

NOTE: You must read the following rules before you can collect signatures for the petition!

Rules for Canvassers

GOOD HANDWRITING IS VERY IMPORTANT !

1. **Canvasser:** A person who gathers signatures on a petition.
2. **Canvasser Qualifications:** A person over the age of 18. No special training or permission is required. Be familiar with the rules for circulating the petition that are printed on the front of each petition.
3. **Circulating the Petition:** Canvassers **MUST** witness each person sign the petition. This is a state law. Petitions should never be left unattended in a public place, as they would not be witnessed by the canvasser as being signed. Petitions can also be lost or stolen, so canvassers should keep petitions safely in plain sight at all times. **Good handwriting** is important!
Suggestion: Please do not leave petitions unattended in public places where people can sign outside the view of the canvasser. Leaving the petition on tables in churches or on counters in stores is never recommended, unless the canvasser is watching each person sign their name (required by state law). **Good handwriting** is important!
4. **Counties:** Each page of petition signatures must contain those signatures of people who live in the same county. **Voters from more than one county may not sign on the same petition page.**
5. **Signing Your Own Petition:** A canvasser may sign his or her name on his/her own petition. A canvasser may not, however, notarize his or her own petition. Notaries also may not notarize a petition they have signed themselves.
6. **Signatures Not Witnessed:** If a canvasser did not personally witness a particular signature or if they have reason to believe that any signatures on their petition are invalid, the canvasser should cross out the name lightly in ink (NOT marker) and disqualify it before sending in the signed petition pages.
7. **Correcting Information on the Petition:** Allowed: canvassers may enter a person's address and even print the person's name for them, but they are not allowed to sign for the person or tamper with the person's signature. Remember, **good handwriting!**
Suggestion: Before submitting one's petitions, please review them, filling in any information and clarifying anything that would make verification of the person's signature easier.
8. **Notarizing the Canvasser's Signature:** Petitions are not valid unless the signature of the canvasser is notarized. Canvassers must sign the affidavit at the bottom of the petition in the presence of a notary. The 'COUNTY OF' blank in the Affidavit is a space for the canvasser to write in the name of the county in which they are a resident. Petition signatures may be gathered in one county and have their signature notarized elsewhere. The notary is notarizing the signature of the canvasser only, not the petition signers. A canvasser may not notarize his or her own signature.
9. **Multiple Canvassers:** Two canvassers cannot circulate the same petition.
Suggestion: If you are coordinating a signature effort at a polling place or in a church, please do not collect petitions from your team of canvassers until each team member has had his or her signature notarized. Do not sign the canvasser signature spot unless you were the canvasser.
10. **Photocopying Petitions:** Canvassers may photocopy the 4 pages of this blank petition onto 2 sheets of paper as long as page 1 and page 2 are on one sheet & page 3 and page 4 (the signature page) are on the 2nd sheet. (Staple the 2 sheets together.) You **must** have the entire petition (both pages) affixed together when you gather signatures so the signers can read it.
11. **Filling the Page:** Please attempt to have all fifteen signature spaces completed on each petition. However, you may turn in sheets with 1- 15 signatures on them.
12. **Sending petitions** – When you send in your petitions, make sure that all pages are included. Don't just mail in the signature page. Remember: you may only gather signatures on a petition with all pages affixed together. On signature page Affidavit: "I, _____ being first duly sworn..." is the canvasser.

We strongly recommend that you place your petitions on clipboards or another suitable writing surface. Canvassers must furnish their own clipboards. If you are in a high traffic area, please have several clipboards to maximize the number of people who can sign in quickly. Remind them – good handwriting!

DO NOT STAPLE THESE RULES TO THE PETITION

(OVER) →

Rules for Those Who Sign the Petition

1. **Who Can Sign:** Any person registered to vote in Arkansas.
2. **Signing for Others:** No one may sign the petition for anyone else. Husband and wife must sign separately
3. **Signing in Ink:** The petition must be signed in ink. Signing in pencil is not permitted.
Suggestion: Rules for gathering signatures listed on the petition mention signing in indelible pencil. Indelible means permanent or non-erasable. Please use ink.
4. **Citizens Not Registered to Vote:** Citizens are not permitted to sign the petition and then register to vote before the petitions are submitted to the Arkansas Secretary of State. Signers must be registered to vote before they sign the petition.

Rules for Gathering Signatures at Voting Places

1. **Keeping Your Distance:** When gathering signatures at voting places, you (the canvasser) must remain at least 100 feet from the entrance to the voting place. PLEASE check with the people running the election to be sure that good will is maintained.
Suggestion: By asking election officials where you may stand, you may actually be allowed to stand closer to the door than you previously thought. Having multiple clipboards with petitions on them at voting places will enable you to secure more signatures in less time. Voters won't have to wait in line for their turn to sign the petition. Voters may be more willing to sign the petition when they are leaving the voting place than when they are on their way inside to vote.
2. **Campaign Material:** Secure Arkansas and all volunteers gathering signatures for this endeavor are prohibited by law from endorsing any political candidate or intervening in their election. Please do not wear any campaign material of any candidate when gathering signatures.

Rules for Gathering Signatures in Churches

1. **Is it Legal?** IRS regulations permit the circulating of petitions in churches and they allow pastors to encourage church members to vote for proposed initiated acts. Churches may not spend more than 5% of their annual income on this type of activity.
2. **Gathering the Signatures:** Group meetings (ie. Sunday School, Bible Studies, Prayer Meetings, and others) are good places, as well as fellowships and other informal gatherings. You may want to station several people near the entrances and exits of the church to gather signatures as people enter and leave the services.
Suggestion: Petitions circulated in churches should never be left out of your sight. You (the canvasser) should witness every signature. State law requires you to sign a statement that you witnessed every signature.

Places to Canvass for Signatures

1. **No Permission Is Required:**
 - (A) In public areas near the entrance to sporting events, political rallies, concerts, festivals;
 - (B) Door to door;
 - (C) Public street or sidewalk;
 - (D) Voting places
2. **Permission Is Required from Someone in Charge:**
 - (A) Inside sporting events, concerts, political rallies and festivals;
 - (B) Churches;
 - (C) At Places of Employment;
 - (D) Parking Lots and Businesses;
 - (E) State or Federal Parks or Recreation Areas;
 - (F) Schools and Colleges

Before submitting your signatures: When you send in your petitions, make sure that all pages are included. Don't just mail in the signature page. Remember: you may only gather signatures on a petition with all pages affixed together. **DO NOT staple these rules to petition.**

Please mail your petitions to:

Secure Arkansas
P.O. Box 21096
Little Rock, AR 72221
Telephone: 501-765-3325