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**TRANSITORY**

The present Law is a true and complete copy of the publication of the Official Gazette of the Federation on March 14, 2014.

*Law published in the Official Gazette of the Federation on March 14, 2014.*

In the margin it contains a stamp with the National Seal, which reads: Mexican United States.- Presidency of the Republic.

**ENRIQUE PEÑA NIETO**, President of the Mexican United States, hereby announces to the inhabitants of the country that:

The Honorable Congress of the Union has addressed to me the following

### **DECREE**

"THE GENERAL CONGRESS OF THE MEXICAN UNITED STATES HEREBY DECREES:

### **THE ISSUANCE OF THE FEDERAL LAW ON POPULAR REFERENDUM**

**First Article.-** The Federal Law on Popular Referendum is issued.

### **FEDERAL LAW ON POPULAR REFERENDUM**

<p>The present Law is a true and complete copy of the publication of the Official Gazette of the Federation on March 14, 2014.</p>
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## CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Article 1.** This is a regulatory law from fraction VIII of Article 35 of the Political Constitution of the Mexican States. It is a matter public policy and social interest law and it is to be observed on a general basis throughout the national territory.

**Article 2.** The present Law serves the purpose of regulating the procedure for the call, organization, development, counting and statement of results of the popular referendum, and of promoting the citizen participation in popular referendums.

**Article 3.** The Congress of the Union, the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, the Federal Electoral Institute and the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch are responsible for the implementation of this Law, within their respective areas of competence.

For the case of the Federal Electoral Institute, its executive directions and technical units centrally are responsible for the organization and development of the popular referendum; regarding deconcentrated bodies, the councils and the corresponding local and district executive boards will be competent thereof.

**Article 4.** The popular referendum is the participatory mechanism through which citizens exercise their right, casting a vote that expresses their opinion regarding one or several national significant topics.

Citizens residing abroad may exercise their right to vote at the popular referendum exclusively when the referendum coincides with the election of President of the Mexican United States, applying the corresponding provided in the Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures.

**Article 5.** The national significance topics will be object of the popular referendum.

The national significance of the topics proposed for the popular referendum will be qualified by the majority of the legislators present at each Chamber, with the exception of the referendum proposed by citizens, in that case the Supreme Court of the Nation will resolve on that matter.

The result thereof is binding for federal Executive and Legislative powers as well as for the competent authorities, when the total participation corresponds at least to forty percent of citizens registered on the voters' registration list.

**Article 6.** A national significance on the topic proposed for a popular referendum will be considered when containing elements such as:

- I. An impact on a largest part of the national territory, and
- II. An impact on a significant part of the population.

**Article 7.** Casting a vote at popular referendums is a citizens' right and a responsibility to participate on decision making about national significance topics.

**Article 8.** Popular referendums called by the Congress will be on the same day as Election day.

**Article 9.** For the purpose of this Law, the following will be understood as:

- I. Notice of intent: The format that citizens use to express their will to the corresponding Chamber to submit a request for popular referendum;

**II.** Code: Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures;

**III.** Congress: General Congress of the Mexican United States;

**IV.** Constitution: Political Constitution of the Mexican United States;

**V.** Call: Popular referendum call issued by the Congress of the Union;

**VI.** Institute: Federal Electoral Institute;

**VII.** Supreme Court: Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation;

**VIII.** Electoral Court: Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch.

**Article 10.** The requirement to participate at the popular referendum are:

**I.** Being a Mexican citizen according to Article 34 of the Constitution;

**II.** Being registered at the Electoral Roll;

**III.** Holding a valid voting card with photo, and

**IV.** Not having political rights suspended.

**Article 11.** The following should not be subject to popular referendum:

**I.** Restriction of human rights acknowledged by the Constitution;

**II.** Principles embodied in Article 40 of the Constitution;

**III.** Electoral matters;

**IV.** The revenues and expenses of the State;

**V.** National security, and

**VI.** The organization, operation and discipline of the permanent Military Forces.

## **CHAPTER II OF THE REQUEST FOR POPULAR REFERENDUM**

### **FIRST SECTION OF THE SUBJECTS**

**Article 12.** The following may request popular referendum:

**I.** The President of the Republic;

**II.** The equivalent to thirty-three percent of the members of any of the Chambers of the Congress, or

**III.** A Numbers of citizens equivalent to two percent of those registered on the voters' registration list.

Citizens may support more that one popular referendum, but the processing of the referendum supported by the same citizens and that exceed twenty percent of the support signatures will not proceed. In this case only the first application will apply.

