



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20003-4733



NOMINATING PETITION CIRCULATION GUIDELINES

I. VALIDITY OF SIGNATURES ON NOMINATING PETITIONS

In order for a signature on a nominating petition to be valid:

- a. The signer must be a duly registered voter according to the Board's records at the time the petition is signed.
 - o If the signer is not a duly registered voter and the signer's signature is challenged, the signature may still be deemed valid if the signer files a change of address form with the Board within ten (10) days after challenge is filed, and the address provided is within the electoral jurisdiction (ward or single-member district (SMD)) from which the candidate seeks nomination.
- b. The signer's voter registration must be designated as active in the Board's records.
- c. The signature must not be a duplicate of one that appears on the nominating petition
- d. The signature must be dated.
- e. The signature must be accompanied by an address. A P.O. Box number is not acceptable.
- f. The signature must be sufficiently legible so as to allow for the Board to identify the signer. If the signature is not sufficiently legible, it must be accompanied by the printed name of the signer.
- g. The page on which the signature appears must have been circulated by a qualified petition circulator. (See "II. Nominating Petition Circulators," for information on qualified petition circulators.)
- h. The page on which the signature appears must bear a completed circulator's affidavit.
- i. The signature must be made by the person whose signature it purports to be. If a registered voter is unable to sign their name, that person may make their mark in the space provided for a signature. Such mark will be deemed valid if it is accompanied by a Signature Attestation Form that indicates that the witness explained the contents of the petition to the signer and witnessed the mark as it was made.
- j. Where applicable, the signer:
 - o Must be registered in the same ward from which the candidate seeks election (ward-based elections for the Council or the State Board of Education).
 - o Must be registered in the same SMD from which the candidate seeks election (Advisory Neighborhood Commission Elections).
 - o Must be registered in the same party as the candidate (Primary Elections).

I. NOMINATING PETITION CIRCULATORS

Each circulator of a nominating petition must:

- a. Be a qualified petition circulator. A person is a qualified petition circulator if they are:
 - o At least 18 years of age; and
 - o Either a resident of the District of Columbia or a resident of another jurisdiction who registered as a petition circulator with the Board prior to circulation of the petition and consented to being subject to the subpoena power of the Board and the jurisdiction of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the enforcement of subpoenas without respect to the individual's place of residence
- b. Personally witness each person sign the petition.
- c. Ask each signer whether they are a registered voter in the District of Columbia and, when applicable, if they are registered in the same party as the candidate, and/or if they reside in the same ward or SMD as the candidate.
- d. Complete and sign, under penalties of perjury, the circulator's affidavit on the back of each petition indicating that they have followed the rules governing petition circulators. Failure to complete and sign the circulator's affidavit on the back of each petition page could invalidate all signatures on the page.

If you have any questions regarding the nominating petition circulation process, please contact the DC Board of Elections:

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1015 Half Street SE, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20003
(202) 727-2525 (Phone), 711 (TTY) or 1-800-833-7833 (Toll-free/voice)
Website: <https://dcboe.org/> App: @Vote4DC**

REMINDER: THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE CIRCULAR FOR EACH PETITION PAGE.