



# VOTE LIBERTARIAN ILLINOIS

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## Petitioning Frequently Asked Questions

### Petition Forms

#### Can I make copies of the petition form?

Yes, until a signature is written on a form. Only forms with original signatures can be turned in.

#### Can the petition form be changed?

No. Every form must be identical. If you have questions or concerns about the form, contact the Petition Drive Manager (see bottom of this page).

### Petition Circulators

#### Who can circulate petitions?

Circulators must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years old. They cannot have collected signatures for other political parties or independent candidates in the current election cycle (i.e. either the primary or the general election).

Note: petitioners do **not** have to reside in Illinois or be a registered voter.

#### When can I circulate petitions?

The signature collection period is between Tuesday, March 23 and Friday, June 18, 2010. Petitioners certify on each petition that no signatures were gathered before March 23.

#### Where can I circulate petitions?

Anywhere. The only requirement is that the signer is an Illinois registered voter and that the petitioner physically watches them sign the petition.

#### Can two circulators share a form?

No. Two circulators can go out together and petition, but a single person must sign the bottom of each form. That person is the official circulator for that page.

#### Can people be paid to collect signatures?

Yes, but you should know that: 1) paid petitioners must meet the requirements above, 2) spending \$250 or more to influence a federal election is reportable to the Federal Elections Commission, and 3) all independent contractors hired by the LP Illinois will have payment totals reported to the IRS. For more information, see the *Independent Contractor Information* document on the Petition Drive page of our website.

### Petition Signers

#### Who can sign a petition?

Any person who is registered to vote in Illinois can sign a petition. People who signed for other parties in the primary **can sign** our petitions for the general election. People who signed petitions for independents or other parties for the general election **should not sign** our petition. Circulators **can sign** their own petitions.

#### If a person uses a nickname, like Jim for James, what name should they sign?

They should sign the name they used to register to vote. Typically, this is their formal name, like James.



**Can a person sign for someone else, like a family member?**

No. However, a person can help by filling out the rest of the information, leaving only the signature space to be signed by the individual. Ditto marks should not be used.

**If signers have moved and not updated their voter registration, what address should they use?**

The address where they are registered to vote. (P.O. Boxes are not allowed.) Do **not** register voters when you collect their signatures. Such signatures are not valid.

**What else should I know about addresses?**

Printing is preferred, but cursive addresses are OK. Common abbreviations, like *St.* or *Bld.* can be used. Encourage people to fill in their complete town name. Neatness counts—if our petitions are challenged, the address is used in verifying signatures.

**Petition Collection**

**How many signatures should a petitioner be able to collect per hour?**

The number can vary significantly, but if petitioning door-to-door, 10 is a reasonable estimate. If petitioning in a busy location, 20.

**What can a person use to sign a petition?**

Blue ink is best, but any dark ink is OK. Pencil is accepted, but not advisable.

**Can someone sign a petition when the circulator is not present?**

No. Every signature must be physically witnessed by the circulator who signs the bottom of that petition form.

**What should be done if a signer makes a mistake when filling out the form?**

The signer should draw a line through the incorrect row and write the correct information in the row below.

**What if someone tells me to leave while I'm out petitioning?**

First, avoid trouble by remaining polite and out of the flow of traffic at all times. On private property, respect the owner's wishes. On public streets, kindly explain that you have the right to perform a public service on public property. If pressed, leave peacefully rather than be involved in an incident.

**Petition Completion**

**What if my petition form is not filled with signatures?**

At the end of the drive, turn in all forms even if there are only a few signatures on a page. Every signature counts towards our 50,000 signature goal.

**Does the notary of petitions have to be an Illinois notary?**

Yes, the notary must be registered in Illinois.

**Can the notary of a petition also sign the petition?**

Please do not allow notaries to sign any petition that they notarize. We don't want all the form(s) he or she notarized to be challenged.

**Other Questions?**

See *How to Petition Successfully* and the *Petition Sample* documents on the Petition Drive page of LPillinois.org or contact the Petition Drive Manager.