



**CIRCULATING AND CANVASSING
COUNTYWIDE PETITION FORMS**

NOMINATING AND QUALIFYING PETITIONS

Michigan Department of State
Bureau of Elections
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[Michigan.gov/Elections](https://www.michigan.gov/Elections)

**CIRCULATING AND CANVASSING COUNTYWIDE PETITION FORMS
NOMINATING AND QUALIFYING PETITIONS**

This publication summarizes the laws, court rulings and Attorney General Opinions governing the validity of signatures on the following types of countywide petition forms:

- Nominating Petition (Countywide Partisan)
- Nominating Petition (Countywide Nonpartisan)
- Qualifying Petition Candidate Without Party Affiliation (Countywide)

***NEW* for the 2019-2020 Election Cycle:** The Bureau of Elections is pleased to announce changes to the countywide petition forms listed above, which are intended to result in fewer signature errors.

The most significant change is the elimination of the city/township checkbox from petition forms circulated on a countywide basis, where petition signers formerly were required to “check the box” that aligned with the type of jurisdiction. This change was recently implemented for statewide ballot proposal petitions.

Column headings have also been reordered to make the signer’s entry more intuitive. Rather than leading with the signer’s local jurisdiction as the first data point (where some signers mistakenly wrote their county name or entered their signature), the new petition form utilizes the more familiar order beginning with the person’s signature followed by his or her printed name, street address, city or township, zip code and date of signing.

Old format, all petition forms circulated countywide:

(Revision date: 2015)

INDICATE CITY OR TOWNSHIP IN WHICH REGISTERED TO VOTE	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	ZIP CODE	DATE OF SIGNING		
					MO	DAY	YEAR
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>	1.						
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>	2.						

Optional NEW format, all petition forms circulated countywide:

(Revision date: 2019)

SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	NAME OF CITY OR TOWNSHIP	ZIP CODE	DATE OF SIGNING		
					MO	DAY	YEAR
1.							
2.							

Important Note: Use of countywide forms bearing a 2019 revision date is *optional* for the 2019-2020 election cycle. While the Bureau of Elections encourages clerks and candidates to use the new petition forms, please note that the adoption of the new format does not require clerks or candidates to discard old forms.

Candidates may file countywide petition forms using the 2015 format, 2019 format or a combination of both.

For the 2019-2020 election cycle, candidates may, but are not required to, use the new format of the Nominating Petition (Countywide Partisan), Nominating Petition (Countywide Non-Partisan), or Qualifying Petition (Countywide) forms. If the form was prepared by an election forms print vendor or obtained from a clerk’s office, a revision date will appear at or near the bottom of the petition form. Examples include but are not limited to “Rev. __/15,” “Rev. __/19,” and similar. Candidates may also prepare their own petition forms as long as they comply with the 2015 or 2019 format.

If a petition signer makes an error in the city/township checkbox on the 2015 version of a countywide petition, his or her signature will not be rejected for that reason. Errors that will not invalidate signatures include checking the wrong city or township box, marking both checkboxes, and leaving both checkboxes blank.

INDICATE CITY OR TOWNSHIP IN WHICH REGISTERED TO VOTE		RESULT
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. <i>Garden City</i>	VALID
CITY OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>	2. <i>Redford Twp.</i>	VALID
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>	3. <i>Detroit</i>	VALID
CITY OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. <i>Wayne</i>	VALID

In the examples shown above, the candidate filed a 2015 petition form and signers checked (1) the wrong box, as Garden City is not a township; (2) the wrong box, as Redford Township is not a city; (3) neither box; and (4) both boxes. Eliminating the requirement for signers to check the correct box to indicate the jurisdiction type ensures that **none of the errors shown above results in an invalid signature.**

As a reminder, on both 2015 and optional 2019 countywide petition forms, the signer must include either the name of the city or township in which he or she was registered to vote on the date of signing, or the postal address or unincorporated place where registered, if the post office or unincorporated place aligns with the signer’s address for mail purposes.¹

¹ Note: For further information regarding the signer’s entry of the name of a local post office or unincorporated place, see MCL 168.552a.

WHICH PETITION FORM SHOULD BE USED?

There are several different types of petitions provided for candidates depending on the office sought, which are described below. Candidates must use the proper petition form; failure to do so will result in the candidate's disqualification.

