



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE INITIATIVE SIGNATURE-GATHERING PROCESS

- ***What training is required and/or provided to circulators?***

The proponents of an initiative must ensure that any circulator, paid or volunteer, receive instruction on the requirements and prohibitions imposed by state law with respect to circulation of the petition and signature gathering. In particular, signatures cannot be used for any purpose other than qualification of the proposed initiative for the ballot.

- ***What are the requirements to be a signature gatherer (known in the Elections Code as a “circulator”)?***

The only requirement is that a circulator must be 18 years of age or older. A circulator does not have to be a registered voter or a resident of Lake Elsinore.

- ***What information must the petition include?***

Each section of the petition must contain the text of the initiative, and the top of each signature page must contain the ballot title and summary prepared by the city attorney. The text of the initiative must be printed in type no smaller than 8 point, and the ballot title and summary must be printed in type no smaller than 12 point.

- ***Can the circulator be paid to collect signatures?***

Yes. The petition may be circulated by a paid circulator. Anyone asked to sign an initiative has the right to ask whether the circulator is being paid to gather signatures. The circulator must disclose whether he or she is being paid, but does not have to disclose his or her name or address

- ***Can I be paid to sign a petition?***

No. A voter may not be offered any sort of compensation, monetary or other, to sign a petition.

- ***Can a circulator solicit signatures outside the door of the polling place?***

No. Circulators must remain at least 100 feet from the door of the room where voters are signing the roster and casting their ballots.

- **Can a circulator legally gather signatures by leaving a petition unattended?**

No. As stated in the circulator's declaration, each signature must be personally witnessed by the circulator to be valid.



- **If I am asked to sign the petition, do I have a right to read the initiative?**

Yes, you must be allowed to see the full text of the initiative.

- **Does the circulator have to answer questions regarding the initiative?**

Yes. The circulator must answer questions in reference to the petition; the answers must be factual and cannot be misleading; and, they may not misrepresent the purpose or contents of the initiative.

- **What information does a circulator need to provide to the City's Elections Official (City Clerk)?**

When the proponent submits the petition to the City Clerk, each section of the petition must have attached a declaration signed by the circulator under penalty of perjury that states:

- The circulator's name and address; and,
- The dates between which the signatures on the petition were obtained; and,
- That the circulator circulated that section and witnessed the signatures being written; and,
- That according to the best information and belief of the circulator, each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be; and,
- That the circulator is 18 years of age or older.

- ***How is the validity of petition signatures determined?***

The City's Election Official (City Clerk), along with the County Registrar of Voters, will determine that the residence address on the petition is the same as the residence address on the voter registration card and that the signature matches what is on file.

A signature will be deemed invalid for any of the following reasons:

- the addresses are different
- the petition does not specify the residence address
- the petition does not provide for the signer's signature, printed name, and full residence address
- the person signing the petition is not a Lake Elsinore registered voter
- the signature does not match what is on file

- ***Can I withdraw my signature from a petition once I have signed it?***

Yes. A voter who has signed an initiative petition, and who subsequently wishes his or her name withdrawn, may do so by filing a written request for the withdrawal with the City's Election Official (City Clerk) that includes the voter's name, residence address, and signature. This request must be filed in the City Clerk's office, either by mail or personal delivery, prior to the date the petition is filed.

- ***How do I report a suspected Elections Code violation?***

If you have reason to believe that a circulator is breaking the law, report as much information as possible, including:

- the location at which the circulator was working
- a physical description of the circulator
- the name or a description of the initiative measure and/or the proponents of the petition you were asked to sign
- and the names of any witnesses

All violations should be reported to the City's Elections Official (City Clerk) or to the Secretary of State's Election Fraud Investigation Unit.

**City of Lake Elsinore Elections Official**

Susan M. Domen, MMC, City Clerk

130 S. Main Street

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**Secretary of State's Election Fraud Investigation Unit**

at (916) 657-2166.

- ***What if the circulator is rude, aggressive, threatening or refuses to leave private property when asked?***

If you suspect a circulator is engaging in illegal activity not related to an election issue, such as trespassing or other crimes, you should call the Lake Elsinore Police Department at (951) 245-3300.