

## **A guide in ordinary English for people circulating nominating petitions**

In Pennsylvania, candidates circulate petitions to place their names on the primary ballot. Each office requires a certain number of valid signatures. Pennsylvania has various strict requirements governing these.

This guide is an everyday English summary of the rules for people who will be carrying petitions and asking for signatures.

If the signatures don't meet the requirements, they will be struck and, if there are enough errors on a petition page, the whole page – or even all the pages circulated by that person – may get tossed. If a candidate does not have enough valid signatures, then the candidate will not be placed on the ballot.

The short of it: the campaign will give you the forms for collecting signatures. The campaign will tell you when you can start and what the deadline is. You complete the parts on the form that are about you. You go out and gather signatures of voters eligible to vote for your candidate in the primary. Each person signs for themselves and completes all the information on their line. (You don't fill it out for them!) Then you bring the papers back to the campaign. They will provide a notary who will watch as you sign the paper, notarize it and give it to the campaign.

Remember the most important rule: if you have questions, ask!

**More detailed rules on other side...**

## The Rules

1. The people who sign the petition must be able to vote for the candidate:
  - a. The signers must be registered to vote in the same party as the candidate. Democrats for Democrats, Republicans for Republicans. Independents don't get to sign.
  - b. The signers must be registered where they can vote for the candidate. That is, in the candidate's district unless it is a state-wide race.
  - c. The signers on each page (both sides) must all live in the same county.
2. No one can sign before the start date or after the end date. Your candidate will give you these dates. The petitions must be turned in to the campaign before the due date. Petitions can't be filed late.
3. The signers can only sign nominating papers for the same number of candidates as they can vote for.

If there is only one candidate from a party on the fall general election ballot, a signer can sign only one petition. If there are two or more fall candidates, a signer can sign for as many candidates as slots but no more. (E.g., if the Dems select five candidates in the primary for the fall, then a signer can sign petitions for five candidates.)

3. The signer must complete his line – including his address and printed name and the date of signing. The entire line **must** be in the signer's handwriting. No one but the signer can fill in their line – especially not you the circulator.
4. The signer must use the address where he is registered to vote. This can be different from the address where someone lives sometimes. Make sure the signer uses their registered address.
5. The signer must know what he is signing for – to put the candidate on the primary ballot. You can remind them that they don't have to vote for the candidate – it's just putting the candidate on the ballot.
6. You – the person collecting signatures – must complete the information on the form about yourself. Be sure to complete it honestly and accurately.
7. You – the person collecting signatures – will sign the pages that you have collected but **only** in front of a notary. Don't sign before. The notary needs to see you sign it. Usually, when you go to the campaign to turn in the petitions, there **should** be a notary there to notarize your signature.