

9.10.09

One of the proposed Charter Commission changes for recall petitions is that petitioners would be required to list their name, date of birth and the last four digits of their Social Security numbers on the petition. *This proposed change would make it more difficult to gather signatures on a petition because it asks for private information that most people will be unwilling to provide.* That's because these petitions, passed around hand to hand, could easily become raw material for identity theft.

Let me give you an example. When I want to make a financial transaction by phone with my bank or investment firm, they want to be sure that I am who I am representing myself to be. They ask for my name, my date of birth and the last four digits of my Social Security number. Voila!

I see no reason for this change except perhaps to impede the petition process. From a politician's point of view that might be desirable, but not for voters or taxpayers. This is not a change which will improve the process and I recommend against it.

Regards, Skip Sims
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