

VARELA PROJECT
CITIZEN'S PETITION. SUPPORTED BY OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

The undersigned hereby request that the National Assembly of People's Power submit each of the following five proposals to the Cuban people by means of a popular referendum:

1.A. That the necessary changes be made to Cuban legislation to ensure that Cuban citizens have the following rights, while also protecting the common good and preserving respect for universally recognized human rights and human dignity:

1.A.1 The right to associate freely according to their interests and ideas, so that the Cuban people can legally form social, political, economic, cultural, trade union, student, religious, humanitarian, and other kinds of associations and organizations, respecting the principle of pluralism and the diversity of ideas present in society.

1.A.2. The rights to freedom of expression and freedom of the press, so that the people, individually or in groups, can express themselves and their ideas, beliefs, and opinions through the spoken and written word and by any means of dissemination and expression.

1.B. Laws guaranteeing these rights shall enter into force no later than sixty days after this referendum has been held.

2.A. That an amnesty be declared for all those who have been arrested, punished, or imprisoned for political reasons and who have not taken part in acts that directly threaten the lives of others. The Amnesty Act shall enter into force no later than thirty days after this referendum has been held.

3.A. That the necessary changes be made to Cuban legislation to ensure that Cuban citizens have the rights to establish private companies, be they sole proprietorships or joint ventures; to engage in production- or service-related economic activity; and to enter into contracts between workers and firms for the operation of such companies, under fair terms under which no subject can profit from the exploitation of the work of others. These new laws shall also guarantee respect for the rights of workers and citizens and the interests of society. These new laws shall enter into force no later than sixty days after this referendum has been held.

4.A That the Elections Act be modified so the revised text states the following:

4.A.1. The electoral districts established for the respective elections of Representatives to the Municipal Assemblies of People's Power, of Representatives to the Provincial Assemblies of People's Power, and of Deputies to the National Assembly of People's Power.

4.A.2.1. That each of the electoral districts established for the municipal elections shall elect, through a direct vote by their voters, one representative to the Municipal Assembly of People's Power. Each voter shall vote for only one candidate for representative.

4.A.2.2. That each of the electoral districts established for the provincial elections shall elect, through a direct vote by their voters, one representative to the Provincial Assembly of People's Power. Each voter shall vote for only one candidate for representative.

4.A.2.3. That each of the electoral districts established for the national elections shall elect, through a direct vote by their voters, one Deputy to the National Assembly of People's Power. Each voter shall vote for only one candidate for deputy.

4.A.3. That the only way to nominate citizens as candidates for Representative to the Municipal and Provincial Assemblies or as candidates for Deputy to the National Assembly of People's Power shall be directly by obtaining signatures in support of their candidacy from the voters of the corresponding electoral district, in accordance with the conditions set forth in sections 4.A.4, 4.A.4.1, 4.A.4.2, and 4.A.4.3 of this petition.

4.A.4. That the necessary and sufficient conditions to nominate a citizen as a candidate are as follows:

4.A.4.1. Citizens must comply with the conditions set out in Articles 131, 132, and 133 of the Constitution of the Republic to exercise the right to vote and the right to be elected.

4.A.4.2. The aspiring candidate shall submit to the corresponding authorities, at least thirty days prior to the election, signatures in support of their candidacy from no less than five percent of the total number of voters in the electoral district they wish to represent. Each voter shall only support in this manner one aspiring candidate for representative to the Municipal Assembly of People's Power, one aspiring candidate for representative to the Provincial Assembly of People's Power, and one aspiring candidate for deputy to the National Assembly of People's Power.

4.A.4.3. Aspiring candidates for representative to the Municipal Assembly of People's Power must reside in the corresponding district, aspiring candidates for delegate to the Provincial Assembly of People's Power must reside in the corresponding province, and aspiring candidates for deputy to the National Assembly of People's Power must reside in the country. In all three cases, the aspiring candidates must have resided in the country for at least one year leading up to the election.

4.A.5. Voters, aspiring candidates, and candidates shall have the right to gather at meetings to present their proposals and ideas, under no conditions other than respect for public order. All candidates shall have the right to equitable use of the media.

4.B. The new Elections Act with the contents expressed herein shall enter into force within no more than sixty days after the referendum has been held.

5. That general elections be held within 260-365 days after this referendum has been held.

[10 spaces for citizens to sign and provide their name, address, and identity number]

This petition should only be hand-delivered to Cuban citizens who have the right to vote after obtaining their consent. After reading the petition, citizens will sign if they agree with its contents, and all citizens will return the petition regardless of whether they have signed it or not. The right to petition is guaranteed by Articles 63 and 88.g. of the Constitution.

Translated by Ashley Caja.