

Instructions For Circulating Petitions

How To Collect Signatures

The voter's signature should be signed (not printed) the same way and using the precise same name under which they are registered to vote. We have a blank on the petition for the printed name to avoid confusion. If they are unsure as to the form of the name, the circulator should ask the person to check their voter's card or the circulator can check the poll sheet. The voter can print the voter's name in the "printed" column.

The voter's signature does not have to be legible; it is a signature. **The address, however, must be legible and must be complete.** This means that 123 West Main Street should be fully spelled out or, at least, common abbreviations must be used. (If in doubt as to the proper abbreviation: spell it out!). All voters must sign **in the presence of the circulator and no one may sign the name of another.**

The address listed should be an actual **residence address** and not a box in a post office.

When a petition sheet is finished, it is not necessary to line out blank lines or provide a "deletion sheet." **The circulator should NOT fill in the "Sheet No." blank.** That will be filled in just prior to filing.

Who Can Sign Petitions

At the beginning of every election cycle, everybody can choose in which party he wishes to participate. Generally, that selection is first made by signing a candidate petition. Any registered voter residing in the district the candidate is running in can sign a petition unless, the person has already signed a petition for this election cycle (after September 5, 2017) for an opposing candidate or opposing political party. If the voter tells the circulator that they have already signed a petition for another candidate in the same party or for any candidate running as an independent or under a different party label during this election cycle, the circulator should not take the signature but should try to get the citizen's support during the campaign and vote on Election Day.

Who Can Collect Signatures

Any U.S. citizen 18 years old or older can collect petition signatures in Illinois. The circulator need not be registered to vote in the district where the candidate is running or anywhere. However, they must put their accurate residence address on the circulator's affidavit.

Where To Collect Signatures

Petitions should be circulated in an organized fashion.

Door-to-Door

The best way to circulate petitions for any candidacy is for the circulator to go door-to-door in the election district. If requested, the campaign will supply circulators with the most up-to-date poll sheets available. The door-to-door circulators then have a resource telling them where their potential voters are and the campaign then has a resource to better direct any later voter registration efforts.

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Gathering petition signatures door-to-door adds a more personal touch to the process and allows you to do a more effective job. Other members of the household who are at home are likely to be willing to sign the petition after one family member is already signed up. Do not hand the petition to the person at the door and allow them to go to another room to have another household member sign the petition. The circulator needs to witness the signature.

Neighborhood Meetings

Neighborhood meetings are nearly as productive places to gather valid petition signatures as going door-to-door with a poll sheet. As long as the entity sponsoring the meeting serves the district where the candidate is running, a large number of the attendees are likely to be proper petition signatories and two or more petition circulators can be constantly busy signing people up without the time delays of walking door-to-door.

Public Gathering Places

Public buildings, parks, shopping centers, *etc.*, have limited usefulness for petition signature gathering in a local campaign. The public gathering place must serve the district of candidacy but, even then, the percentage of registered voters encountered will surely be less than door-to-door circulation or at neighborhood meetings. Depending on how narrow the geographical area served by the public gathering place is and how busy it is, a particular public gathering place may still be productive for your petition campaign. No matter how central it is in the district in which the candidate is running, a regional or neighborhood shopping center will surely draw out-of-district patrons. One additional disadvantage of such locations is that the shopping centers are usually on private property and the circulators are best advised to get permission in advance from the shopping center management.

Notarized

Your completed petition needs to be notarized by a notary public. The Notary Public needs to witness your signature, so do not sign until you are in the presence of the Notary Public. Most banks or public libraries have the ability to notarize your petition. The campaign will also have a notary available and you can call or email Kevin O'Connell at 847-477-1169 or kevinoris@aol.com.

For information on the district borders, a map of the 52nd district can be found at davidmcsweeney.com. Click on David at the top, and you will see a drop down option for the district map.

Petitions need to be returned before October 31, 2017 to the following address:

David McSweeney for State Representative
PO Box 3701
Barrington, Illinois 60011