

Instructions for Petition Circulators & Signers – Illinois

Directions for Signers

- **You must be a registered voter in the district.** Your voting history in previous elections does not matter.
- You may not sign petitions for candidates of more than one political party in the same election, though you may sign petitions for ballot measures and independent candidates.
- You may sign petitions for as many candidates as you wish each election.
- **Take your time! Your signature needs to match your “official” signature on file with the Clerk’s Office for it to count.**
- You must sign your name as you are registered to vote. For example, William E. Jones, not Bill Jones.
- **Do not use ditto marks for any part of an address or county.**
- You must use the address where you are registered to vote. Post Office boxes are not acceptable.
- You cannot sign anyone else’s name, including a family member.

Directions for Circulators

- You must be 18 years of age or older and a US Citizen.
- You need not have voted in a previous election. Your voting history in previous elections does not matter.
- You may not circulate petitions for more than one political party in the same election.
- **You must personally witness all signatures made on this petition.**
- You may sign your own petition if you are a registered voter in the district.
- You may pass this petition anywhere, though **signatures must be from registered voters who reside within the district.**
- Petitions with fewer names than a full page do count. If you are not able to fill a petition sheet, still send it in to the campaign. Each signature counts.
- If you learn a signature is not valid, do not cross it out. Bad signatures do not knock out other good signatures or invalidate a petition. However, known bad signatures should be brought to the attention of the campaign so that they can be officially struck.
- You must sign as the circulator of the petition before a Notary Public licensed in Illinois and the Notary Public must affix his/her seal or stamp. Most banks and libraries will notarize free of charge.
- **Do not number the petition page.**
- Circulate carefully and intentionally. A circulator who routinely disregards the signature gathering rules may have an entire sheet stricken even though some signatures are valid.