



VOTE LIBERTARIAN ILLINOIS

How to Petition Successfully

Libertarians will collect 50,000 petition signatures to get our state-wide Illinois candidates on the November 2010 ballot. The 90-day petition period begins **March 23, 2010**. No signatures can be collected before this date.

The following describes the steps to collecting valid petition signatures.

Step 1 – Gather Materials

- **Petition forms** – can be downloaded from our website, LPillinois.org, on the Petition Drive page. You can also ask Campaign Coordinators for petition forms.
- **Clipboards** – or a similar hard surface to write on is essential. Any office supply store will have cheap clipboards. It's OK to start with one, but many find it faster collecting with two or even three clipboards, so several people can sign at once.
- **Pens** – will be lost and run out of ink. Bring three times the number of clipboards you have. You may wish to attach a pen to each clipboard with string.
- **Rubber bands** (optional) – that can be looped across your clipboard are helpful. If it's windy, you can keep the petition forms flat with them. You can also use them to keep full petitions folded over the top or to hold pens or brochures.
- **Brochures** (optional) – are useful for people who want more information about the Libertarian Party. You can download the LP Illinois brochure from our website or you can request them be sent to you by contacting us.

Step 2 – Find Petition Signers

There are three main ways to gather signatures. Mix and match as you like:

- **Go door to door** – it's the most time-intensive way, but the signatures are high quality and extremely valuable if our petitions are challenged. It's also a great way to meet and greet around your neighborhood. If you want to cut down on the number of doorbells to ring, contact us for a list of registered voters in your area.
- **Visit busy locations** – it's the fastest way to fill forms. If you choose public areas like court buildings, parks, drivers' license facilities, bus and train stations, social security offices, libraries, festivals, or parades, be sure to avoid interfering with traffic flow. If you choose private property, like in front of stores, coffee shops, malls, concerts, sporting events, or theatres, ask permission from the manager before you start. Libertarians support property rights.
- **Ask people you know** – it's the easiest way. Carry a clipboard with petition forms wherever you go. Ask your friends, relatives, co-workers (if not against company policy), and club members to sign. Every signature is needed and valued.

The most important thing about gathering signatures is to not be afraid. You'll be pleasantly surprised by how willing people are to help you and how many libertarians and people interested in learning more about libertarian ideas you will meet.



Step 3 – Collect Signatures

Smile, say hello, and ask "**Are you registered to vote in Illinois?**" Only registered voters count. Possible answers to this question and your response:

- **Yes** - "I'm collecting signatures to get people on the ballot in November. Will you help me?" Try giving them the clipboard and pen. "You just have to sign and print your name and address." If they take the clipboard, thank them and stop talking.
- **No** – "Thank you. Have a nice day." Move on. Don't get discouraged—petitioning is a numbers game. Ask enough people and you'll get enough signatures.
- **Hesitates** - "Signing doesn't mean that you'll vote for them, you're just helping them get on the ballot so other people can." Try giving them the clipboard and pen. You can also look them in the eye and add, "I hope you will help me out."
- **Requests info** – Plan a brief answer to "What are the Libertarians?" For example, "Libertarians are the sensible center of politics; they are both socially tolerant and economically responsible." Do your best to keep each encounter short. Don't spend time and energy in discussions while potential signers are passing by. If people want to talk politics, tell them "I'm just here to collect signatures today." People wanting more info can be given a brochure or sent to our website, LPillinois.org.

You are responsible for watching people sign their names. When they are done, glance at the petition to see that their boxes are all filled before they leave.

Step 4 – Get Notarized

Every petition page must be notarized in person by a registered notary. **Don't sign your name on the bottom of your petition forms** until the notary instructs you to do so (although the rest can be pre-filled out). Also, **leave the sheet number empty** – petition forms will be compiled from across the state and then numbered sequentially.

If you need a notary, see the list of Petition Drive Coordinators from our website's Petition Drive page—many can notarize petitions. You can also ask friends, relatives, and co-workers if they are a notary or if they know one. Most banks will notarize documents for their customers for free along with many libraries and county clerk offices. Other people to ask are your real estate and insurance agents. Currency exchanges or places like UPS Stores and Mailbox, etc. may have notaries, but charge a fee. If someone asks for a fee, the legal maximum in Illinois is \$1 per page.

Step 5 - Turn in Petitions

Petitions can be given to any Campaign/Petition Drive Coordinator. Notarized petitions can also be mailed to the Petition Drive Manager.

The last day to turn in petitions to a Campaign Coordinator or have them received in the mail is Friday, June 18, 2010. Petitions will be bound and delivered to the State Board of Elections in Springfield on Monday, June 21, 2010.

By petitioning to get Libertarian candidates on the ballot, you are performing a noble public service. Even beyond supporting our candidates directly, being on the ballot makes the Libertarian Party "real" to voters and grows interest and activism in liberty. Stay tuned to the LP Illinois News for updates on campaign achievements and more ways you can help get more Libertarians elected to public office.