Failure to comply the prohibition above mentioned will be resolved according to the rules provided in Article 34, fraction IV of this Law.

**Article 13.** The request for popular referendum may be filed before the Chambers of the Congress accordingly, under the terms of this Law, as of September 1st of the second year of Administration of each legislature and until September fifteenth of the year before Election day.

## **SECTION TWO OF THE NOTICE OF INTENT**

**Article 14.** Citizens who wish to file a request for popular referendum for the next immediate referendum day should submit a Notice of Intent to the Chairman of the Executive Board of the corresponding Chamber with the corresponding format defined by said Chamber for such purpose.

The Chairman of the Executive Board of the corresponding Chamber will issue within ten working days, a document certifying the submittal of the Notice of intent, that will include the format to obtain signatures, and with that the beginning of the acts to collect support signatures. The notification record will be published in the Parliamentary Gazette.

Failure to present the Notice of intention will be deemed as a cause not to admit a request for popular referendum.

The formats, Notices of intent and certificates issued will be effective only for the popular referendum held at the next immediate referendum day.

**Article 15.** The format to obtain signatures will be determined by the Chambers of the Congress of the Union, previous consultation to the Institute, meeting the requirements provided by this Law and that should contain at least:

- I. The national significance raised topic;
- II. The question proposal;
- III. The folio number of each page;
- IV. The name, signature, voting key or id number of the back of the voting card from the optical character recognition (OCR) of the valid voting card with photo, and
- V. The date of issue.

Should signatures be presented in a format different to the one delivered by the Chambers, the Popular Referendum proposal will not be admitted for processing.

The Chairman of the Executive Board of the corresponding Chamber will notify about the Notices of intent that were not formalized with the presentation of the application for popular referendum within the period established by Article 13 of this Law or when the corresponding format had not been submitted to obtain signatures, which will be filed as totally and definitely completed issues.

### **SECTION THREE OF THE PRESENTATION**

**Article 16.** The President of the Republic may submit only one request for each popular referendum day.

In the case of request for popular referendums formulated by legislators, members of the Chambers of the Congress, the subject of a Call will be the one approved by the majority of each of the Chambers of the Congress, and there may not be more than one.

In the case of citizens' requests, the Call will be issued regarding those that had gathered the citizen support in a number equivalent to, or at least, two percent of those registered at the voters' registration list, according to the report issued by the institute and previous declaration of constitutionality and qualification of the national significance by the Supreme Court.

**Article 17.** The application request for popular referendum made by the President of the Republic may be submitted at any of the Chambers of the Congress.

**Article 18.** In the case of requests made by federal legislators, they will be submitted at the Chamber of the Congress to which applicants belong to.

**Article 19.** The President of the Republic and the federal legislators may withdraw the request for popular referendum before the Call is published in the Federal Official Gazette. Once it has been withdrawn, a new request for referendum may be submitted, as long as it is done within the period established in Article 13 herein.

**Article 20.** Applications from citizens will be presented before the Chairman of the Executive Board of any of the Chambers according to Section Two in this Chapter.

#### **SECTION FOUR OF THE REQUIREMENTS**

**Article 21.** Any request for popular referendum shall be included in a document that should meet, at least, the following requirements:

I. Full name and signature of the applicant or applicants;

**II.** The purpose of the referendum and arguments that make the topic a national significance, and

**III.** The question proposed for the referendum shall be made without trending contents or value judgment and formulated in such a way that it produces a straight answer in a positive or negative way; and it shall be related to the topic of the referendum.

Only one question may be formulated at the request for popular referendum.

**Article 22.** In case that an application comes from federal legislators, in addition to the provisions in the previous Article, it should include the attachment containing the full names and signature of at least thirty-three percent of the members of any of the Chambers of the Congress, and petitions subscribed by legislators from both Chambers may not be presented.

Likewise, one of the applicant legislator shall be appointed representative to receive notifications.

**Article 23.** The application from citizens in addition to the requirements considered in Article 21 herein, shall be completed with:

**I.** Full name and address of the representative to receive notifications, and

**II.** Attachment containing the full name of the citizens, as well as their signature, voting key and id number from the back of the voting card resulting from the optical character recognition (OCR) of the effective voting card with photo.

