

WeDemandAVote.Com
Instructions for Circulators
Trolley Petitions

Petitioning is one of the greatest acts of participation in our American political process. It is enshrined as a fundamental right set forth in the United States Constitution and part of municipal governance as set forth in the Ohio Constitution.

Today, however, the legislature and courts show overt hostility towards the petitioning process, allowing lawyers to challenge individual signatures and entire petitions for technical violations. Further, petitioning is now a tightly legally regulated activity, involving consequences, including severe *criminal penalties* for certain transgressions for those who do not strictly follow the rules.

Therefore, please read these instructions before circulating your petition, and follow these instructions carefully. The most common mistakes are noted in **bold** below. So, thank you for your help-it is appreciated, but be careful out there.

Qualifications

- 1) Only residents of Ohio may circulate petitions. You do not, however, have to be registered to vote in Ohio.
- 2) No individual convicted of a felony under the laws of this Ohio, or any other state or the United States may circulate a petition
- 3) **Only people who are registered to vote in the City of Cincinnati may sign this petition.**

Petition

- 4) **If you are printing a petition off of the internet (as opposed to working with a pre-printed petition form), make sure that you are using a color printer and that the entire petition prints properly on the page, without any text cut off.**
- 5) Take care to avoid tearing your petition, or having it defaced with coffee and water stains.
- 6) Please keep control of your own petition. Do not circulate someone else's petition and do not allow someone else to circulate yours.
- 7) **Do not leave your petition unattended on a table or at a bar. You personally must witness (with your own eyes) persons affixing signatures to your petition.**
- 8)

Signatures

- 9) We are seeking signatures from registered voters in the City of Cincinnati and its 26 neighborhoods. Signatures from persons registered in outlying suburbs such as Anderson Township and Forest Park do not qualify.
- 10) **DO NOT SIGN YOUR OWN PETITION**, except as a circulator. If you do, you are witnessing your own signature and every single signature on your petition will be discarded.
- 11) You must witness each signature personally. Your signature at the end is your sworn statement that this is so, so adhere to this rule with each signature.
- 12) Since you must witness each signer signing the petitions, **YOU MAY NOT ALLOW A HUSBAND TO SIGN FOR A WIFE, A DAUGHTER TO SIGN FOR A MOTHER, ETC.** Many signers will ask, even beg, you to allow them to affix the signature of another. **DO NOT** allow it ever, under any circumstances. The signer may sign his name only.
- 13) Even if the "signer" gives you consent, you may not sign their name for them. The signer must sign his or her own name.
- 14) All signatures must be in ink. No pencils are allowed.
- 15) All signatures must be affixed as **signatures, not printing**; and signatures should be **full names, not initials** unless the signer regularly signs by printing or with initials.

- 16) Signed names should be legible, if possible. If not possible, print the name above or next to the signature. Either the signer or the circulator may print the name following such signature.
- 17) The address should be the signer's address as registered with the Board of Elections.
- 18) The date should be the date of signing. Be careful with the date each signer on a particular day uses, because signers typically will just copy the date immediately above theirs. Also, note errors in the date, because subsequent signers will frequently repeat that error. Dates out of sequence on a petition (should be difficult if not impossible if signatures are in the order they were signed) may cause the entire petition to be voided.
- 19) Read the signatures affixed to petitions. Occasionally, folks attempting to sabotage a petition drive legally will affix names such as "Fidel Castro" or "Mickey Mouse" to claim that the circulator created false signatures.
- 20) If there is a bad signature on your petition because of a false name or, for example, you or the signer determine after signing that they are registered somewhere other than the City of Cincinnati, draw a single line from left to right through the signature, the address and the date.

Certification

- 21) The certification is the most important part of the petition. If there is any error in the certification or any "interlineation" or scratch through in the certification, the Board of Elections may throw out the entire petition.
- 22) **Print** your name in the first blank. Use your full name, not abbreviations or initials.
- 23) **Print** the number of signatures in the second blank (excluding only those scratched through). Be sure to count carefully. If you count too few, even by one, your entire petition will be discarded.
- 24) **Sign** the petition where noted.
- 25) **Print** the address where you reside (even if registered at a different address).

Please return your petition before July 15, 2009 to:

Mark Miller
WeDemandAVote.com
3630 Zumstein Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45208
Questions: 513-617-2263

Whether you have one signature or 35, we need your help. Any number is appreciated.

You are a hero for taking our participatory rights in our Republic seriously enough to volunteer for this effort. Thank you for your efforts.