This publication describes the requirements governing countywide petition forms only. If the candidate uses a city/township petition form or a petition form designed for use when seeking village, school, or metropolitan district offices, refer to the publication, "Circulating and Canvassing City/Township Petition Forms."

This publication explains the laws governing the circulation of countywide petitions used by candidates, including the following:

Countywide Partisan Nominating Petition: May be used by any major party candidate who seeks a partisan office, except for candidates seeking the office of County Commissioner.

Countywide Non-Partisan Nominating Petition: May be used by any candidate who seeks a nonpartisan office, except for candidates seeking the offices of school board member, intermediate school board member, community college trustee, library or district library board member.

Countywide Qualifying Petition: May be used by any candidate without political party affiliation who seeks a partisan office, except for candidates seeking the office of County Commissioner.

Other types of candidate petitions not covered by this publication include:

City/Township Partisan Nominating Petition: Must be used by a major party candidate seeking the office of County Commissioner. May be used by any major party candidate who seeks a partisan office.

City/Township Qualifying Petition: Must be used by a candidate without party affiliation seeking the office of County Commissioner. May be used by any candidate without political party affiliation who seeks a partisan office.

City/Township Non-Partisan Nominating Petition: May be used by any candidate seeking a nonpartisan office, except for candidates seeking school board, intermediate school board, or community college trustee positions.

School Nominating Petition: Use restricted to candidates seeking a school board position. Specially designed versions of the petition form are available for candidates seeking a position on an intermediate school board or a community college board of trustees.

Village Non-Partisan Nominating Petition: Use restricted to candidates seeking a village office.

Metropolitan District Nominating Petition: Use restricted to candidates seeking a metropolitan district office.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- A petition sheet is valid if it includes the circulator’s signature; the date on which the circulator signed the petition; the circulator’s complete residence address (street address or rural route number, city or township and state); and for a circulator who is not a Michigan resident, the name of the county where the circulator is registered to vote (if applicable) and the circulator’s mark (cross or check mark) in the nonresident box in the Certificate of Circulator.
- A petition sheet is invalid and none of the signatures affixed to the sheet will be counted as valid if the circulator is not a resident of Michigan and fails to mark the nonresident box in the Certificate of Circulator.
- A petition sheet must include the name of the county where it was circulated; each sheet must list only a single county.
- An individual signature entry is valid if it includes the signer’s signature; the street address or rural route number; the name of the city or township where the signer is registered to vote; and the date on which the signature was affixed to the petition.
- An individual signature entry is invalid if the QVF indicates that on the date of signing, the signer was:
 1. Not registered to vote in Michigan, or
 2. Registered to vote in this state but not in the city or township indicated, or
 3. Registered to vote in the city or township indicated but that jurisdiction is not within the county listed in the heading of the petition sheet.
- **Certain variations or errors are acceptable and will not cause a signature or entire petition sheet to be rejected.** For further information, see “Acceptable Sheet Variations” and “Acceptable Signature Variations” below.

PETITION SHEET VALIDITY

Imperfections in the petition sheet heading, certificate of circulator, or body of the petition sheet may jeopardize the validity of signatures appearing on the sheet.

Defects in the petition heading which render an entire sheet invalid. A petition sheet is invalid if it contains one or more of the following defects in the heading:

- The county of circulation is omitted, and it is not apparent that circulation was confined to a single county.
- Two or more counties are listed, and it is not apparent that circulation was confined to a single county.
- Required information concerning candidate or office sought omitted, including the candidate's name, residence address, party affiliation (if applicable), the office sought, and the district served by the office (if any).

Note: In addition, candidates seeking judicial offices must follow the instructions for completing the heading that are printed on the reverse side of the Nominating Petition (Countywide Nonpartisan) form.

Defects in the certificate of circulator which render an entire sheet invalid. A petition sheet is invalid if it contains one or more of the following defects in the circulator's certificate:

- The petition sheet is not signed by the circulator or is signed by more than one circulator.
- The circulator's date of signing is omitted, incomplete or earlier than the date entered by every petition signer.
- The circulator's residence address is omitted, incomplete or includes a P.O. Box in place of a street address or rural route.

Note: The circulator's failure to include the correct zip code, by itself, is not a fatal defect.

- Attention nonresident petition circulators: A petition sheet is invalid if the circulator is not a Michigan resident and fails to mark the nonresident box in the certificate of circulator.

Other fatal defects that render an entire petition sheet invalid.