**Article 24.** All documentation, as well as attachments shall be fully identified, including on the upper area of each sheet the reference to the national significance topic proposed for popular referendum.

**Article 25.** When the document of the application for popular referendum does not indicate the name of the representative, is unreadable or does not include any support signature, the corresponding Chamber will prevent applicants to correct the errors or omissions previously mentioned within a period of three natural days after notified.

In case of not correcting it within the period established, it will be deemed as not submitted.

## **SECTION FIVE OF THE PROCEDURE FOR THE CALL**

**Article 26.** When the request for popular referendum comes from the President of the Republic, the following procedure shall apply:

**I.** The Chairman of the Executive Board of the Chamber will be accountable for the Board and will directly report to the Supreme Court, about it and the proposal of the raised question to resolve and notify about its constitutionality within a period of twenty natural days;

**II.** After the application of the Congress has been received to verify the constitutionality of the request for popular referendum, the Supreme Court shall:

**a)** Resolve about the constitutionality of the matter on popular referendum, and verify that the question rises directly from the matter of the referendum; that it is not biased or contains value judgments; uses a neutral, simple and comprehensible language, and produces a categorical answer in the positive or negative sense.

**b)** Make the corresponding changes to the question in order to guarantee that it is consistent with the subject matter of the referendum and complies with the criteria stated in the previous paragraph.

**c)** Notify the Chamber of origin about its resolution within the following twenty-four hours after issuing it.

**III.** In the event that the Supreme Court declares unconstitutionality of the referendum matter, the Chairman of the Executive Board of the Chamber of origin shall have the resolution published in the Parliamentary Gazette, report on and proceed to file it as a fully and finally concluded case;

**IV.** Should the resolution of the Supreme Court be in the sense of recognizing the constitutionality of the matter, the question contained in the resolution, may not be subjected to later changes by the Congress, the Chairman of the Executive Board of the Chamber of origin will have the resolution in the Parliamentary Gazette and will turn the request to the Commission of Governance and, where appropriate, to the corresponding commissions, according to the matter of the request for their analysis and opinion;

**V.** The opinion on the request shall be approved by the majority of each Chamber of the Congress; otherwise, it will be filed as a fully and finally concluded case, and

**VI.** Once the request has been approved by the Congress, the Congress will issue the Call of the popular referendum through a Decree, and will notify the Institute for the corresponding effects and shall have it published in the Official Gazette of the Federation.

**Article 27.** When the request for popular referendum comes from at least thirty-three percent of the members of any of the Chambers of the Congress, the following procedure shall apply:

**I.** The Chairman of the Executive Board of the Chamber of origin shall report it and turn it to the Commission of Governance, and where applicable, to the corresponding commissions, according to the matter of the request for their analysis and opinion.

**II.** The opinion on the request shall be approved by the majority of each Chamber of the Congress; otherwise, it shall be filed as a fully and finally concluded case, and

**III.** After the request has been approved by the Congress, the reviewer Chamber shall send it to the Supreme Court together with the proposal of the question to resolve and notify about its constitutionality within a twenty-natural days' period;

**IV.** After the application of the Congress has received to verify the constitutionality of the request for popular referendum, the Supreme Court shall be subjected to the stipulated in Article 26, fraction II herein;

**V.** In the event that the Supreme Court declared unconstitutionality of the matter of the referendum, the Chairman of the Executive Board of the reviewer Chamber shall have the resolution published in the Parliamentary Gazette and report it and proceed to file it as a fully and finally concluded case;

**VI.** Should the resolution of the Supreme Court be in the sense of recognizing the constitutionality of the matter, the Congress shall issue the Call of the popular referendum through a Decree, and will notify the Institute for the corresponding effects and shall have it published in the Official Gazette of the Federation.

