

WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §7-3-3a

§7-3-3a. Sale of county or district property; local option election; petition, election procedure; form of ballot; effect of such election.

The county commission of any county is authorized to call a local option election for the purpose of determining the will of the voters as to whether specific real property belonging to the county or held by it for the use of any district thereof shall be conveyed or whether the buildings and improvements thereon shall be demolished.

A petition for such local option election shall be in the form hereinafter specified and shall be signed by qualified voters residing within said county equal to at least ten percent of the persons qualified to vote within said county at the last general election. For the purpose of this article, the term "qualified voters" shall mean those actually voting at the last general election and not those registered to vote. Said petition may be in any number of counterparts and shall be sufficient if substantially in the following form:

PETITION

CONVEYANCE OF COUNTY PROPERTY

AND/OR

DEMOLITION OF COUNTY BUILDINGS

OR IMPROVEMENTS

Each of the undersigned certifies that he or she is a person residing in _____ County, West Virginia, and is duly qualified to vote in said county under the laws of the state, and that his or her name, address and the date of signing this petition are correctly set forth below.

The undersigned petition said county commission to call and hold a local option election upon the following question: Shall the county commission of _____ County, West Virginia, be authorized to convey (or demolish buildings and improvements located on) the following described real property belonging to the county or held by it for the use of a district thereof: (here insert property description)

NAME ADDRESS DATE

(Each person signing must specify either his post-office address or his street number.)

Upon the filing of a petition for a local option election in accordance with the provisions of this section, the county commission shall enter an order calling a local option election and providing that the same shall be held at the same time and as a part of the next primary or general election to be held in said county. Said county commission shall give notice of such local option election by publication in two newspapers of opposite politics and of general circulation within said county. Said notice shall be given at least once each week for two successive weeks prior to the date of said election. If there is only one newspaper published in said county, publication of said notice therein shall be sufficient.

Each person qualified to vote in said county at said primary or general election shall likewise be qualified to vote at the local option election. The election officers appointed and qualified to serve as such at said primary or general election shall conduct said local option election in connection with and as a part of said primary or general election. The ballots in said local option election shall be counted and returns made by the election officers and the results certified by the commissioners of election to said county commission which shall canvass the ballots, all in accordance with the laws of the State of West Virginia relating to primary and general elections insofar as the same are applicable. The county commission shall, without delay, canvass the ballots cast at said local option election and certify the result thereof.

The ballot to be used in said local option election shall have printed thereon substantially the following:

"Shall the county commission of _____ County be authorized to convey (or demolish buildings and improvements located on) the following described real property belonging to the county? (insert description)

/ / YES / / NO

(Place a cross mark in the square opposite your choice.)"

If a majority of the voters voting at any such local option election vote "no" on the foregoing question, the county commission shall not thereafter be permitted to convey said real property or demolish the buildings and improvements thereon, as the case may be, unless thereafter authorized so to do.

Nothing herein shall prohibit the county commission from altering, improving and maintaining such real property or the buildings and improvements thereon in any manner whatsoever which does not demolish the building or improvements which were subject to the referendum.

The county commission of any county wherein a majority of the voters have refused permission to convey or demolish specific real property or buildings or improvements pursuant to this section may on its own motion initiate an election pursuant to this section at any primary or general election held in such county after the voters have refused such permission and may restate the description of property or action desired to be taken in such

manner as the commission shall determine.