- Damaged, mutilated or torn petition sheets where any of the mandatory elements (heading, warning statements, circulator certificate, signer entries) are illegible or omitted.
- Sheets where any of the mandatory elements (heading, warning statements, circulator certificate, signer entries) are obscured or covered by white-out, permanent marker, stickers or other opaque material.

Acceptable sheet variations. The following variations will not cause an entire petition sheet to be rejected:

- The name of the county where the petition sheet was circulated is omitted or more than one county of circulation listed, and it is apparent from cities and townships listed by signers

that circulation was within a single county.

- For all offices except certain judicial offices, the failure to include the “Term Expiration Date” does not render a petition sheet invalid if the filing official can ascertain which position the candidate is seeking. For example, if a candidate is seeking nomination or election to the office of County Clerk, the candidate is not required to include the “Term Expiration Date” because there is only one position to be elected. If there are multiple positions available with different term ending dates, the candidate should include the “Term Expiration Date.”

Note: Judicial candidates seeking office in a district in which a combination of full terms and partial terms will appear on the ballot must follow the instructions printed on the reverse side of the nominating petition with respect to the “Term Expiration Date.”

- All of the following variations are acceptable: The circulator’s signature is illegible; circulator prints his or her name in space provided for the signature and signs in the space for printed name; circulator omits his or her printed name; circulator enters his or her cursive signature in space provided for printed name.

Note: The petition sheet is invalid if the circulator merely prints his or her name and fails to sign the petition.

- The circulator omits his or her zip code or enters an incorrect zip code.
- The circulator prints the name of a village or unincorporated place instead of the township in which he or she resides, as long as the village or unincorporated place is wholly contained within a single township.
- The circulator omits the county of registration.
- The circulator is a resident of Michigan and inadvertently checks the out-of-state circulator checkbox and/or writes the name of the Michigan county where he or she is registered to vote.

VALIDITY OF INDIVIDUAL SIGNATURES

A signature entry is valid if the voter signs the petition and prints his or her street address or rural route, city or township where registered to vote, and date of signing. (The signer’s omission of his or her printed name or zip code is an acceptable variation.) Filing officials use the code “R” (registered) for valid entries.

A signature is invalid if it contains one or more of the defects or omissions listed below. The codes used to mark defects and omissions on petition sheets are shown to the left of the descriptions.

INVALID ENTRY CODE	EXPLANATION									
<i>SIGNATURE ERRORS</i>										
CO	Signature was crossed out prior to filing.									
DUP	Signer signed petition multiple times, or signed nominating petitions for more candidates than there are persons to be elected to the office. <i>Note:</i> Duplicate signatures are invalid only if both entries would have been coded R, but for the fact that the signer signed the petition multiple times or for multiple candidates seeking the same office.									
NR	On the date of signing, the signer was not registered to vote anywhere in the city or township indicated or was not registered within the electoral district. <i>Note:</i> If a signer is registered to vote at a different address within the same city or township as is written on the petition, the signature is valid. See examples below: <table border="1" data-bbox="440 747 1369 856"> <thead> <tr> <th>Petition Address</th> <th>Registration Address</th> <th>Result</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>123 Main St., Mason</td> <td>987 Maple St., Mason</td> <td>Valid entry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>456 Maple St., Flint</td> <td>456 Maple St., Mt. Morris</td> <td>Invalid entry</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Petition Address	Registration Address	Result	123 Main St., Mason	987 Maple St., Mason	Valid entry	456 Maple St., Flint	456 Maple St., Mt. Morris	Invalid entry
Petition Address	Registration Address	Result								
123 Main St., Mason	987 Maple St., Mason	Valid entry								
456 Maple St., Flint	456 Maple St., Mt. Morris	Invalid entry								
IN	Incomplete signature, meaning the petition signature given as follows and does not match the signature on file: “Ms. Smith,” “Mr. Jones,” “Jane,” “JD.”									
NS	No signature, meaning the signature was omitted or signer printed his or her name and the signature on file is cursive.									
<i>ADDRESS AND JURISDICTION ERRORS</i>										
NA	Street address or rural route is omitted or incomplete, or signer wrote a P.O. Box in place of a street address.									
OC	The address given is located outside of the city or township listed.									
OD	The address given is located within the city or township listed, but outside of the electoral district for the office sought.									
NC	There is no city or township by that name located within the county listed in the heading of the petition.									
DUAL	Dual jurisdiction entry, meaning the signer wrote the names of two or more jurisdictions in the space for the city or township where registered.									
IC	A village or unincorporated place was listed instead of the township where the signer is registered, but only if the village or unincorporated place lies within two or more townships.									
<i>DATE ERRORS</i>										
ED	Voter’s signature is dated before the first date of the current term of the office sought. For example, a Nominating Petition (Countywide Partisan) filed by a candidate seeking the office of State Representative in 2020 may be circulated as early as January 1, 2019. <i>Note:</i> For qualifying petitions only, any signature that is dated more than 180 days prior to the date of filing is invalid.									
ND	The signature is undated, or an incomplete date is given.									
SDC	The signature is dated after the circulator dated his or her signature.									

