

Petitioning 101



Right to Petition - Petitioning is not Soliciting. Soliciting means selling something. That said, use your own judgment whether to knock on doors that say 'no petitioning'. If the sticker is very old, it may pre-date the current home owner.

FIRST AMENDMENT: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Petitioning in Minnesota - For Federal & State offices we have from May 19th to June 2nd 2026 at 5pm to collect and hand in signatures.

4 Be's of Petitioning

- **Be Respectful** - Petition at reasonable hours, not too late nor too early. Avoid walking onto someone's lawn. Use their driveway and sidewalk. After ringing/knocking, take 2-3 steps back so that they can see you, and spend no more than 30 seconds waiting.
- **Be Polite** - When someone answers their door give them a friendly greeting and introduce yourself. Tell them why you are there and offer to show them the petition. Mention that signing does not commit them to voting for this candidate; it just means they agree that voters should have options on the ballot. If they agree to sign, thank them and let them know you appreciate it. If they decline, thank them for their time and move on.
- **Be Enthusiastic and friendly** - When describing the petition show enthusiasm for your cause.
- **Be Prepared** - Read up on a few talking points for the candidate or issue in case someone has questions. If the candidate or issue has a website, have that available/ready on your phone. If the candidate/issue has a rack card, have one available for the person to take a photo of if they are interested (we don't have to give everybody a rack card but it's helpful to show one and let them take a photo).

Before you begin petitioning, draft a brief pitch a sentence or two long:

Sample pitch: "Hi, my name is __ and I'm collecting signatures to help my friend ___ get on the ballot for ____ . Signing this petition doesn't obligate you to vote for ___ , it just means you agree that people should have choices on the ballot. If we get enough signatures then when I go to vote, I'll be able to vote for my friend."

Answers to common questions:

- The pledge at the top of the petition form expressing an intention to not vote at the primary election for the office for which the nominating petition is made is not legally binding as per a decision by the 8th Circuit Court in December 2023. The MN Parties in power still require that we include this oath on the petition to make our 3rd Party petitioning efforts harder, but the oath is not binding (ref. Independence-Alliance Party of Minn. v. Simon, No. 23-1074 (8th Cir. 2023)).

MINNESOTA COMBINED NOMINATING PETITION AND PETITION IN PLACE OF FILING FEE FOR PARTISAN OFFICE

We, the undersigned eligible voters, residing in the election district for the office set forth below, hereby nominate by petition

_____ who resides at _____
(name of candidate) (residence address, including street and number, if any)

and who represents the _____ for the office of _____
(political party or principle, in no more than three words) (office sought and district, if any)

to be voted on at the general election to be held on November 3, 2026. We understand that it is also intended that this petition will be presented by the above named candidate in place of the filing fee, as provided by *Minnesota Statutes*, section 204B.11, subdivision 2.

SIGNER'S OATH

“I solemnly swear (or affirm) that I know the contents and purpose of this petition, that I do not intend to vote at the primary election for the office for which this nominating petition is made, and that I signed this petition of my own free will.”

ALL INFORMATION ON THIS PETITION IS SUBJECT TO PUBLIC INSPECTION

*****All information must be filled in by person(s) signing the petition unless disability prevents the person(s) from doing so.*****

	DATE	PRINT FIRST, MIDDLE, AND LAST NAME	YEAR OF BIRTH <small>(If born in 2008 list month & day)</small>	SIGNATURE	RESIDENCE ADDRESS <small>(number and street or route and box number) (Not a P.O. Box)</small>	CITY OR TOWNSHIP	COUNTY
1.	3/28	John Adams Doe	1776	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	123 Example Street, Apt A	Everytown	Hennepin
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							