and shotguns capable of holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition at once, either in a fixed or detachable magazine, or any other ammunition feeding device.

The amendment exempts military and law enforcement personnel in their official duties. Exempts and requires registration of assault weapons if a person lawfully owned an assault weapon before the measure's effective date. The ownership of such a weapon would still be legal (a) for one year after the measure's effective date or (b) after the owner registers the weapon by make, model, and serial number with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Records of such registration would be available for federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies but otherwise would remain confidential.

The amendment creates criminal penalties for violation of this amendment. Violating the provisions of the measure would be a third-degree felony.

### **Petition Instructions**

- Signer must be a registered Florida Voter
- Print petitions double-sided, if possible (not mandatory)
- One signed copy per Voter
- Fill out completely, include name, full address and date of birth or voter identification number
- On Page 2, Sign and date the petition

### **Completed Petition**

- Petitions can be dropped off at the Democratic Headquarter office (front desk) located at: 7358 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34231 or
- Petitions can be mailed to: Ban Assault Weapons NOW, 6619 South Dixie Highway #148, Miami, FL 33143

### **The State Process**

The number of signatures required for an initiated constitutional amendment is equal to 8 percent of the votes cast in the preceding presidential election. Florida also has a signature distribution requirement. The distribution requirement is that the signatures collected, must come from at least



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half (14) of the state's 27 congressional districts. Petitions are allowed to circulate for an indefinite period, but signatures are valid for two years; therefore, proponents collect all of their signatures for verification within two years. Signatures must be verified by February 1 of the general election year the initiative aims to appear on the ballot.

### **The requirements to get this initiative certified for the 2020 ballot:**

- Signatures: **766,200 valid signatures** are required.
- Deadline: The deadline **for signature verification is February 1, 2020**. As election officials have 30 days to check signatures, petitions should be submitted at least one month before the verification deadline.

In Florida, proponents of an initiative file signatures with local elections supervisors, who are responsible for verifying signatures. Supervisors are permitted to use random sampling if the process can estimate the number of valid signatures with 99.5 percent accuracy. Signatures are valid if the random sample estimates that at least 115 percent of the required number of signatures is valid.

## **Miscellaneous**

More Information is available from these organization or groups:

- Sarasota League of Women Voters <https://lwvsrq.org/lwv-fl-announces-roll-out-of-partner-ban-assault-weapons-now/>
- Florida Veterans for Common Sense <http://floridaveteransforcommonsense.org/>
- Ban Assault Weapons Now websites
  - [https://ballotpedia.org/Florida\\_Ban\\_on\\_Semiautomatic\\_Rifles\\_and\\_Shotguns\\_Initiative\\_\(2020\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Florida_Ban_on_Semiautomatic_Rifles_and_Shotguns_Initiative_(2020))
  - <https://bawfnfl.org/banassaultweaponsnowpetition.pdf>
- Websites with information on guns:
- Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence <https://lawcenter.giffords.org/>
- Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence <http://www.bradycampaign.org/bradycenter>
- Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America <https://momsdemandaction.org/>