**Article 28.** The following shall apply when the request is submitted by citizens:

**I.** After the request has been received by the Chairman of the Executive Board of the corresponding chamber, he shall have it published in the Parliamentary Gazette, and shall report it and request the Institute to verify, in a thirty-natural days' period, that it has been subscribed, in a number equal to the two percent of the subscribed in the Voters registration list;

**II.** In the event that the Institute determines non compliance with the requirement established in Article 35, fraction VIII, numeral 1, paragraph c) of the Constitution, the Chairman of the Executive Board of the corresponding Chamber shall have the report published in the Parliamentary Gazette, report and proceed to file it as a fully and finally concluded case;

**III.** In the event that the Institute determines compliance of the requirement established in fraction I, the Chairman of the Executive Board of the corresponding Chamber shall have the report publish in the Parliamentary Gazette and turn the request to the Supreme Court, together with proposal question of applicants to resolve about its constitutionality within a twenty natural days' period;

**IV.** After the application of the Chairman of the Executive Board of the corresponding Chamber has been received to verify the constitutionality of the request for popular referendum, the Supreme Court shall:

**a)** Resolve on the constitutionality of the matter of the popular referendum and review that the question directly rises from the matter of the referendum; that is not biased or contains value

judgments; uses neutral, simple and comprehensible language; and produces a categorical answer in the positive or negative sense.

**b)** Make, where necessary, the corresponding changes to the question in order to guarantee it is consistent with the matter of the referendum and complies with the criteria stated in the previous paragraph.

**c)** Notify the corresponding Chamber about its resolution within the following twenty-four hours after issuing it;

**V.** Should the resolution by the Supreme Court be in the sense of recognizing the constitutionality of the matter, the question in the resolution may not be subjected to later changes by the congress;

**VI.** In the event that the Supreme Court declared unconstitutionality on the matter of the popular referendum, the Chairman of the Executive Board of the corresponding Chamber shall have the resolution published in the Parliamentary Gazette and report and proceed to file it as a fully and finally concluded case, and

**VII.** After constitutionality has been declared by the Supreme Court, the Congress through its Executive Boards shall issue the Call, notify the Institute for the corresponding effects and have it published in the Official Gazette of the Federation.

**Article 29.** The resolutions by the Supreme Court shall be final and unassailable.

**Article 30.** The Call of the popular referendum shall include:

**I.** Applicable legal grounds;

**II.** Date of the federal electoral day in which the popular referendum will take place;

**III.** Brief description of the matter on the national significance topic submitted to the referendum;

**IV.** The question that will be asked, and

**V.** Place and date of the release of the Call.

**Article 31.** The Call released by the Congress shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Federation.

### **CHAPTER III OF THE POWERS OF THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE ON MATTERS OF POPULAR REFERENDUM**

#### **SECTION ONE OF THE CITIZEN SUPPORT VERIFICATION**

**Article 32.** The Institute is to verify the percentage established in Article 35, fraction VIII, numeral 1, paragraph c) of the Constitution.

For such purpose, the Institute, within a thirty natural days' period as of the reception of the file turned by the Chairman of the Executive Board of the corresponding Chamber, shall verify that citizens are on the voters' registration list.

**Article 33.** The Institute, through the Executive Office of the Federal Register of Voters within the period stated in the previous Article, shall verify that the names of those subscribed in the popular referendum are on the voters' registration lists and that the total

matches an equivalent number of at least two percent of the voters' registration list.

Once the percentage requirement to which the previous paragraph refers has been reached, the Executive Office of the Federal Register of Voters shall perform a sampling exercise to validate the authenticity of the signatures according to the criteria defined thereon by the Executive Office.

Signatures will not be counted for the purposes of the required percentage when:

- I. Names are presented with incomplete, false or incorrect data;
- II. the voting key and id number on the back of the voting card resulting from the optical character recognition (OCR) of the valid voting card with photo are not included;
- III. A citizen has subscribed more than once in the same popular referendum; in such case, only one signature will be posted;
- IV. Signatures from citizens that had already supported other popular referendum in the same process, that exceed twenty percent of the total signatures required in virtue of that established in Article 12 herein. In such case, only the first signature received by the Institute will be posted, and
- V. Citizens had been removed from the voters' registration list in any of the situations provided in the Code.

**Article 34.** Once the corresponding verification has been completed, the Executive Secretary of the Institute shall present a detailed an unbundled report to the applicant Chamber of the Congress within the period provided in Article 33 herein, the result of the verification

that citizens show on the voters' registration list of the Institute, which shall include:

- I. The total number of endorser citizens;
- II. The number of endorser citizens that are on the voters' registration list and the percentage;
- III. The number of endorser citizens that are not on the voter's registration list and the percentage;
- IV. The number of citizens who had not been posted in virtue that they had already signed one previous popular referendum;
- V. The results of the sampling exercise, and
- VI. Citizens had been removed from the voter's register list in any of the cases provided in the Code.