MISCELLANEOUS ERRORS	
CIRC	A fatal defect in the circulator's certificate renders the entire petition sheet invalid. Examples include but are not limited to the omission of the circulator's signature; an incorrect or incomplete address or date of -signing; an out-of-state circulator's failure to check the box; etc.
HEAD	A fatal defect in the petition heading renders the entire sheet invalid. Examples include but are not limited to omission of the candidate's name, residence address, party affiliation (if applicable), the office sought, etc.
DMG	A petition sheet that is damaged, mutilated or torn such that any mandatory element (heading, warning statements, circulator certificate, signer entries) is illegible or omitted; or petition sheets where any of the mandatory elements are obscured or covered by white-out, permanent marker, stickers or other opaque material.
MC	Miscellaneous identification problem.

Acceptable signature variations. The following variations are acceptable and will not result in the rejection of an individual signature:

- The signature includes one or more of the signer's initials plus his or her last name. Acceptable entries include but are not limited to: J. Smith; J.B. Smith; Mrs. J. Jones; A. John Doe.
- The signature is illegible.²
- All of the following variations are acceptable: The signer prints his or her name in space provided for the signature and signs in the space for printed name; signer omits his or her printed name; signer enters his or her cursive signature in space provided for printed name.

Note: A signature is invalid if the signer merely prints his or her name in the space provided for printed name yet fails to sign the petition, and the signature on file is a cursive signature.

- The signer is unable to sign his or her name and uses a signature stamp (instead of a pen-and-ink signature).
- The signer enters ditto marks in the space(s) provided for address, city or township, zip code or date of signing.
- On the date of signing, the signer was registered to vote in the city or township indicated but at a different street address within the same city or township.
- The signer writes the community name appearing in his or her "postal address"³ in the

² Note, however, that if *all* of the personally identifiable information in the petition entry is illegible and cannot be validated (signature, printed name, address, city or township), the signature may be coded as invalid.

³ The term "postal address" refers to the name of the local post office. In some instances, the post office name will correspond to the name of the person's city or township, but in other cases, the post office name differs. As a

space for city or township of registration.

Example 1: Individuals who are registered to vote in Genesee Township, Richfield Township and Vienna Township have a Mt. Morris postal address. When signing a countywide petition, these voters may write the name of the township where they are registered to vote or Mt. Morris in the “City or Township” column of the petition sheet, and either entry is valid.

Example 2: Parts of Texas Township are served by the Kalamazoo post office (zip code 49001) while other parts of the township are served by the Mattawan post office (zip code 49071). If a Texas Township registrant writes “Kalamazoo” in the city or township column but his or her postal address is Mattawan, the entry is invalid.

- The signer writes the name of a village or unincorporated place in the space for city or township of registration, and the village or unincorporated place is located within a single township.

Example 1: A signature is valid if the signer provides the name of an unincorporated place in the place for city or township of registration, and the unincorporated place is located within a single township, and the signer is registered to vote in that township.

Examples of unincorporated places include but are not limited to: Hemlock (Saginaw County), Kincheloe (Chippewa County), Lambertville (Monroe County), Okemos (Ingham County), Union Lake (Oakland County), and Walloon Lake (Charlevoix County).

Example 2: A signature is valid if the signer writes the name of a village, the village is wholly contained within a single township, and the signer is registered to vote in that township. A signature is invalid if the signer writes the name of a village instead of his or her township of registration and the village boundaries cross multiple townships.

