

PETITION SIGNATURE GATHERING GUIDANCE

FOR CIRCULATORS OF INITIATED AND REFERENDUM PETITIONS

QUALIFICATIONS OF SIGNERS

A petition for a constitutional, statutory, or referendum measure may be signed only by qualified electors of the state of North Dakota.

Qualified electors in North Dakota are:

- U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old
- Lived in North Dakota for 30 days or more

QUALIFICATIONS OF PETITION CIRCULATORS – SIGNATURE GATHERERS

Petition circulators, also called signature gatherers, must be qualified electors of the state of North Dakota.

Petition circulators may be accompanied by others who may not be qualified voters, however:

- Petitions must remain in the physical possession of the qualified North Dakota circulator and all signatures must be witnessed by this individual.
- Any person gathering signatures for a statewide petition may not be paid anything of value based on the number of signatures gathered.
- Sponsoring committee members can circulate petitions as a qualified elector of North Dakota; however, they may not sign a petition they are personally circulating.

SIGNATURE GATHERING PROCEDURES

The below provides signature gathering procedures that must be followed for all petition packets.

1. Petition packets must be circulated in their entirety, which includes the following:
 - a. listing of the members of the sponsoring committee with complete address
 - b. petition title
 - c. full text of the measure
 - d. instruction to petition signers (included on top of each petition signature page)
 - e. signature sheets – spaces for no more than 50 signatures per packet
 - f. affidavit of circulator (signed after gathering of signatures)
2. You must be present when the signer signs the petition. Do NOT leave the petition unattended.

3. The most common reasons signatures on petitions are rejected:
 - a. Have a printed name that cannot be read. Ask the signer to print and sign clearly. Illegible printed signatures will be rejected if a name cannot be determined.,
 - b. Do not include a complete residential address, any needed apartment or suite numbers, city, state and zip code.
 - i. Must indicate if the address is a street, avenue, boulevard, place, circle, etc.,
 - ii. Must provide a directional indicator for the address – N, S, E, W, NE, SW, etc.,

Example of complete address within a signature sheet:

	Month/ Day /Year	Name of Qualified Elector PRINTED	Name of Qualified Elector SIGNATURE	RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS Include street type, any directional (N,S,E,W), apartment or suite numbers, if applicable.	CITY, STATE	ZIP CODE
1	8/1/29	Joe Smith	Joe Smith	123 Forest Blvd NE, Apt #2	Inkster, ND	58244

- c. Signed by another person, not the individual, such as his or her spouse/partner. Such signatures will be rejected. Each person must sign the petition individually.
- d. Does not include correct date that he or she signed.

PROPER COMPLETION OF AFFIDAVIT FOR SIGNATURE GATHERERS

A properly completed Affidavit of Circulator must be the last page of each circulated petition packet.

1. Do not complete and sign the affidavit before gathering signatures.
2. The affidavit must be signed by the signature gatherer and notarized, after gathering the last signature on the petition sheets.
 - *The affidavit of circulators requires signature gatherers, in part, to swear that the signers signed in their presence, are qualified electors of North Dakota, and was signed by the individual whose name appears. If you complete and sign the affidavit before asking signers to sign, you cannot legally claim that you met these factors.*
3. Signature gathers wanting to sign the petition should not sign a petition they personally circulate. They may sign the petition of another signature gatherer. Petitions signed by the individual gathering signatures will result in their signature being rejected.
4. Notaries wanting to sign the petition should not sign a petition they notarize. They may sign a petition they do not notarize. Petitions signed by the notary who notarized the affidavit of signatures will result in their signature being rejected.

NORTH DAKOTA
SECRETARY OF STATE

For question regarding petition circulation contact – 701-328-4146