

Petitioning

General rules for petitioning are in our Handbook and in the petitioning packets, but we got some clarification on sticky situations from the Board of Elections and are sharing them here. Remember the basics:

- (1) For Democratic petitions, signers must be registered Democrats in the election district, ward, village, town, or legislative district that matches the office on the petition. For example, signers of committee petitions must live in the candidate's election district. Signers of county legislature petitions must live in the candidate's legislative district (not just in the county).
- (2) Petitioning volunteers may be any registered Democrats in the State of New York.
- (3) You must physically witness every signature, but you may fill in the addresses and/or dates if you wish.

SITUATION 1: MULTIPLE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR A SINGLE OFFICE

Q: May Democratic volunteers carry petitions for both/all candidates?

A: Yes, but signers must choose only one petition to sign. You may never sign petitions for more than one candidate for a single office.

Q: May those petitioning volunteers then sign a different volunteer's petition for one of the candidates?

A: No. If you witness/carry two or more petitions for the same office, you may not sign any of them.

Q: If the volunteers circulate petitions for just one candidate, may they sign a petition for that candidate?

A: Yes, in this case, you may sign another volunteer's petition for the candidate for whom you are carrying.

SITUATION 2: CANDIDATES RUNNING ON MULTIPLE BALLOT LINES

Q: If a Democratic candidate runs on an independent body line (e.g., Protecting Dryden, Community Party), may Democratic volunteers carry petitions for both ballot lines?

A: Yes, as long as they have signed petitions for neither. You may carry a petition for the Democratic ballot line and sign another volunteer's petition for the Democratic ballot line, or you may carry a petition for the second ballot line and sign another volunteer's petition for that second ballot line. You may not carry for both lines and sign for either one.

Q: May voters sign petitions for both ballot lines?

A: No. If volunteers go out with a petition for a second ballot line, they must find new signers. If the ballot line is for a party (such as "Working Families"), the signers AND petitioners must be registered in that party. If the ballot line is just an independent line (such as "Protecting Dryden"), the signers may be any registered voters in the relevant election district (legislative district, town, village, or ward) who have not already signed a petition for the same office.

Q: Who can carry independent petitions/witness signatures after attending a Democratic town caucus to select candidates?

A: Any registered Democratic voter who has not already signed another petition for the same office may carry independent petitions. This includes caucus attendees.

Q: Who can sign independent petitions after attending a town caucus?

A: Any registered voter who has not already signed another petition for the same office may sign an independent petition. This includes caucus attendees.

Q: May Democrats who attend a village caucus later sign independent petitions for the candidates chosen there?

A: No. You must find new signers of independent petitions for candidates chosen in a village caucus.