

2018 PCRG Charter Petition Canvassing Info

What to Bring with You:

- Petitions
- Voter Registration Forms
- Legal-size Clipboard
- Pens (and extra pens). Black or blue permanent ink only.
- Handouts: The flier(s) du jour/Membership forms/The notice for our next meeting...
- Shoulder bag (Use something that makes it easy to reach for handouts, pens... You may not need a bag, if you use a clipboard with a compartment.)
- Phone
- Umbrella (Petitions can be thrown out if they are too damaged.)
- Wear your Portage Community Rights Group pin.
- Wear sunscreen.
- Don't wear dark sunglasses. It looks untrustworthy.
- Smile

Before They Sign:

1. "Are you registered to vote in Portage County?" (Only registered voters from Portage County may sign.)
2. If they aren't registered, offer to register them right there. Have them fill out a voter registration form. They can sign the petition on the same day they fill out the form. You should take their completed form and turn it in to the County Board of Elections at 449 S. Meridian St., Ravenna, Ohio.

IMPORTANT: When you take their voter registration form, you are **REQUIRED BY LAW** to turn it in to the County Board of Elections within 10 days.

As They Sign

3. "Sign your name the way you do when you vote."
4. If their signature **AND** their address is illegible, their signature will be declared invalid because there will be nothing to verify. In cases like this, ask them to clearly print their name in the box with their signature.

5. "The address has to be the one the Board of Elections knows you are registered to vote from." No P.O. Boxes are permitted. You can't live in a P.O. Box.
6. PAY CLOSE ATTENTION: You should be watching them as they write, to catch any mistakes. If they fill out the petition incorrectly, tell them, and have them start again on the next line. Their signature will be declared "invalid" if anything is incorrect. After they sign, you can put a line through the invalid entry.

After They Sign:

1. Read their address back to them. (This might help them catch any mistakes they might have made.)
2. Make sure everything is legible. (If not, have them fix it.)
3. Ask them if there are any other registered voters in the house that could sign.
4. Thank them.
5. "We're raising a little bit of money to cover some of our expenses with a "legalize democracy" bumper sticker for a suggested donation of five dollars. It's the removable kind that is easy to peel off of your car." (\$5 each or \$7 for two, or whatever they are willing to give.)
6. Give them a flier. Tell them what to expect in the future for the charter, and where they can find more information.
7. Tell them we are looking for help gathering signatures. Invite them to our next public meeting. Will they fill out a contact card so we can get back to them?

Also:

- *Before* using a new petition, write your name and address in the spaces provided on the last page and sign it. This is legal documentation that *you* witnessed each signature.
- DO NOT fill in the number of completed signatures. EVER. Not even when you finally turn in the petition. Doing so can invalidate every signature on the petition.
- Keep your petitions clean and dry. Very dirty petitions can be declared invalid. HOWEVER, never throw them out. Turn them in anyway, because they may be accepted. Our Board of Elections has tended to be forgiving about this, but they don't have to be.