

**COMMON
MISTAKES MADE
WHEN GATHERING
SIGNATURES:**

- 1. Multiple counties on one petition sheet.**
- 2. Not signed by a qualified elector.**
- 3. Elector has already signed the petition.**
- 4. Date is not correct or legible.**
- 5. Printed name is illegible.**
- 6. No residence, mailing address or phone number written.**
- 7. Signature Gatherer Affidavit not completed or signed incorrectly.**
- 8. Affidavit signed and dated before the dates of the signatures.**

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING PETITIONS
AND SIGNATURE GATHERING CONTACT:
ELECTIONS HELP LINE: (406) 444-9608
EMAIL: SOSELECTIONS@MT.GOV

**SIGNATURE
GATHERER
REQUIREMENTS**

Paid signature gatherers must be registered through the Montana Secretary of State's office by their employer. (Signature Gatherers can be unpaid volunteers.)

Paid Signature Gatherers must be registered before collecting signatures.

Signature Gatherers may not be paid anything of value based on the number of signatures gathered.

Verbal disclosure of the paid signature gatherer's first name, state of residency, and status as a paid signature gatherer. They must wear a badge that displays their full first name and last initial, their state of residency, and their status as a paid signature gatherer.



CHRISTI JACOBSEN
MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

MONTANA
PETITION SIGNATURE
GATHERER GUIDE

Hi, I'm Sam! I'm from Washington and I am a paid signature gatherer. I would like to talk to you about signing this petition.



SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

Signatures Gathered	Submission Deadline
287 days or earlier (October 3, 2025 or earlier)	Due by 273 days (October 17, 2025)
196 days or earlier (Between October 4, 2025, and January 2, 2026)	Due by 182 days (January 16, 2026)
126 days or earlier (Between January 3, 2026, and March 13, 2026)	Due by 112 days (March 27, 2026)
98 days or earlier (Between March 14, 2026, and April 10, 2026)	Due by 84 days (April 24, 2026)
Final Deadline: Signatures gathered after April 11, 2026, must be submitted to county Election Administrator by 5:00 p.m., June 19, 2026	

*Sponsors, signature gatherers and employers of signature gatherers are responsible for correctly submitting petition sheets to county election offices.

GATHERING VALID SIGNATURES

1. For statewide ballot issues, signatures may not be gathered **prior to one year** before the deadline for filing petition sheets with the county Election Administrator.

2. A copy of the full text of the ballot issue must be available for signers to read.

3. Paid Signature Gatherers must disclose their **first name, state of residency, and status as a paid signature gatherer** to anyone they approach about signing a petition. They must also wear a badge that displays their **full first name and last initial, their state of residency, and their status as a paid signature gatherer.**

4. **Signature gatherers must be present when the qualified electors sign the petition.** Do not leave petition sheets unattended.

5. Do not sign an affidavit **before** collecting signatures or collect more signatures **after** signing the affidavit.

6. **Only collect signatures for one county on each sheet.** Do not mix signers from different counties on one sheet, if a signer from a new county is encountered – begin a new sheet.

7. Each person must sign the petition individually. **Signers may not sign for family, friends, or spouse.**

8. **Signers must sign the correct date on the petition sheet.** Signature gatherers should ensure the date is **clear and legible.**

9. **Signers must provide their residence, mailing address, or telephone number** to assist Election Administrators in locating their records for the signature verification process.

10. Signatures are commonly rejected due to their printed name being illegible. **Signature Gatherers should ensure signers print their name clearly.**

★ Signers must be qualified Montana Electors

COMPLETING THE AFFIDAVIT OR UNSWORN DECLARATION

The term “affidavit” below refers to two forms with the same purpose:

- a. Petition Signature Gatherer Affidavit
- b. Petition Signature Gatherer Unsworn Declaration

★ Each Submittal (which is an affidavit with attached petition signature sheets) must include a completed affidavit with legible dates and information.

★ The affidavit is attached to petition signature sheets (no more than 25 sheets per submittal) and will be submitted to the Election Administrator.

★ You can have an unlimited number of submittals, but each submittal must not exceed 25 petition signature sheets.

★ An affidavit should never be signed before a signature gatherer has collected the final signature for a submittal.

★ The “date of first signature gathered” field on the affidavit should match the earliest date a signature was gathered on the attached signature sheet(s).