## **SECTION TWO OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE POPULAR REFERENDUM**

**Article 35.** The institute is responsible for exercising the state function of the organization and development of popular referendum and promoting the vote under the terms provided herein and the Code.

**Article 36.** After the Congress notifies the Institute about the Call, the Executive Secretary shall report to the General Council on the next sitting held.

**Article 37.** The General Council of the Institute is responsible for:

- I. Approving the model of the ballot papers of the popular referendum;
- II. Approving the forms and other documentation necessary to hold the popular referendum, and
- III. Approving the guidelines or agreements necessary to carry out the organization and development of the popular referendums.

**Article 38.** The General Executive Board of the Institute is responsible for:

- I. Monitoring the compliance of the training programs with regard to popular referendums, and
- II. Others entrusted by the applicable regulation or instructed by the General Council or its Chairman.

**Article 39.** The Institute, through the Executive Office on Electoral Training and Civic Education shall prepare and suggest the training programs regarding popular referendums.

### **SECTION THREE OF THE DISSEMINATION OF THE REFERENDUM**

**Article 40.** During the dissemination campaign, the Institute shall promote the citizens' participation in the popular referendum through radio and television times appointed for the electoral authority.

The promotion shall be impartial. On no account may it be oriented to impact on citizens' preferences, in favor or against the popular referendum.

**Article 41.** The Institute shall promote the informed discussion and dissemination of the referendum that had been called by the Congress of the Union through radio and television times appointed to the Institute.

When in the opinion of the Institute the total time in radio and television referred in the previous paragraph was insufficient, the Institute will determine the corresponding to cover the missing time.

No individual or company, either in their own or by third parties, may hire radio and television propaganda oriented to impact on the opinion of citizens about the popular referendum. The Institute shall order cancelation of any propaganda and start the corresponding sanctioning proceedings.

**Article 42.** During three natural days before the referendum day and until the official closing of the polling sites located at western time zones of the national territory, the total or partial publication or dissemination of surveys, with the intent of disclosing the citizens' preferences or any other dissemination actions are prohibited.

#### **SECTION FOUR OF THE EVENTS PREVIOUS TO THE POPULAR REFERENDUM DAY**

**Article 43.** The Institute will print the ballot papers according to the model and content approved by the General Council for the procedures to cast votes at the popular referendum processes and the following data shall be included:

- I. Brief description of the topic of national significance;
- II. The question in the Call approved by the Congress;

**III.** Boxes to select “YES” or “NOT” placed symmetrically and in the proper size to allow the citizen an easier identification when casting the vote;

**IV.** Entity, district, municipality or delegation, and

**V.** The printed signature of the Chief of the General Council and the Executive Secretary of the Institute.

There will be only one ballot paper, regardless of the number of calls that had been approved by the Congress.

The ballot papers shall be attached to a numbered book, the numbers shall be progressive and the ballots detachable. The information in this book will be related to the federal entity, electoral district, municipality or district and the popular referendum.

**Article 44.** The ballot papers shall be at the District Councils within fifteen days before the popular referendum day. The following measures shall be taken for further control:

**I.** The Institute’s authorized personnel will deliver the ballot papers on the day and at the place previously established to the President of the District Council, who will be accompanied by other Council members;

**II.** The secretary of the District Council will write the detailed record on the delivery and reception of the ballot papers, including data related to the number of ballots, characteristics of the package they are in, and the names and positions of the officials present;

**III.** Then, the members present from the District Board will accompany the president to deliver the documents received at the place previously appointed within their premises, ensuring the

integrity of the documents through the sealed sleeves signed by those present. These details shall be included in the respective record, and

**IV.** The day after counting the electoral ballots, the President of the District Council, the secretary and electoral counselors shall proceed to count the ballot papers to specify the amount received, recording the number of the folios, to seal them on the back and group them as a result of the number of voters corresponding to each polling site that will be installed, including those special polling sites according to the number agreed by the General Council for such purpose. The secretary will record the data of this distribution.

