

I-1329

WE THE PEOPLE ★ Claiming our Democracy

Get **BIG MONEY** out of politics!

WAmend.org

Gathering Petition Signatures – 1/9/2014

RULES FOR SIGNATURE GATHERERS

- Anybody can collect signatures – even high school students!
- Always carry a few voter registration forms, available online at www.vote.wa.gov, in case you find people who would like to register to vote, or who have moved or changed their name (women who got married) since the last election.
- After filling out the voter registration form, they can sign our petition. You must mail the completed voter registration form to your county election office (addresses on the form) within 5 days.
- Also carry a WAmend volunteer signup sheet, in case someone wants to join our movement! (or they can sign up online on the Get Involved page.) You can even give them a blank petition and tell them to go out on their own, but first please get their contact information on the WAmend signup sheet, so we can stay in touch with them and track their progress.
- Ensure you have ‘control’ of each petition being signed so we don’t lose any. Some signature gatherers may want to work two petitions at the same time, especially if they have a table – **but always check to make sure you can read your signers’ handwriting.**
- Try to fill up all 20 signature lines, but if you just can’t, please return it to us anyway, as soon as possible.
- Be sure to sign the back of the petition before you return your signatures! Without YOUR signature, the signatures you’ve collected won’t count.
- Just fold the petition, drop it in an envelope, and mail it to your team captain (if you’re working on a team) – or to the address on the petition. We must receive all sheets (full or not) by **June 25, 2014.**

RULES FOR SIGNERS

- The signer must be a voter registered in Washington State. It’s OK if they’re from out of town, as long as they’re registered in Washington. Ask them to use the address where they get their ballot in the mail. A PO Box is OK, if that’s where their ballot comes.
- If the signer asks whether they can sign for their husband/aunt/cousin – no – only for themselves.
- If a signer makes a small mistake, they can correct it by putting a line through the incorrect part, and add the correct information directly above the error.
- If a signer realizes that they have signed in error (changed their mind, or realize they’ve already signed, or not registered in WA after all) – you or they can cross that line off on the sheet.
- All signers must use a blue or black ink pen.
- A signer may NOT sign twice. If they’re not sure, ask them to check the graphics on the top of our petition – they may recognize it that way.

TIPS

- You should politely ENGAGE people as they approach, or they will likely ignore you.
- Be visible and friendly. If you're comfortable wearing an Uncle Sam hat, go to your local party shop and buy one – they're about \$3. Tape an "UNPAID VOLUNTEER" sign to the top of the hat – when you're in a crowd, every inch of height helps!
- And/or you can wear a poster (on our website, under Toolkit/Posters), slipped into a clear plastic protector sleeve and strung around your neck, front or back. Make sure you tape an "UNPAID VOLUNTEER" sign over part of the poster, diagonally – or however you think it looks best and most attention-grabbing.
- If you're using a table, you can stand the poster up on the table. But don't sit down unless you have to. You won't get as much business if you sit!
- The petitions will be either 11 x 14 or 11 x 17 size. Cut a piece of cardboard to act as a pad, or if you're using a table, tape the petitions to the table.
- Bring extra pens and petitions.
- Bring WAmend SlimJims and "Talking Points."
- Finding the right spot can make all the difference. You can stand on any public property as long as you're not blocking traffic – including pedestrians on sidewalks. Here are a few ideas:
 - The park
 - The library
 - The grocery store
 - Public transit
 - The workplace
 - Public gatherings (parades, rallies, festivals, etc.)
 - Farmers' markets

WHAT TO SAY

- Ask a question that will serve as an opening to a conversation. Examples: Have you heard about our petition? How do you feel about all the big money in politics these days?
- Remember to ask them if they are registered to vote in the state of Washington.
- Encourage someone with a lot of questions to read the full text on the back of the initiative or give them our "Talking Points" or a "SlimJim" handout (available on our website under Toolkit/Handouts"). Don't try to answer questions if you're unsure of the answer – refer them to the website, or they can email info@wamend.org
- Do NOT engage in lengthy discussions with people. That wastes your time, creates a negative impression, and keeps you from talking to other more willing people. If anyone thinks you're harassing people in ANY way – the property owner/manager may ask you to leave. So please always be courteous and polite.
- It is OK if some people don't want to help or disagree with our initiative. That is their right and **we must clearly respect that**. Thank these people for considering signing, and quickly **move on** to other people. Don't get frustrated if people pass you by. They may be from out of state, they've already signed, they don't have the time, or they're just not in a good mood. That's all okay, and they might sign next time.