

DO'S When Carrying a Petition

- 1) The person carrying the petition must be enrolled in the party listed at the top of the petition they are carrying. (for Designating Petitions)
- 2) Only enrolled party members may sign the petition. Signatures obtained from anyone not of the party listed at the top of the petition are invalid.
- 3) Signers must also reside in the municipality of the office listed at the top of the petition
- 4) Each person signing the petition can only sign one petition*. If they have already signed a petition for another candidate running for the same office, they cannot sign your petition.

*If there are 2 offices up for the same position you can sign 2 petitions.

Ex. Town Council member many times will have 2 positions up at the same time.

- 5) You **MUST** witness the person actually signing the petition. **NO ONE** may sign for another person. Power of Attorney is not allowed.
- 6) All signatures must be in ink.
- 7) Each voter must sign (not print) his or her own name as it appears on the registered voter list. Titles such as Mr., Mrs., Ms. and Dr. should not be used. (Note: Now that schools do not teach cursive writing anymore, a younger person's signature may be a printed signature)
- 8) Women must sign their own name – ex. Mary Jones is correct.
Mrs. John Jones is incorrect.
- 9) It is not necessary for the person who signs the petition to complete all of the required information. The date, residence, and town or city may be completed by the person circulating the petition. (House # and Street or Road Name)
- 10) Enter Town or City section: The town or city section is **NOT** the voter's mailing address *it is the town or city where they are registered to vote*. If you are carrying petitions in **only** your town (voting district), you can pre-fill the name of the town/city on the petition before you start getting signatures. (the right hand column on the petition)
- 11) Avoid blank lines whenever possible.
- 11) Do complete the Witness Statement Section only when you are done getting signatures on that page.
 - Fill out your name completely, **no initials**.
 - Fill out your complete residential address.
 - **Hand count**, the number of good signatures on each page. Write that number on the required line.
 - Fill in the town/city and county info. **This is where you, the witness, live.**
 - Once you have completed the witness statement, no alterations can be done.

DON'TS When Carrying a Petition

- 1) **Do Not;** scribble out a mistake. If an error is made in the date, or signature section, the signor or witness should draw one line through it, **initial and date it** and start over on the next line.
- 2) **Do Not;** use Ditto marks on the petition. All information must be written out.
- 3) **Do Not;** sign a petition that you are witnessing. You cannot be a witness to your own signature. You **can** sign a petition that someone else is carrying.
- 4) **Do Not;** number the bottom of the petitions unless you are the Candidate. Candidates will number the petition pages after they have collected all of their petitions.
- 5) **Do Not;** sign the Witness Section at the bottom of the petition until you are done collecting signatures on that petition page.
- 6) **Do Not;** use white out on petitions.
- 7) **Do Not;** start getting signatures before the first date to start.
- 8) **Do Not;** leave petitions on a counter, or in a store, unattended.
- 9) **Do Not;** circulate petitions at any County office building, Town or City Hall.

Important

- If there are 2 candidates running for the same office, you CAN'T sign a petition for one candidate, and then be a witness for the other candidate;
- You can always be just a witness for all candidates as long as you haven't signed any petitions;
- You can always sign and witness for the same candidate;
- You CAN'T sign for one candidate then witness for another candidate.
- You can sign a designating petition and witness an independent petition for the same candidate;