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## **I&R**

### **citizens' initiative and referendum**

#### **PRINCIPLES**

# **The Initiative**

**With the "initiative" a citizen or group has the right to put forward a proposal to introduce or change law. In order that a proposal will be put to the electorate (in a "referendum" or "ballot") an agreed number of endorsements ("signatures") must be collected and validated.**

# **The Referendum**

**If the required number of endorsements is obtained, there are two ways to proceed:**

- 1) The proposal is put to the electorate in a referendum.**
- 2) The proposal is first presented to parliament or local council, which must debate it. Parliament or council may adopt the proposal and pass it as law. Proposals which are rejected must be put to the electorate in a referendum. If a majority of the electorate votes for the proposal then it becomes law.**

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