

Circulating Your Petition

Below are a few helpful guidelines to keep in mind when you circulate your petition.

- Before obtaining any signatures, make sure the Declaration of Candidacy and Petition for Candidate sections are fully completed, signed, and dated. Candidates may fill one part petition out and make copies, but it is recommended, for your protection, that all part petition forms be signed with an original signature. At least one part petition must be filed with an original signature.
- Please provide your name as you wish it to appear on the ballot. No nicknames may be used unless they are a natural derivative of your given name. Example: “Bill” for William or “Beth” for Elizabeth.
- Candidates may not sign their own petitions. The signature will be invalidated.
- For the purposes of circulating or signing a partisan petition, the circulator or signer must be a member of the political party, meaning they voted in that party’s Primary Election within the 2 preceding calendar years.
- Circulators may not sign the part petition they are circulating. The signature will be invalidated. Circulators, other than the candidate, may sign a part petition being circulated by someone else.
- Each part petition shall be circulated by one person only and contain the signatures of voters from only one county. If a petition is to be circulated in multiple counties, separate petition papers must be circulated in each county.
- Candidates may wish to collect more signature than needed, provided that the quantity does not exceed the maximum allowed (3 times the required amount.) Any petition that appears on its face to contain more than three times the required amount of signatures will not be accepted for filing.
- Guidelines for Signatures:
 1. It must be the voter’s legal cursive signature. If legibility is a concern, the voter or the circulator may print the voters name above or off to the side of the signature or on a separate sheet of paper, to be filed with the part petition, noting the line number it corresponds to.
 2. Signatures must be provided in ink. Signatures in pencil will be invalidated.
 3. Petition signers must be able to vote for the candidate. A petition for an independent candidate can be signed by any qualified elector who can vote for the candidate.
 4. Petition signers must provide their residential address. PO Box addresses are not permitted and the signature will be invalidated. Ditto marks for the address information and date are permitted. They must be present in blanks where information is not provided, or the signature will be invalidated.
 5. The name and address provided by petition signers must be the name and address on their voter record at the Board of Elections. If they are not registered to vote or if they have had a change of name or address, please have them complete a voter registration and information update form and submit it before or at the time of your petition filing.

All voter registrations and updates submitted at the time of a petition filing will be entered prior to the processing of the petition.

6. All signatures collected must be obtained in the presence of the circulator. No one (spouses, siblings, children, etc.) may sign on the behalf of another UNLESS they have Attorney in Fact privileges, the record of which would be on file with the Board of Elections. If a signature is not witnessed by the circulator, it invalidates the entire part petition.
- The circulator of each part petition is required to complete the Circulator Statement on their part petition(s). Please make sure to include only the total number of signature contained on each individual part petition.

Please note that proper completion of the petition parts is your responsibility. Before filing, check each of the parts carefully. Mistakes by circulators or voters, or incorrect advice by Board of Elections Staff, are not grounds for approving a defective petition.