

# NEBRASKANS FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA

## Petition circulator training guide

Thank you for being part of our effort to put medical marijuana on the 2020 ballot! Please carefully review the information below before asking anyone to sign your petition(s). Failure to follow these rules can be a criminal violation of Nebraska laws. It could also jeopardize our campaign and the work of other petition circulators. Thank you for understanding your responsibilities as a circulator!

### Key terms and responsibilities:

- Circulator: a person who is collecting signatures for an initiative petition.
- Constitutional ballot initiative: a ballot initiative that amends the Nebraska State Constitution if approved by a majority of voters in an election.
- Nebraskans for Medical Marijuana/Nebraskans for Sensible Marijuana Laws: our campaign committee.
- Notary: an individual certified by the State of Nebraska to witness legal oaths.
- Object statement: the summary of the initiative, *which must be read to each signer*, printed at the top of each petition sheet.
- Petition: the sheet of paper that is signed. *Each petition may only be carried by only one circulator and may be associated with only one county.*
- Signer: a Nebraska resident who adds their signature to the petition.

### Collecting Signatures:

- Explain that you are collecting signatures to help put a medical marijuana constitutional initiative on the 2020 ballot in Nebraska. For the initiative to take it effect, it must be approved by a majority of voters in the 2020 election.
  - Note: signing the petition does not mean the signer supports medical marijuana — signing only means the signer thinks voters should have a chance to decide.
- Inform them that they must be a registered voter for their signature to count. If they are not registered, they may register online if they have a driver's license or by mail. Note: you may not register for them.
- Ask the signer which county they live in — a petition sheet may only list signers who live in the same county.
- Read the object statement on the petition to each signer. Failing to do so could be a misdemeanor offense under Nebraska law.

- Witness them sign, print their full name, and fill in the required information.
- Check to ensure the signer's information has been entered correctly and legibly, especially their address (which must be located in the county associated with the petition). You may carefully cross a line through any inaccurate information and use a new line as a replacement (this will not affect the validity of the other signatures on the petition).

### Submitting Petitions:

- A petition does not need to be full in order to be completed. However, it is preferable to have at least 10 signatures in order to save the campaign money on printing costs.
- When you have finished collecting signatures on a petition, review all information on the sheet and ensure it is filled out correctly before having it notarized.
- You must then complete the oath at the bottom the petition sheet in the presence of a notary.
- The circulator should then return the petition to their volunteer coordinator or mail them to PO Box 57335, Lincoln, NE 68505 for safekeeping. It's important to send completed petitions back in a timely manner.

### Additional Rules:

- Circulators must be at least 18 years of age.
- Circulators must witness every signature added to their petition.
- Circulators must read the object statement on the petition to each signer before they sign.
- Voters cannot sign the petition more than once, but accidental duplicate signatures do not invalidate all instances of a person's signature. Duplicates will be removed when petitions are verified by the state.
- A circulator may collect signatures on private property, provided that a person controlling the premises gives permission.
- A circulator may not collect signatures within 200 feet of a polling place.
- A circulator may not offer anything of value to a signer in return for their signature. Doing so is a crime under Nebraska law.
- Each petition may only be carried by one circulator. Sharing petitions is not allowed.

### Questions

- If you are unsure about any aspect of petition circulating or signature gathering, please contact us:
  - David Swarts, state coordinator: [david@nebraskamarijuana.org](mailto:david@nebraskamarijuana.org), (402) 418-4044
  - General campaign contact: [info@nebraskamarijuana.org](mailto:info@nebraskamarijuana.org), (402) 318-3482