**Article 45.** The presidents of the District Councils will deliver each president of the polling site's general committee, within five days before the referendum day and with a detailed receipt, the following:

**I.** The popular referendum ballot papers, which shall be as many as voters in the voters' registration list with photo for each polling site of the section;

**II.** The ballot box to receive the ballots of the popular referendum;

**III.** The documents, approved forms, office supplies and other necessary elements, with the exception of the voters' registration list with photo, and

**IV.** Where appropriate, the manuals specifying the powers and responsibilities of the polling site officials.

The presidents of the general committee of the special polling sites will receive the documents and materials mentioned in the above sections, with the exception of the voters' registration list with photo, instead of which they will receive the necessary information means to

verify that the voters that attend to cast their vote are subscribed in the voters' registration list that corresponds to the address on their voting card. The number of ballot papers they will receive shall not exceed 1,500.

The delivery and reception of the material mentioned in the previous paragraphs will be carried out with the participation of the members of the District Boards who wish to attend.

**Article 46.** Additionally, the Institute may appoint one or more citizens as part of the general committee of the polling site to perform as teller of the popular referendum.

## **SECTION FIVE OF THE POPULAR REFERENDUM DAY**

**Article 47.** The popular referendum day will be subjected to the procedure provided by Title Three of Book Five of the Code to hold the election day, with the features provided herein.

**Article 48.** For all legal effects, the general committees of the polling sites shall perform as receiving panels of the popular referendum.

**Article 49.** On popular referendum day citizens will appear before the general committees of the polling sites to express the sense of their will by choosing "YES" when in favor or "NOT" when against.

**Article 50.** The ballot box in which voters will place the ballot papers shall be made of a transparent material, foldable and easy to assemble; the name "popular referendum" will be printed or attached outside of the box and at a visible place in the same color as the corresponding ballot paper.

**Article 51.** The tellers of the general committees will count the amount of ballot papers placed in the ballot box, and the number of voters that casted their vote according to the voters' registration list, making sure that both numbers match, otherwise the fact shall be recorded. Likewise, they will count the number of votes casted in the popular referendum and will record it at in the corresponding record.

**Article 52.** In the absence of the teller appointed for the scrutiny and counting of the popular referendum, the duties will be performed by any of the tellers that are present and appointed for the federal election.

The lack of citizens appointed as tellers by the Institute to perform the scrutiny and counting of the popular referendum of the polling site will not be a ground for invalidity of the voting of constitutional elections or the referendum.

**Article 53.** After the scrutiny and counting of the constitutional elections under the terms provided in the Title Three of Book Five of the Code have been completed, the scrutiny and counting of the popular referendum of the polling site will proceed according to the following rules:

**I.** The secretary of the general committee of the polling site will have the remaining ballot papers and will invalidate them with two diagonal ink stripes, keep them in a special closed envelope writing on the outside the number of ballot paper inside the envelope;

**II.** The teller(s) will count twice the number of citizens appearing to cast a vote according to the voters' registration list of the section, adding, where applicable, the number of voters that voted by resolution of the Electoral Court and are not in the voters' registration list;

**III.** The president of the general committee will open the ballot box and withdraw the ballot paper showing the people present that the ballot box is empty;

**IV.** The teller(s) will count the extra ballot papers withdrawn from the ballot box;

**V.** The teller(s), under the supervision of the president, will classify the ballot papers to determine the number of votes that were:

**a)** Casted in favor of “YES”;

**b)** Casted in favor of “NOT”, and

**c)** Null.

**VI.** The secretary will write on the sheet available for such purposes, the results of each operation provided in the previous sections, which after verified by the other members of the committee, will be written on the scrutiny and counting record of the referendum.

**Article 54.** In order to determine annulment or validity of the votes the following rules shall be observed:

**I.** A valid vote will be counted by the mark the citizen makes on a single box that clearly determines the sense of the vote as a “YES” or as a “NOT”, and

**II.** A null vote will be counted as such when the citizen marks the section of the ballot paper different to that provided in the previous section or when left blank or when the ballot paper text is altered with inscriptions.

**Article 55.** After the scrutiny and counting protocol has been completed the corresponding record will be documented, which shall be signed by all officers of the polling site. The popular referendum file will now be compiled with the following information:

- I. A copy of the record on the popular referendum;
- II. A copy of the final scrutiny and counting record of the referendum, and
- III. Individual envelopes containing the remaining ballot papers, valid votes and null votes of the referendum.

**Article 56.** At the end of the election day, the presidents of the general committees of the polling sites will place, on a visible spot outside the polling site, the results of the popular referendum counting.