- The signer omits his or her zip code or enters an incorrect zip code.
- ***NEW FOR 2019-2020*** With respect to signatures appearing on 2015 petition forms, any marking in the space where a signer indicates whether the place of registration is a “city” or “township” must be treated as a valid entry. In other words, a signature must not be rejected solely because the signer checked the wrong box, checked both boxes, and checked neither box. Examples of valid entries that may appear on 2015 petition forms include the following:

result, the jurisdiction written on the petition may not always correspond to the name of the city or township where the signer is registered to vote. See [Usps.com](https://www.usps.com) for a list of local post offices by state.

INDICATE CITY OR TOWNSHIP IN WHICH REGISTERED TO VOTE		RESULT
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/>	1. <i>Garden City</i>	VALID
TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
CITY OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. <i>Redford Twp.</i>	VALID
TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>		
CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/>	3. <i>Detroit</i>	VALID
TOWNSHIP OF <input type="checkbox"/>		
CITY OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. <i>Wayne</i>	VALID
TOWNSHIP OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

- ***NEW FOR 2019-2020*** Abbreviations for jurisdiction names are acceptable if the abbreviation reasonably corresponds to the name of the appropriate city, township, local post office, unincorporated place, or village. Examples of commonly used abbreviations include but are not limited to the following:

Abbreviation	Corresponds to ...	County
AA, A ²	Ann Arbor city, Ann Arbor Township	Washtenaw
BC	Battle Creek	Calhoun
BH	Benton Harbor	Berrien
BH, Blfd Hlls	Bloomfield Hills	Oakland
D'born	Dearborn	Wayne
D'born Hts	Dearborn Heights	Wayne
Det	Detroit	Wayne
EL, E Lan	East Lansing	Ingham
Farm	Farmington	Oakland
FH, Farm Hlls	Farmington Hills	Oakland
Fnt	Flint city, Flint Township	Genesee
GR	Grand Rapids	Kent
GP	Grosse Pointe	Wayne
GPF	Grosse Pointe Farms	Wayne
GPP	Grosse Pointe Park	Wayne
GPS	Grosse Pointe Shores	Wayne
GPW	Grosse Pointe Woods	Wayne
HP	Highland Park	Wayne
Kal, K'zoo	Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo
Lan	Lansing	Ingham
Musk	Muskegon	Muskegon
Sag	Saginaw city, Saginaw Township	Saginaw
SSM	Sault Ste. Marie	Chippewa
SH	Shelby Township	Macomb
SH, Ster Hgts	Sterling Heights	Macomb
S'fld	Southfield	Oakland
SCS	St. Clair Shores	Macomb
St. Joe	St. Joseph	Berrien
TC	Traverse City	Grand Traverse

Abbreviation	Corresponds to ...	County
WB	West Bloomfield	Oakland
Ypsi	Ypsilanti	Washtenaw

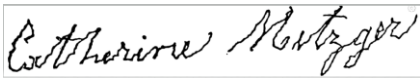
SIGNATURE VERIFICATION

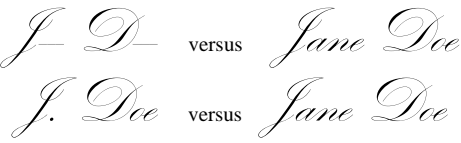

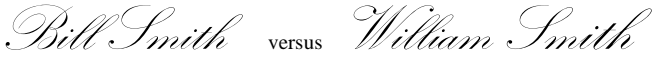
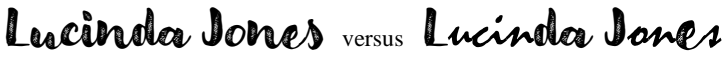


Circulators should encourage voters to sign petitions in a way that reasonably resembles the signature given for driver’s license/state ID or voter registration purposes, but it is not necessary for the voter’s signature to perfectly match the signature on file. Filing officials must perform their signature verification duties with the presumption that a voter’s petition signature is his or her genuine signature, as there are numerous legitimate reasons that may explain an apparent mismatch:

- Petition signatures are often written on a clipboard, which may cause the signature to appear more slanted or less precise than the signature on file, or cause breaks or pauses in a cursive signature.
- Petition signatures (or voter registration or pin-pad signatures collected during the driver’s license/state ID application process) could have been written in haste.
- A medical condition or advancing age may cause the signature to be different.
- The electronic signature on file may be smaller or larger than the signature given on a petition sheet.
- The signature may have been written using a pen with a finer tip or one with fading ink as compared to the signature on file.

