



How to Conduct a Petition Drive at your Church

First

- Talk to your pastor about conducting a non-partisan petition drive at your church. You may wish to provide your pastor with a copy of *Political Guidelines for Churches and Pastors* (<http://www.cwfa.org/brochures/pastors.pdf>) when you make your request. In the “Legislation” section, circulating petitions is specifically mentioned as allowable activity.
- Ask if he will make an announcement during church services and/or include an announcement in the church bulletin that petitions are available and the location.

Next

- Determine how many petitions you will need. Each petition allows for 10 signatures. *Please note that petition forms may NOT be photocopied.* Copied forms may be invalid.
- Determine the date or dates of your petition drive. Plan the drive well before the signature deadline.
- Order petitions. Be sure to allow sufficient time for delivery.
- Enlist volunteers to help collect signatures at the petition drive. Ideally, you will have enough volunteers collecting signatures to eliminate long lines of people waiting to sign.
- If you wish to include any informational handouts, obtain approval from your pastor or elders first.

The Drive

- Remind the pastor to make an announcement about the petition drive.
- Set up a table that is in plain view of the congregants as they enter and exit the church. You might want to have balloons or a flag to draw attention to your table.
- Be sure to have plenty of pens available and have attendants at the table to ensure the forms are signed correctly and all signers are registered voters.

Other Important Information to Ensure Valid Signatures

- Petitions must be signed by registered voters only and all *must reside in the same county*. Use a separate form for each county.
- Be sure to designate the county at the beginning of the text (sometimes on the back) and just above the signature area, if required on the form.
- Have voter registration forms on hand. If a signer is not registered, he or she may sign the petition if the registration form is completed and mailed right away.
- Check to be sure the petition has been filled out completely and is legible. Voters must **PRINT THEIR OWN NAME** and ADDRESS (where they are registered to vote) and then **SIGN**. No one may complete any portion of the form for another person!
- Forms must be signed and dated by the circulator to be valid. The circulator must also be a registered voter, but need not reside in the same county as signers.
- Petitions with only one signer are valid, but must also be signed by a circulator, which can be the same person.
- For detailed information about the initiative process see the Secretary of State’s *Initiative Guide* at http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/initiative_guide.htm.

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