

2022 Parent Party Petition Collection Guide

Petition Form

Petition challenges are common, so it is key that these forms are filled out carefully and in their entirety with pen.

- **Date:** must fall within the April 19th, 2022-May 31st, 2022, window. Best practice is to fill this in first before handing the form over to the signer so you can let them know to sign next to the date.
 - If there is any mistake, you can correct it by using a single line to cross it out, write the correct date and be sure to initial next to the correction
 - Dates must be in order, i.e., you cannot have someone sign in the middle of the page on May 1st and then go to the top the next day.
 - Optionally, you can use as many sheets as you need, start on a new sheet each day
- **Signature:** The signer must place their signature in the box as it appears on their voter registration including any suffix as applicable
 - Printed names are optional but extremely helpful for the review process and to ensure the signature isn't challenged. The gatherer may neatly print the name of the signer afterwards so that it is legible
 - Residence. Petition signers need to give their residential street address at which they are enrolled to vote (No P.O. Box addresses).
 - County (NYC) or Town or City (Outside NYC). In this box, write the TOWN or CITY if it is outside New York City. Write the COUNTY if it is inside New York City. DO NOT use village, county (outside New York City), or hamlet names. You can reference the voter enrollment list to verify this information. This is the most common mistake, so when reviewing petitions, pay close attention to this.
- **Statement of Witness:** The person passing the petition sheet must sign the witness statement at the bottom of the page. You can fill out the witness statement at any time after you are finished collecting signatures on the page, even on a different day, but within the petitioning period. You must use the address at which you are registered with the Board of Elections to list on the petition, not your mailing address, if different.
 - Witness address must include ZIP code.
 - Spell out the number of signatures on the page (e.g., ten, nine, etc.).
 - Date the witness statement as of the date you actually fill it in. The date of the witness statement doesn't need to be the same as the date of the last signature on the page but **cannot** be earlier.
 - Don't forget the "Witness Identification Information" below the signature and be sure to specify your town or city as it appears in the voter rolls.
 - Do not fill in the "Sheet No.: _____" at the bottom of the sheet. This will be filled in when binding the petitions, right before they are filed.

Supplies For Petitioning

- Make sure each petition gatherer has a clipboard so that all the information is printed neatly and legibly. Bring extra petition sheets, you can never have too many
- Have ballpoint pens (blue or black ink) as they will not run if the form gets wet. If a form is not legible the signatures will not be counted.
- Comfortable shoes and water, health and safety are always the number one concern out in the field

Best Practices

- Work in groups. 45,000 signatures is no small task and we need a grassroots movement to get it done. Find friends family coworkers and neighbors who think like you and work together in your local community
- Avoid conflict and be courteous. While it is hard to find individuals who oppose our position it is important to remember we are not looking to change people's minds but rather find those who agree with us and get them to take action giving voice back to parents. If someone declines to sign don't get discouraged, thank them for their time and move on
- Any registered voter can sign, the best places to gather signatures are downtown centers, public/farmer's markets, fairs, festivals, carnivals, community music events, food cart lines, beaches, subway stations, bus stations, train stations, parks, parade lines (especially when people are waiting for it to start), door-to-door, and in front of libraries and post offices, among others. Be sure to also reach out to family, friends, coworkers and neighbors.
- Many petitioners have had a lot of success getting signatures from people waiting in lines (including lines at fairs, festivals, parades, etc.). These people are not doing anything and are more likely to sign. In this case, you will want to start from the back and move forward in the line. Otherwise, if you start from the front and someone says "no," the next person in line sees that and may also decline. The same goes for crowds that may be facing one direction. Start in the back.
- Always stay on focus. A signature is not a commitment of support, but rather an opportunity towards ballot access. Most people will agree that anyone should have the opportunity to appear on a ballot and run for office
- If a person hasn't heard of the candidate or party, give them a flier or pamphlet and have them sign anyway. They can research if the candidate is someone, they are willing to vote for afterwards, but it is key to stress the importance of just getting on the ballot in the first place and the deadline we are up against.
- Don't be pushy. While we want to be assertive at the door and always knock twice (waiting 30 seconds in between) if there is no answer, leave a card and move on to maximize your time in the field. Quantity is key, in the time you spent waiting or convincing someone you could have gotten five more easy signatures