



VOTE LIBERTARIAN ILLINOIS

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 VLI Chair (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 March 25 and June 15, 2008. Petitioners certify on each petition that no signatures were gathered before March 25. Exceptions for any petitioning past June 15 will be made in writing by the Petition Manager or VLI Chair.

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.

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) paying an independent contractor \$600 or more in a calendar year is reportable 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, what name should they sign?

They should sign the name they used to register to vote. Typically, their formal name.



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 voters 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 will fail a challenge.

What else should I know about addresses?

Printed 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. In public places, kindly explain that you know your rights and have the right to perform a public service on public property.

You can also: ask to speak to a supervisor, ask for the contact info of the person responsible, and call Sean Haugh, LP Political Director, at 202-288-9853. He will speak to the person responsible, if you believe it will help. Of course, you can always just move to another place.

Petition Completion

What if my petition isn't filled?

Every signature counts. Turn your form in even if there are only a few signatures on the page.

Does the notary of petitions have to be an Illinois notary? Can the notary of a petition also sign the petition?

Yes and No. We don't want the form(s) he or she notarized to be challenged.

Other Questions?

Check the companion document, *Five Steps to Petitioning Success*, available on the Petition Drive page of LPillinois.org or contact the VLI Chair (see bottom of page 1).