



Circulator of Petition Rules

1. You can circulate a petition in Ohio as long as you are a US citizen.
2. You are not allowed to sign a petition you are circulating. After circulating the petition, the circulator must sign a statement and provide a complete residence address on each petition paper, under penalty of election falsification:
 - a. Indicating the number of signatures contained on the petition. The number must be exact or the signatures will be considered invalid.
 - b. That the circulator witnessed the affixing of each signature on the petition.
 - c. That all signers, to the best of the circulator's knowledge and belief, were qualified to sign.
 - d. That each signature is, to the best of the circulator's knowledge and belief, the signature of the person whose signature it purports to be.
3. You can circulate a petition at work as long as you are not on the clock and you are on your own time. It is recommended that you check with your HR Department for any specific company policies.
4. Circulators who have been convicted of identity theft, fraud or forgery would be prohibited from signature gathering.



Door Knock Exercise: Trainer Instructions

Overview:

Three facilitators will play the role of potential “petition signers” while the teams, one team at a time, play the role of canvassers. Each team will have 6-10 minutes, depending on how we are doing on time, to knock on as many doors as possible. The team that gets the most signatures wins.

Purpose:

Practice the “rap” and the “ask”

Practice distinguishing between yes, no, and undecided

Practice extricating yourself from conversation and being an efficient canvasser

Set up:

Each member of a team should have a notepad and get an actual signature.

Based on the number of teams you have and how much time you have budgeted for the exercise, determine how long each group will have to knock on doors (somewhere between 6 and 10 minutes).

Give the groups 10 to 20 minutes to practice a script they will use—but make it clear that they are knocking as individuals and everyone from the team will be knocking. It’s important to stress that they are to knock each door by themselves, but they get points for getting the most votes as a team.

Assign three facilitators as voters:

One should be Undecided. This citizen seeks more information and



will take all day with the canvasser unless the canvasser makes a hard ask and then disengages from the conversation. A persuasive rap and a hard ask should persuade this voter to hand over a signature.

One should be a No. This person is totally opposed to signing the petition. S/he could be a single-issue voter or anti-healthcare. Feel free to be argumentative at the door, or to stall the canvasser (within reason).

One should be a Yes. You're a supporter and you are tickled that a canvasser has come to your door. You want to keep the canvasser chatting at the door as long as possible.

How it works:

If a team has five people (A, B, C, D, and E):

A should go to one door, B to another and C to a third (etc) as the exercise starts.

As soon as A, B, or C finishes, D should go to that door. Then E to the next open door, and so on.

Petition Gathering Exercise: Going Door-to-Door

Exercise Overview:

You have pledged to collect 101 signatures for our campaign, so Ohioans gain a chance to expand Medicaid. You have been working hard all weekend going door-to-door in your home neighborhood. As you know, petitions must be collected by 44 of the 88 counties in the state, and with your pledge, you will collect the necessary petition signatures to reach the goal.

However, you are now finishing up your commitment and the weather is starting to get bad, with thundershowers likely to show up soon. Your message to the targeted registered voters in your neighborhood



must be delivered one-on-one in the next 7 minutes.

In a recent campaign, the team failed to reach the goal of 44 of 88 counties required, and you have pledged to reach that goal this weekend in your county.

The Exercise:

Your team will be confronted with a person who is: (A) undecided and very interested in what you have to say; (B) opposed to Medicaid Expansion; (C) supportive of signing and supporting our campaign.

In each of these cases, present your best message and attempt to secure a signature from each citizen at their door. All members of your team should canvass as many of the three doors as they can in the time allotted to try to earn their support of the petition.

The team whose members receive the most signatures wins based on a per person average.

Script for Door-to-Door Gathering

Hello, my name is _____ and I am talking to registered voters in my neighborhood today to ask them to sign the "Healthy Ohioans Work" petition.

Your signature gives Ohioans a chance to extend healthcare to over 275,000 working Ohioans.

Would you please sign this petition to preserve expand Medicaid?

