

NEW YORK INDEPENDENT PETITION

Circulator & Signature Instructions

Follow these rules carefully. **Petitions that do not follow these instructions may be invalidated during challenges.**

1. Petition Sheet Requirements

- **Petition sheets must be printed on LEGAL SIZE 8½ × 14 inch paper**
- **Portrait orientation only**
- **One page, one side only**
- **Do not alter the petition format**

2. Circulator Eligibility

A petition circulator must:

- **Be at least 18 years old**
- **Be a United States citizen**
- **Personally witness every voter sign the petition**

MAY BE REGISTERED WITH ANY PARTY OR NON AFFILIATED

Important rule:

A circulator may NOT sign a petition sheet they are circulating. If you wish to sign, you must sign a petition circulated by another person.

3. Who May Sign

A signer must:

- Be a **registered voter in New York State**
- Sign **only once for this candidate**

4. Verify the Voter Registration Address

Before a voter signs, ask them to **confirm their voter registration address**.

They must write their address and information exactly as it appears there. The address written on the petition **must match their voter registration record**.

Common mistakes that invalidate signatures:

- Using a **new address after moving**
- Using a **mailing address instead of a residence**
- Missing apartment numbers

If the voter is unsure, check or have them check - <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>

It is a good general practice to do this with all signers.

5. How the Voter Must Complete Their Line

The voter must complete their line using **blue or black ballpoint pen only** (no gel pens).

The voter must:

1. **Date the signature**
2. **Sign their name in upper row**
3. **Print their name underneath the signature**
4. **Write their residence address exactly as registered**

Location requirement:

- **Outside NYC:** write **City or Town**
- **Inside NYC:** write **County**

Do **NOT** write villages or hamlets.

If a signer needs to start over, draw one single line in the omitted section and have them retry on the next line.

MAKE SURE THE SIGNER STAYS WITHIN THEIR DESIGNATED LINE

IF THEY DO NOT, SKIP THE NEXT LINE THAT THE PREVIOUS LINE BLED INTO

6. Circulator Responsibilities

The circulator must:

- Watch each voter sign

- Ensure the voter fills out **their own information**
- Make sure the writing is **clear and complete**
- Never misrepresent the purpose of the petition

Do **not**:

- Fill in voter information
- Allow corrections or cross-outs
- Allow skipped or blank lines between signatures

7. Statement of Witness

After collecting the final signature on the page, the circulator must complete the **Statement of Witness**.

If the circulator is a **New York registered voter**, they must:

1. Write their **name**
2. Write their **residential address**
3. Write the **number of signatures collected on the page**
4. Write their **city or town of residence**
5. **Sign the statement**

If the circulator lives in **New York City**, they must also list their **county**.

Only **one Statement of Witness may be completed per petition sheet**.

8. Important Compliance Tips

To avoid petition challenges:

- Use **blue or black ballpoint pens only**
- Make sure addresses **match voter registration exactly**
- Do not allow incomplete lines
- Do not alter petition sheets
- Return completed sheets promptly