The general committee, under their responsibility, will place inside the electoral package of the elections, the popular referendum file and deliver it to the corresponding District Council.

**Article 57.** The Institute will include into the information technology system to collect preliminary data, those related to the popular referendum under the terms provided by Article 125, paragraph 1, section 1) of the Code.

## **SECTION SIX OF THE RESULTS**

**Article 58.** The district councils will conduct the tally of the popular referendum on the second Wednesday following election day, which will be the addition of the results recorded in the scrutiny and counting records of the polling sites installed.

**Article 59.** The files of the district counting for the popular referendum shall include:

- I. The scrutiny and counting records of the popular referendum;
- II. Original record of the district counting;
- III. Certified copy of the detailed record of the district counting session of the referendum, and
- IV. Report of the president of the District Council about the development of the popular consultation process.

**Article 60.** Should at the end of the district counting there be a difference between “YES” and “NOT” equal or lower to one percentage point, the District Council shall recount votes in all polling sites, to the request of the corresponding petitioner, under the following terms:

- I. The President of the Republic, through the Legal Counselor of the Federal Executive;
- II. The legislators through the President of the Congress of the Union, and
- III. Citizens through the appointed representative.

**Article 61.** After the district counting has been completed the results will be turned to the Executive Secretary of the Institute, so that within the following forty-eight hours, based on the certificated copies of the district counting records of the popular referendum, he reports to the General Council in public sitting the result of the total of the results recorded in such records.

**Article 62.** The General Council of the Institute is responsible for conducting the total counting and making the statement of the results base on the results recorded on the district counting records, disclosing the corresponding results, and reporting to the Supreme Court on the popular referendum results.

**Article 63.** After the challenging periods have expired and, where applicable, once the resolutions of the Electoral Court have been pronounced, the General Council of the Institute will declare the validity of the popular referendum process, applying accordingly the provision of Tile Three of Book Five of the Code, recording the final results of the national counting, and will send them to the Supreme Court, in order to proceed according to the terms provided herein.

#### **CHAPTER IV OF BINDING AND MONITORING**

**Article 64.** When the Institute declares that the total participation in the popular referendum corresponds to at least forty percent of the citizens registered in the voters' registration list, the result will be binding for the Executive and Legislative federal branches, as well as for the corresponding authorities, and will inform the Supreme Court, which will notify the corresponding authorities to proceed accordingly within their area of responsibility.

Should the result of the referendum be binding, it will have effects during the next three years as of the statement of validity.

#### **CHAPTER V OF CHALLENGING MEANS**

**Article 65.** The appeal provided in the General Law for Challenging Means on Electoral Matters will be appropriate to challenge the

report given by the Executive Secretary of the Institute about the result of the verification of the percentage stated in Article 35, fraction VIII, number 1, section c) of the Constitution, as well as the report of the General Council regarding the result of the popular referendum.

### **Transitory**

**First.** This Decree shall enter into force the day after published in the Official Gazette of the Federation.

**Second.** The reception period of the popular referendum referred in the Law, Article 13, for one time only, will start as of the next day of entry into force of this Decree.

**Third.** Each Chamber shall make the necessary adjustments to the respective regulations resulting from this Decree within 180 days as of the entry into force of this Decree.

**Fourth.** The Congress of the Union shall make the necessary adjustments to the secondary legislation that result from this Decree within 180 days after the entry into force of this Decree.

**Fifth.** For one time only the requirements related to the notice of intent and the form to gather signatures provided herein, shall not be applicable to citizen referendum requests that had been submitted to the Congress of the Union previous to the entry into force of this Law.

**Sixth.** The references that this Law makes to the Federal Electoral Institute will be understood as made to the National Electoral Institute, once the latter has been integrated.

Mexico, Federal District, March 6, 2014.- Sen. **Raúl Cervantes Andrade**, President.- Dip. **José González Morfín**, President.- Sen.

**Iris Vianey Mendoza Mendoza**, Secretary.- Dep. **Angelina Carreño Mijares**, Secretary.- Signatures.”

In compliance with fraction I of Article 89 of the Political Constitution of the Mexican United States, and for the proper publication and observance, I hereby issue this Decree at the residence of the Executive Power in Mexico City, Federal District on March thirteen two-thousand and fourteen.- Enrique Peña Nieto.- Signature.- the Minister of the Interior, Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong.- Signature.