



RULES FOR CIRCULATING OH BALLOT ACCESS PETITIONS TO OBTAIN VALID SIGNATURES

(PUT NON-PARTISAN CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT; PUT INITIATIVE-REFERENDUM ISSUES
ON THE BALLOT; FORM POLITICAL PARTIES)

1. **You**, as a **petition circulator**, must be a “**qualified elector** of the State of Ohio.” In other words, you must be **registered to vote** and your current voter registration must reflect your **correct name and address**. With your voter registration up to date, you can circulate any petition paper you choose anywhere in the State of Ohio. Be an active citizen.
2. **Candidate Petitions:** The “Statement of Candidacy” portion of each Candidate petition must be completely filled out and signed by the candidate before being circulated. Copies of the original petition are used to circulate petition papers for signatures.
3. Signatures must be written in **ink**. Use **fine point** ink pens to write in small petition spaces. Black or Blue inks are accepted. Avoid other ink colors.
4. **Every signature** on a Petition Sheet must be from voters **who are registered in the same county**. **Hint: Always have several petition sheets** with you so you can take the signatures of electors from surrounding counties in the area where you are collecting signatures. If you do not have another blank sheet, refer the elector to a fellow circulator with a blank sheet or with a sheet already used for the voter's county.
5. The circulator must **personally witness every signature**. **Watch each voter as they sign**.
6. Tell signers the **name and address** shown must be **exactly** the ones shown on the signer's voter **registration records**. The Address must be where the signer lives. No PO Box. Have the signer re-register for a new name or address. Always have Registration forms with you.
7. **Do not allow** anyone to sign who you know to be unqualified to sign.
8. **Do not allow** anyone to sign for another person. The **signature must match** the voter registration records.
9. **You are not allowed** to sign a petition sheet that you are circulating. To give a valid signature, you must sign a petition sheet being circulated by another petition circulator.
10. Board of election personnel can reject any entry with an **illegible signature** (and Address). OH petitions do not contain a space for the signer to print his/her name. You or the signer can legibly print the signer's name “immediately underneath the signature” as required in OH law. There are two ways to print a legible name: (1) Mark through the number of the next line and print the name in the signature block for that line “immediately underneath” the signature block above. (2) Print the name in the same signature block and “underneath the voter's signature” if there is room to print legibly. (1) Is best if space is limited for (2).
11. **Circulator Paragraph:** Draw a line in ink to mark through any numbered entry that you know is invalid for any reason. The **number of signatures** you indicate in the space provided **must match** the **exact number of signature entries on the sheet** or the entire petition sheet can be rejected. Fill in your printed name, signature, and resident address exactly as shown on **your voter registration records**. Look at your voter registration card.
12. Follow the above instructions exactly: Try to **make every signature count**. Turn in partial petition sheets “now” if you have no set plans to circulate petitions within a week or two. Even one voter's signature needs to be counted. Mail/turn in petition sheets weekly.

Mail completed petition sheets with a copy included: Independent Voters Alliance (OHIVA)

(Use alternate address as needed. Keep “IVA” address line.)

PO Box 9954

(1st line C/O “care of” “Resident” for home addresses used.)

Cincinnati, OH 45209-0954

Email ohioiva@aol.com. Need help, please ask? Cincinnati: 1-513-251-3155

Or turn completed petitions in to your local petition coordinator. Questions?

COORDINATOR NAME/EMAIL:

TELEPHONE #S:

Ohio Independent Voters Alliance (OHIVA) Home Pages:

www.geocities.com/dist1oh/ohiva Hamilton County: www.geocities.com/dist1oh/uptuyu

Download link for this rules page; share with new Petition Circulators (Adobe Acrobat *.pdf File):

www.geocities.com/dist1oh/pdf/OHpetitionRules.pdf

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