Great, please sign and print your name on the next line on the petition. Thank you and have a nice day.



Frequently Asked Questions Signature Collection

1. Who can sign the Healthy Ohioans Work petition?

- a. Must be registered to vote in Ohio
- b. If individual does not know whether they are registered at his or her current address or is not registered, they may register at the time they sign the petition.
 - i. Make sure to return filled out voter registration forms to the proper Board of Elections or to your coalition contact.
- c. A circulator may not sign his or her own petition, but may sign the petition of another, if he or she is registered to vote.

2. Who can circulate a petition?

- a. Any citizen of the United States with no felony convictions
- b. Who is at least 18 years of age

3. General requirements of signature collection:

- a. No one can sign for another person; individuals must personally sign
- b. All signatures must be in ink
- c. All signatures must be witnessed by the circulator
- d. The name must be legible



- e. The name and address indicated on the petition must match the name and address used for voter registration (voting address, not mailing address: no P.O. Boxes)
- f. The signer must sign on a petition that contains signatures of other individuals registered to vote in that same county. If a petition contains signatures of individuals in more than one county, the Secretary of State will determine the county from which the majority of signature came and validate only those. Any signatures for other counties will be considered invalid.
- g. A copy of the bills, summary, and certifications must be attached to each petition for which signatures are obtained.
- h. Petitions must be secured by the circulator when not gather signatures and should not leave the presence of the circulator when gathering signatures.
- i. Completed voter registration material must be turned in immediately and in accordance with instructions from your coalition contact.
- j. No part of the statement on the petition should be altered, erased, or notated between lines or in the margins. Do not add any additional information to the petition.

4. Requirements for circulators:

- a. Paid staff or those being paid to supervise the gathering of signatures must fill out a Form 15 prior to gathering signatures
- b. The circulator must witness every signature of each petition circulated



- c. The circulator must complete the verification paragraph included at the end of the petition by signing and including his/her address on the lines indicated.
- d. The circulator must make an accurate count of the number of signatures on the petition and indicate that number on the verification page. The number of signatures and the number indicated MUST match.
- e. If the circulator is paid, the name and address, including zip code for the employer must be included on the blank indicated on the form. If the circulator is unpaid, leave the space blank.
- f. The circulator may complete any part of the petition of any signer, except for the person's signature.
- g. The circulator should not get into a debate with a signer or make false statements about the referendum.

5. Can petitions be circulated at work?

- a. Signatures cannot be collected while the circulator and/or the employee who is signing the petition are on work time.
- b. If employees are not on work time, such as on a break or at lunch, the employees must follow the employer's policy.
 - i. Additionally, if the employer's policy restricts such activity, but the policy has not been enforced, the employer may still be able to restrict if the employer gives notice of its intentions to strictly enforce the policy.

6. Can information regarding the collection of petitions be posted on a work bulletin board?



- a. Please refer to the employer's policy regarding the posting of materials.

7. Can the employer's equipment, such as computers, be used to assist in conducting a petition drive?

- a. No, the employer's supplies and/or equipment should not be used to assist in conducting a petition drive.
- b. You should not use your work email or contact others on their work email addresses regarding the petition drive.
- c. You should not use your work mail system to contact individuals and encourage them to sign the petition or become circulators

Petition Drop-Off Procedure

- SEIU 1199 offices are located at **1395 Dublin Rd., Columbus OH 43215.**
- **The office will open at 8:30am.**
- Each organization is responsible for getting their petitions to the SEIU 1199 offices. For those outside of Columbus, coordinating between groups to get them to Columbus is encouraged.
- An area will be designated in the front lobby for the petitions. There will be separate folders or boxes for each county.
- Many have offered to help with the validation process. We appreciate the offers; however we have dedicated enough staff to the effort that we should be able to handle the workload. If that should change we will put out a call for volunteers.
- We will be keeping a running tally during the day of valid signatures, so we will know if we need to send people back out into the field to meet our 1,000 signature threshold by Wednesday.
- **Don't forget to fill out the last page and sign it.**