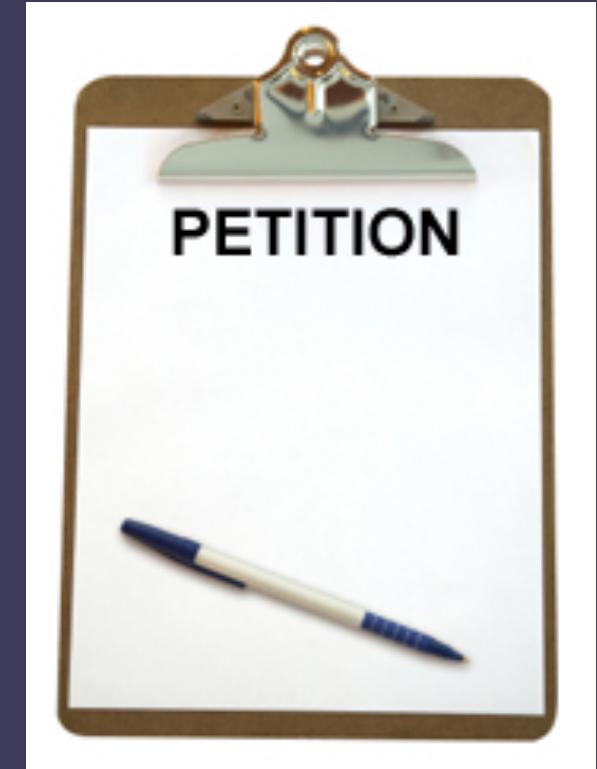FAIR DISTRICTS
FAIR ELECTIONS

Fair congressional maps
for a stronger democracy
Guidelines for Circulating Petitions

Circulators:

- Must be U. S. citizens, and at least 18 years old.

- Must not be on probation for a felony.

- Do not need to be an Ohio citizen.

- Do not need to be a registered voter.

- May not sign your own petition.

- May circulate petitions in any number of counties, as long as each county has a separate petition book.

Asking people to sign

- Will you please sign our petition to stop gerrymandering and put Fair Districts for Congress on the ballot?

- Are you a registered voter?

  - If yes, ask the person's county.

  - If no, it is now very easy to register or update your registration online.

    Go to http://bit.do/Ohiovoterreg and fill out the form.

- Have you signed this petition yet?

  - If yes, thank you. [Note: Signing as part of the initial 1,000 signatures to file our proposal with the state doesn't count. The count starts over once we are approved to circulate statewide, and those voters can sign the new petitions.]

  - If no, please sign.

  - If unsure, it's okay to sign. Your signature will only count once.

Each petition is assigned a serial number that is used to track its location and status.

Each petition must be restricted to voters from only one county. Don't hesitate to start a new petition if someone from a different county wants to sign.

INITIATIVE PETITION

Number: _____   County: _____

To the Attorney General of Ohio: Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code § 3519.01(A), the undersigned electors of the State of Ohio, numbering in excess of one thousand, hereby submit to you the full text of a proposed Amendment to the Ohio Constitution and a summary of the same.

TITLE

Bipartisan Congressional Redistricting Reform Amendment

SUMMARY

The Amendment would amend Article XI of the Ohio Constitution to provide that the redrawing of congressional districts every ten years following the U.S. Census shall be conducted by the bipartisan Ohio Redistricting Commission, which is established in the state constitution and was approved by the voters in 2015 to draw general assembly districts; and to establish rules for drawing congressional districts, including, but not limited to, rules related to prohibiting drawing districts to favor a political party or candidates, keeping communities whole by minimizing splitting of political subdivisions, maximizing statewide representational fairness and minimizing the extent to which the population of districts are not equal.

More specifically, the amendment would, among other things:

- Authorize the bipartisan redistricting commission approved by the voters of Ohio at the 2015 general election to draw state general assembly districts to also draw U.S. congressional districts. Currently, the state legislature is responsible for drawing congressional districts and bipartisan approval is not required.

- Apply many of the same provisions approved by the voters in 2015 with respect to redrawing of state legislative districts, to congressional districts, including, but not limited to: the same procedural deadlines; provisions for public hearings; requirements for bipartisan support of commission members to adopt a plan; and provisions for funding and operation of the commission.

- Keep the bipartisan composition of the commission as previously approved by the voters, but prohibit any member of the U.S. Congress from serving as a commission member.

