

# 2022 Illinois Green Party General Election Petitioning Guide

## Key General Election Dates

- April 13, 2022: Unestablished Party Petitioning Starts
- July 5 – 11, 2022: Unestablished Party Petition Filing Period
- November 8, 2022: General Election Day

## Who can circulate the petition?

- Circulators must be **US citizens and at least 17 years old by Election Day, November 8, 2022.**
- They **do not** have to be registered Illinois voters or even Illinois residents.
- However, a circulator **cannot** circulate our petitions if they have circulated a petition for any candidate of another party, or for an independent candidate, for the 2022 primary or general election for any office.
- A circulator can also be one of the petition signers and can sign one of the petitions they are circulating.

## Printing and filling out petitions

- If you print petition copies, they **must be on letter (8.5" x 11") paper.**
- **Do not alter any of the text on the petition!** The boilerplate information on the top and bottom must be identical.
- **DO NOT NUMBER YOUR PETITION SHEETS!** They get numbered by the coordinators later.
- You can fill out the circulator information at the bottom at any time, **BUT DO NOT SIGN THE CIRCULATOR LINE UNLESS YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF A NOTARY!**

## Who to collect from

- Foremost, petition signers must be registered voters living in the candidate's district
- Start with you, your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors
- Create a list of prospects in advance to help you get the easiest signatures
- If going door-to-door, your organizer will provide you a worksheet so you know the residents are registered voters and targeted by the campaign

## Where to circulate

- Parades (best time is 30 minutes to an hour before the parade up until the parade starts)
- Commuter train platforms (best time is early weekday mornings, typically between 6am-7:30am when commuters are on the platform waiting for morning express trains or any time for Chicago elevated trains)
- Festivals and farmers markets
- Parks
- Public spaces
- Walkable neighborhoods and Duplexes door-to-door, with a worksheet

## Tips on collecting signatures

- Always be courteous.
- Start with the simple and important question: “Are you registered to vote in [the district you are collecting signatures]?” A “Yes” allows you to ask the next question: “Will you sign a petition to help put [the Green Party candidate you are circulating for] on the ballot?”
- Avoid discussions! If you are spending more than 2 minutes trying to convince someone to sign, you’re wasting your time. It’s a numbers game. The more people you ask, the more signatures you will get.
- When encountering hostiles: Simply back off, wish these kinds of folks a good day, and continue on to the next possible signer.
- All voters must sign the petition in the presence of the circulator. You can’t leave it on a table and have people sign it while you’re not around.
- Don’t talk while they are filling out the petition, to avoid distracting them.
- If they realize they made a mistake, ask them to correct it or start over ON THE NEXT LINE.
- The address must be complete including direction (N,S,E,W) and street type (rd, ave, st, etc.).
- The city and county can not be abbreviated. The only thing that can be abbreviated is the street type.
- Review the line they completed and have them correct any part that’s not complete or illegible. It is also legally okay for you to write in the appropriate information. THE ONLY THING YOU CAN NOT WRITE IN FOR THEM IS THEIR SIGNATURE.
- If a voter uses “ditto marks”, it is legally okay for you to write in the appropriate information.
- Voters signing the petition must sign their name the same way they did when they originally registered to vote. Common problems involve people with hyphenated last names and people who use their middle names but tend to fill out government paperwork with their first names.
- Make sure the voters sign in the signature column and print in the printed name column! If they mistakenly do the reverse, HAVE THEM SKIP TO THE NEXT LINE. We’ll have a candidate cross out the bad line (which is legal!)
- THANK YOUR SIGNER FOR THEIR TIME.

### Answering voters’ questions

- People must be a registered voter living in the candidates’ district and fill in the address where they are currently registered. If a voter states that they have recently moved or are about to move, and states that they will **definitely** register at their new address before the conclusion of the petitioning period, they should fill in their new address on the petition.
- People **cannot** sign our petition if they signed a petition for any other party or independent candidate for the **same office** for the November 2022 **General Election**.
- People **can** sign our petition if they signed a petition for any other party or independent candidate for **any office** for the June 2022 **Primary Election**.
- People can sign our petition and go on to vote for whomever they like. They commit to nothing by signing, and signing will not affect a person’s party affiliation for future elections.
- A lot of people will ask if their names will be “put on a list”. It will not. The petitions are submitted to the State Board of Elections for verification purposes and that’s all. We will not contact them based on the information they provided on the ballot petition.
- If a voter asks how they can get involved, send their contact info to [volunteer@ilgp.org](mailto:volunteer@ilgp.org).