MA 4 Fair Elections.org

GUIDELINES FOR COLLECTING SIGNATURES (Rev. Sep 6, 2025)

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY – THESE RULES ARE CRITICAL

This is the Absolute Requirement: **NO EXTRANEOUS MARKINGS MAY BE ON THE PETITION FORMS**

1. Use ball point pens for all writing and signing on each petition form. Do not use gel pens as they can smear.
2. Write the name of the Massachusetts city or town where the voter is registered in the three boxes provided on each petition form (on the bottom of page one, the top of page two, and the bottom of page two). **Only registered voters from that city or town** can sign that petition form.
3. If you know you will be collecting signatures from a few cities and towns, prefill the sheets with that information ahead of time so the sheet will be readily available for the signer. Attach post it note tabs identifying each town and arrange alphabetically.
4. There is no need to write in the signer's ward or precinct.
5. A voter's signature and address on the petition form must be legible and substantially the same as they appear on the registered voter list.
6. A voter may insert or omit a middle name or initial and still have the signature deemed valid.
7. Voters should sign both their first and last names. For example: Helen Jones should not sign as "Mrs. John Jones."
8. If a voter signs incorrectly or makes an error, don't erase or make changes. Leave the incorrect line intact and ask the voter to sign their name and address again on the next line.
9. Voters who are prevented from signing by physical disability may authorize another individual to sign for them in the voter's presence. No person may sign for another unless the voter is physically disabled.
10. One spouse may not sign for another.
11. **DO NOT:**
    - 11.1. Scribble, doodle, highlight, underline or write extraneous information on the petition form. The names and addresses of persons signing in the designated signature boxes aren't "extraneous information."
    - 11.2. Add any language (e.g., instructional information) to the petition form.
    - 11.3. Alter the petition form in any way.
    - 11.4. Underline, highlight, or mark any words, information, or area on the petition.
    - 11.5. Put the name, initials, or telephone number of the signature gatherer on the petition.
    - 11.6. Make any marks to count or delineate the number of signatures gathered.
    - 11.7. Put anything in the "Circulator petition sheet number" box at the bottom of page one of the petition form.
    - 11.8. Use any part of the petition form as scratch paper; have scratch paper available when gathering signatures to test pens.
12. Any petition form rejected due to extraneous markings will result in the rejection of all signatures on that form. Consequently, to minimize the number of rejected signatures, limit the number of signatures on each form to ten.
13. If any stray marks accidentally appear on a petition, immediately stop using that form and start a new one.
14. Make sure to protect these petition sheets from damage due to weather conditions.