None of these differences will result in the invalidation of the petition signature. If there are any redeeming qualities in the petition signature as compared to the signature on file, the filing official should treat the signature as valid. Redeeming qualities may include but are not limited to similar distinctive flourishes, more matching features than nonmatching features, and Examples 1-5 below.

A voter’s signature should be considered questionable only if it differs in multiple, significant and obvious respects from the signature on file; see Examples 6-7 below. Slight dissimilarities should be resolved in favor of the voter whenever possible.

#	Petition Signature Verification Examples	Recommended Result
1.	Signature appears as if voter’s hand is trembling or shaking, possibly due to a health condition or advancing age: <i>Catherine Metzger</i> versus 	Valid signature

#	Petition Signature Verification Examples	Recommended Result
2.	Only part of the signature matches the signature on file such as only the first letters of the first and last name match, but rest of signature does not match: 	Valid signature
3.	Signature is partially printed but at the same time, partially matches the signature on file: 	Valid signature
4.	Signature is a recognized diminutive of the voter's full legal name: 	Valid signature
5.	Signature style has changed slightly over time: 	Valid signature
6.	Signature is entirely printed but signature on file is entirely written in cursive: 	Questionable signature
7.	Signature differs in multiple, significant and obvious respects: 	Questionable signature

PETITION CANVASS PROCESS

Nominating and qualifying petitions must be timely filed with the filing official designated by law to accept filings for the elective office sought. Petitions are canvassed by the designated filing official or, in the case of many federal, state and judicial offices, under the authority of the Board of State Canvassers.

A sworn complaint (challenge) alleging that the nominating or qualifying petition contains an insufficient number of valid signatures or is otherwise defective may be submitted to the appropriate filing official within 7 days of the filing deadline. Challenges are resolved by the filing official or in the case of many federal, state and judicial offices, are decided by the Board of State Canvassers.

BEST PRACTICES

Train your petition circulators. Informing petition circulators of the requirements described in this publication can minimize the likelihood that whole petition sheets and individual signatures are rejected. Errors may be averted if circulators take the following actions:

- Write the name of the county of circulation in the heading of the petition.
- Ask potential signers whether they are registered to vote.
- Instruct signers to provide their street address or rural route where indicated; a P.O. Box is invalid.
- Remind signers to write the date of signing, not their date of birth.
- Review each signer's entry for completeness. If information is omitted, ask the signer to fill in the blank(s).
- Encourage signers to sign in a way that reasonably resembles the signature given for driver's license or voter registration purposes. It is not necessary for the signer's petition signature to be a perfect match with the signature on file. See "Signature Verification" above.
- Once circulation of a petition sheet is complete, ensure that the circulator signs and dates the certificate of circulator and provides the required information. If the circulator is not a Michigan resident, he or she must also check the nonresident box in the bottom left corner of the petition sheet and write the name of the county where registered to vote, if any.

Exercise care when circulating in or near cities and villages that cross county lines.

Several cities and villages in Michigan overlap county boundary lines. When obtaining a signature from a voter who is registered in a city or village that crosses county boundaries, make sure the voter signs the petition sheet that aligns with the signer's county of registration.

Implement a quality control process before filing the petition. Candidates are strongly encouraged to obtain a copy of the Qualified Voter File (QVF) for pre-filing verification purposes. Any petition signatures found to be invalid during the quality control process (i.e., because the street address or date is omitted) can be crossed out prior to filing; crossed out signatures are excluded when determining the maximum number of signatures filed.

Review all petition sheets prior to filing for completeness, especially the name of the county of circulation and the certificate of circulator.

File enough signatures. Candidates are strongly encouraged to gather and file substantially more signatures than the minimum number required. The number of excess signatures needed will vary depending on the vigorousness of the candidate's quality control process. Even if the petition has been verified by a professional signature gathering firm prior to filing, note that (1) A challenge may be filed against the sufficiency of the nominating or qualifying petition, and (2) There is a likelihood that some signatures or whole petition sheets may be found to be invalid during the canvass process. However, note that there is an upper limit on the maximum

number of signatures that may be filed; see MCL 168.544f for further information.

IMPORTANT

The information in this brochure is offered as a summary of the provisions governing the validity of petition signatures; it is not a complete description or interpretation of all pertinent laws. Questions may be addressed to:

Michigan Department of State
Bureau of Elections
P.O. Box 20126
Lansing, Michigan 48901-0726
Telephone: (517) 335-3234

Email: Elections@Michigan.gov
Web: Michigan.gov/Elections