



Tips for collecting signatures

- Make a clipboard or two for yourself out of heavy cardboard (or make it stronger with two pieces of heavy cardboard taped together) big enough to fit the entire petition. Use a clip or rubber bands. Or get a clipboard from a coordinator.
- When you go out, use two clipboards. Keep one with petition sheets you've already collected signatures on, in county order alphabetically, and the other for new sheets.
- Put our "Sign Ban Fracking Petition Here" sign on the back of your clipboard, and the "county list" on the other side, to refer to if needed. You can find both on our website under Volunteer Start-up Kit.
- When tabling, or at a busy venue, use several clipboards with the most popular counties on each so you can hand someone the right county clipboard, rather than flipping through sheets.
- Re-order your clipboard every now and then to keep in alphabetical order.
- Going with a friend makes it a little easier. Collect on opposite sides of a street, nearby each other, so that you can give each other breaks when needed.
- Make a larger sign that says "Sign Ban Fracking Petition Here" (use our "sign petition here" on the Volunteer Start-Up Kit and make it larger), and lean up against a post or wall nearby you. Some circulators have made this sign into a stand-alone sign, with the sign on both sides. It's an attention-getter.
- We have 100 small "letsbanfracking.org" vinyl banners, and some coordinators still have these. Call for one if you plan to do a lot of tabling. 231-944-8750
- Position yourself in a location where the most people are passing by. Ask people entering or exiting a building, or lining up on a sidewalk waiting to get into an event.
- Sometimes wandering a crowd and asking small groups of people or individuals works better than standing in one place.
- Experiment with what to say to people: "Hi, have you signed our petition to ban fracking and frack wastes yet?" or "Sign the petition here to ban fracking, help us get on the ballot."
- Be conversational and get people's attention individually by looking at them and making eye contact. Smile and say "hello." It's much harder for people to ignore you when you're being friendly and conversational.

- When asking passers-by, expect people to say “no” to you for a while. Be patient and don’t get disappointed by the number of people who say no. After the first 5 or 10 minutes standing out there, people will begin to say yes.
- Ask everyone who looks like an adult. Sometimes we ask people younger than 18 but better to be sure to ask, than ignore younger people.
- Small groups of people who are walking by are great to ask, because you can explain fracking once, and get 3 or 4 signatures.
- Dealing with a discourteous or hostile person can be difficult. Sometimes people will say “I love fracking.” A tactful come-back, if one is needed at all, might be “well you probably won’t five years from now” or “nobody loves frack wastes.”
- Don’t take duplicate signatures. Sometimes people can’t remember if or when they’ve signed. Ask: how long ago was it? Last year? Longer than that? Could it have been back in 2013? The petition we are using is the SAME ONE as we’ve used in 2015. So anyone signing in 2015, 2016, or 2017 should not sign again. If they are not sure, take their signature. Put “Dup?” for duplicate in the email section on that line.
- Tell people that we look up all the signatures to make sure there aren’t duplicates, but signers cannot knowingly sign more than once, nor is it legal for a circulator to intentionally collect a duplicate. The best thing is to help people out, and take their signature when they don’t know for sure.
- Always witness the signer while signing, or be close by. (The law is the signer must sign “in your presence.”)
- First ask what county they vote in, and get them on the right sheet. Make a sheet for that county if you need to.
- Ask if they are a registered voter in Michigan. A good way to get at that is when you give them the clipboard, ask them “In which city or township are you registered to vote? Write down the name of that city or township.”
- Just street address is needed. No post office boxes or ditto marks.
- Tell the signer the date when they get to that part: “Today’s date is 2-22-18.”
- Carry our brochure with you, and show it to them. Tell people to go to our website to see it there. (The online version has the footnotes hot-linked to the original sources, and it can be emailed to friends).
- Tell people to go to our website, www.letsbanfracking.org and to our Facebook page, “Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan.”
- Tell them to Vote YES in November when we are on the ballot. It’s “Yes, let’s BAN fracking” and it’s not “NO, no fracking.” We are proposing this law to ban fracking and frack wastes, so we need to vote “yes” to pass it into law. (All ballot proposals ask the same thing: “Do you want this law, yes or no?”)