



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* (www.cwfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/pastors.pdf) when you make your request. In the “Legislation” section, circulating petitions is specifically mentioned as an allowable activity.
- Ask for 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. The number of signatures per petition varies with different initiative efforts. Check with the proponents to determine the number of blanks per petition. *Please note that petition forms may NOT be photocopied.* Copied forms may be invalid. Use original petitions only.
- 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

- ONLY registered voters may sign petitions, and all those on a single petition *must reside in the same county*. Use a separate petition form for each county.
- Be sure to designate the county in the blank just above the signature area.
- 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 NAME and ADDRESS (where they are registered to vote) and then SIGN.
- 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 www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/how-qualify-initiative/initiative-guide/.