

<http://www.MSCNews.net/news/index.cfm?nk=51587>

Neb. Pro-Death Penalty Group Collects 166K Signatures

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - An organization campaigning to reinstate Nebraska's death penalty after lawmakers repealed it in May says it has collected more than enough signatures to place the issue before voters in 2016.

Nebraskans for the Death Penalty announced Wednesday that it has gathered 166,692 signatures from all 93 of the state's counties. Nebraska is the first traditionally conservative state to repeal capital punishment since North Dakota in 1973.

The group needed roughly 57,000 valid voter signatures to place the issue on the statewide general election ballot, and double that number to halt the death penalty repeal before the new law goes into effect on Sunday.

The petitions go to the Nebraska secretary of state's office, which will forward them to counties to verify in a process that will take about 40 days.

Associated Press