



PETITIONING GUIDE

FOR “OUR COMMUNITY, OUR RIGHTS” INITIATIVES

“FREEDOM FROM AERIAL SPRAYING OF HERBICIDES” & “RIGHT TO LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT” CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide you with the necessary petitioning information needed to help in the effort for ballot qualification of our Lane County charter amendment initiatives. In addition, your signature gathering will help build awareness of the campaign and the reasons why such changes to the Lane County charter are necessary. Petitioning also helps attract volunteers and supporters to the campaign. As such, please treat every interaction with voters as important.

Who Can Circulate Petitions?

Practically anyone. There are no citizenship, age, residency, or voter registration requirements for someone to be a petition circulator. There are only a few reasons why someone cannot circulate petitions.¹

What Are The Rules?

- **FIRST THINGS FIRST: READ THE INSTRUCTIONS TO CIRCULATORS!** On the back of the signature sheet are the “Instructions to Circulators”. Read and follow these very closely!
- **Signature gatherers must do their best to confirm that the person signing is a registered voter in Oregon and has not already signed the petition.** Typically, you would just ask, “Are you registered to vote in Oregon?” And if they say “yes”, ask if they have already signed our petition.
- **If a person has already signed, they may not sign again.** If someone is uncertain if they have already signed, it’s best to not let them sign. That upholds our responsibility and also protects the campaign. Besides, duplicate signatures, which is what happens when someone signs twice, count strongly against us.
- **All signatures on a sheet must be witnessed by the signature gatherer;** signed and dated by the signature gatherer when they complete the sheet (or cease to work on it). The date must be on or after the date of the signatures themselves, and pre-dating the sheet is not allowed.
- **A single circulator must personally witness all signatures collected on any one signature sheet. Given that, signature sheets cannot be shared among circulators.**
- **You must *always* have a copy of the full initiative text with your signature sheet.**
- **It is against the law to:** 1) Circulate a petition containing a false signature, 2) Make false statements to any person who signs the petition or requests information about it, 3) Attempt to obtain the signature of a person who is not qualified to sign the petition, 4) Offer money or anything of value to another person to sign or not sign the petition, 5) Sell or offer to sell signature sheets, 6) Write, alter, correct, clarify or obscure any information about the signers unless the signer is disabled and requests assistance or the signer initials after the changes are made, 7) Accept compensation to circulate a petition that is based on the number of signature obtained
- **Never leave a petition sheet unattended at a table or other location to be signed.**

Tips and Guidelines

- **Keep interactions with voters concise and to the point.** Since this issue may seem new for many people, you may have to explain the purpose and why the initiatives are necessary. But your job is not to convince people to sign. **It’s better to ask a lot of people the basic question than have protracted discussion with a few people.**
- A basic ask is “*Will you sign to protect your neighbors from the aerial spraying of toxic herbicides?*”
- Circulators can sign their own petitions if they are eligible to sign and if they have not signed already.
- Pay attention to what works and what doesn’t. Learn what messages work best, and what locations, times, etc. return the most signatures. Share what you learn with the campaign and other circulators.
- **If you have any questions, please contact robd@pobox.com 541-543-5735.**

¹ The main reasons why someone can not circulate petitions is if they have been convicted of a crime (fraud, forgery, or identity theft) or fined for violating a list of 10 different election law rules. If you have any question as to your legal ability to circulate petitions, please ask the campaign or your local petitioning coordinator before doing any circulating.