

# **Volunteer Signature Gathering Guide**

#### Learn the Ins and Outs of the Initiative:

Read the factsheets and Q & A materials available at OurNeighborhoodVoices.com/action.

### **Request Your Petitions**

Petitions can be obtained by filling out the form at OurNeighborhoodVoices.com/action and upon completion of a local or zoom-based training.

#### **Find Good Places to Petition**

Community meetings, HOA meetings and other gatherings are great places to gather with a clipboard to set up a table or booth. Be respectful of all rules for meetings/events, and where feasible obtain permission ahead of time. Do not gather on government property, such as a City Hall or at a school, but public places such as a park are permissible.

Other Good signature gathering locations have a regular flow of people coming in and out. Traditional venues include Grocery stores/Big Box stores, farmers markets, post offices, fairs and other events. You are strongly advised to call locations ahead of time -- some stores have applications or other rules about where signature gatherers can operate. The right to petition in public places is protected as political speech, but petitioners cannot create a safety hazard, and generally must be on public property.

#### **Gather Necessary Supplies.**

Bring plenty of blank petitions, as well as fact sheets with campaign contact information and the official "Top Funders" sheet. You should have at Least 2 or 3 clipboards (legal size clipboard), pens with blue or black ink.

If you are tabling at an event or a location, a small table is helpful as are "easy up" shade devices. You should print campaign logos or otherwise craft signs consistent with the campaign's messages.

#### When Gathering

- All signature gatherers must be qualified to vote in California.
- All signers must reside in the same county. Use a separate form for each county if you
  feel there may be voters of multiple counties present. It's a good idea to even label
  clipboards by County to keep them organized.
- Check to be sure the petition has been filled out completely and is legible. Voters must PRINT their NAME and ADDRESS (where they are registered to vote) and then SIGN.
- Forms must be signed and dated by the circulator to be valid. The circulator must also be
  a registered voter, but need not reside in the same county as signers.
- Petitions with only one signer are valid, but must also be signed by a circulator, which can be the same person. So you can be your own signer and circulator, but both sections of the form must be complete.

**Join Us!** 

www.OurNeighborhoodVoices.com/action



## **Volunteer Signature Gathering Guide continued**

#### After You Complete a Gathering Shift or Event

- 1. Do a hand count of the signatures gathered.
- 2. Take a photograph of all completed pages and email to petitions@OurNeighborhoodVoices.com
- 3. Store your petitions in a safe, secure, dry place. These petitions have value! Do not allow them to be lost or damaged.
- 4. Return your petitions to a local coordinator or mail to:

Our Neighborhood Voices 4712 E 2nd Street, Suite 670 Long Beach, CA 90803

### **Legal Requirements**

**DO:** answer truthfully if you are asked if you are paid or a volunteer. (Elections Code § 18600(c).

**DO:** allow prospective signers to read the measure and AG title and summary. (Elections Code § 18601; 18602.)

**DO NOT:** knowingly or willfully permit the list of signatures on the initiative petition to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the initiative for the ballot. (Elections Code § 18650.)

**DO NOT:** intentionally misrepresent or intentionally make any false statement concerning the contents, purport or effect of the petition. (Elections Code § 18600(a).

**DO NOT:** offer anything of value to a prospective signer in exchange for their signature.

## Other Helpful Do's and Don'ts

DO: Have the "Top Funders" sheet available for all potential signers to review.

**DO:** Confirm that each signer is registered to vote in California and confirm their County of residence matches that on your petition.

**DO:** Make sure that each petition signer fills out all the necessary information, including their signature, printed name, residential street address, ZIP code Ask people to print legibly so we can read their name and contact information.

**DO:** Be polite and respectful. Engage in polite conversation and answer questions.

**DO NOT:** Answer questions where you are unsure of the correct response. Giving false information in petition gathering is a serious offense. You can use provided factsheets or direct voters to the campaign website.

**DO NOT:** Alter the petition in any way, or obscure any text. By law, all information must be legible and visible to the signer when signing.

**DO NOT:** let antagonists bait you or draw your time from others who may be supportive of our effort. Be polite and move on from any arguments.

**DO NOT:** Let petitions out of your sight. A circulator must personally supervise each signature, and your training is essential to ensure signers complete their sections accurately.

DO NOT: Alter the petition packet in any way, including removing or marking up pages.