- Require that congressional districts be drawn based on the following criteria:
  (a) Compliance with all applicable state and federal laws, including those protecting minority voting rights;
  (b) Contiguousness;
  (c) No district plan shall be drawn to favor or disfavor a political party or candidates;
  (d) Minimize the number of splits of counties, municipal corporations, and townships, in that order, and where feasible, no county shall be split more than once;
  (e) Representational fairness based on the statewide partisan preferences of the voters during the previous ten years of statewide general elections in even numbered years; and
  (f) Compactness.
  If all of the above criteria cannot be feasibly attained, then priority would be in the order in which each criterion is listed.

- Permit any Ohio citizen to submit a proposed congressional district plan for the Commission's consideration, and the Secretary of State to make available to any Ohio citizen the data and computer software needed to draw a proposed plan.

Signature pages

- Fill in each field carefully – signature, first and last name, address, county, date

- Ditto marks are acceptable for all information EXCEPT THE SIGNATURE.

- Print name clearly.
- Nicknames that are close to legal names are allowed (e.g. Andy instead of Andrew).
- Circulators can help fill in any information except the signature while the voter is present.

- Voters must fill in the address where they are registered to vote.

- Must be a street address, not a P.O. Box.

Signers must complete all fields except Ward and Precinct.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

•<u>Never</u> give anything of value in exchange for a signature. This is illegal.

•Circulator must witness every signature. Do not leave petition out for people to sign or give to someone else to circulate without you being there to witness the signature.

•Voters must print and sign in blue or black ink. (No pencil or colorful ink.)

•Two signatures in the same handwriting (signature only, not other information) will result in the entire petition being thrown out.

Common Mistakes to Avoid, continued

• Felons on probation may not sign petitions.

• People may not sign for anyone but themselves, not even immediate family members.

• If someone makes a mistake, they can cross it out and correct. For example, people often write their full name in the "First name" field or misread "County" as "Country." Just cross out the mistake and write the correct information.

• You cannot sign your own petition.

Back cover

- When preparing to turn in petitions, read and complete the Statement of Circulator.

- Volunteer circulators do not need to fill out employer information.

- For the number of signatures, go by the number of lines used in the petition, including any that were crossed out. For example, if you have 10 signature lines used, but 5 are scratched out due to errors, you should still report 10, NOT 5.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATOR

I, _____, declare under penalty of election falsification that I am the circulator of the foregoing petition paper containing the signatures of _____ electors, that the signatures appended hereto were made and appended in my presence on the date set opposite each respective name, and are the signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be or of attorneys in fact acting pursuant to section 3501.382 of the Revised Code, and that the electors signing this petition did so with knowledge of the contents of same. I am employed to circulate this petition by

_____

_____

(Name and address of employer). (The preceding sentence shall be completed as required by section 3501.38 of the Revised Code if the circulator is being employed to circulate the petition.)

I further declare under penalty of election falsification that I witnessed the affixing of every signature to the foregoing petition paper, that all signers were to the best of my knowledge and belief qualified to sign, and that every signature is to the best of my knowledge and belief the signature of the person whose signature it purports to be or of an attorney in fact acting pursuant to section 3501.382 of the Revised Code.

_____
(Signed)

_____
(Address of circulator's permanent residence in this state) Number and Street, Road or Rural Route

_____
City, Village or Township

_____
State   Zip Code

Tips for circulating:

- Don't be afraid to look over the voter's shoulder as they fill out the petition. Better to catch a mistake than have an invalid signature.

- If collecting signatures on a college campus, event with attendance from a wide area, or other location where you might encounter people from multiple counties, be sure to carry extra booklets so you have enough for any potential county.

- If someone's handwriting is hard to read, you can rewrite the information while they are present

- You can help a voter fill in their information, but the signature must be their own.

When should I turn in my petition?

- Don't wait until your petition booklet is completely full to return it!

- Instead, turn in your book every week, regardless of how many signatures are in it. You will be able to pick up fresh books and continue collecting.

- This is very important to the campaign being able to keep track of progress, how many signatures we have and where they are from.

Where can I collect signatures?

- You cannot be restricted from collecting signatures on public property.

- Always ask permission before collecting signatures on private property.

- Events are a great place to collect signatures, but always ask the event organizer in advance.

Things to remember:

- One county per petition book

- Witness every signature

- Correct errors only in the voter's presence

- Count the number of lines used and report that for number of signatures

- Don't forget to sign the circulator statement!