

# 2024 Illinois Green Party Petitioning Guide & Tips

The Illinois Green Party 2024 Ballot Access Petition Drive runs from March 26, 2024 through June 24, 2024. In order to place our presidential ticket and US Senate candidate on the 2024 General Election Ballot the Illinois Green Party will have to submit 25,000 valid signatures to the Illinois Board of Elections. The general rule of thumb is that we must collect twice as many signatures as required to survive legal challenges. That means that we must collect 50,000 signatures in 90 days in order to get our candidates on the ballot.

This guide is intended to give potential petitioners the basics of what they need to know in order to petition for the Illinois Green Party.

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## Key General Election Dates

- **March 26, 2024:** “New” Party Petitioning Starts
  - **June 17 – 24, 2024:** Unestablished Party Petition Filing Period
  - **November 5, 2024:** General Election Day
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## Who can circulate the petition?

- Circulators must be **18 years old and US citizens or 17 and will be 18 on or before Election Day, November 5, 2024.**
- 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 the candidate of another party, or for an independent candidate, for the 2024 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

- Your family, friends, and neighbors
- Canvas Walk Lists through the campaign
- Create a list of prospects in advance to help you get the easiest signatures.

- Facebook Groups that allow posting a link to our petition
- Twitter
- Appropriate Social Media Apps

### 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 when commuters are on the platform waiting for the train). The Chicago Elevated Train System does not allow petitioning on the platform.
- Duplexes (Unless there is a “No Trespassing” sign)
- Walkable neighborhoods
- Parks
- Public spaces
- Farmer’s Market
- Being a vendor at a local community event. Funding and certificates of insurance riders might be available.
- There is a Petition List that is Available on Basecamp. Volunteer Sign-up is at [www.ilgp.org/get-involved](http://www.ilgp.org/get-involved). Email [Volunteer@ILGP.org](mailto:Volunteer@ILGP.org), call/text 773-809-4547

### Tips on collecting signatures

- **Always be courteous.**
- Start with the simple and important question: “Are you a registered voter [the district you are collecting signatures]?” A “Yes” allows you to ask the next question: “Will you sign a petition to help put Green Party candidates on the ballot?”
- Avoid discussions! If you are spending more than 2 minutes trying to convince someone to sign, you’re wasting your time.
- 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.
- THANK YOUR SIGNER FOR THEIR TIME.
- You CANNOT answer registration questions or register then to vote while petitioning. There are also special rules on who can assist with voter registration and when.

- DO NOT leave flyers in mailboxes.
- DO NOT enter areas that are labeled as “No Trespassing.” This may include apartment buildings or duplex areas. There is no petitioning on the Post Office property.

### **Answering voters' questions**

- People must be a registered Illinois voter 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 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. It just helps give the voters options.
- 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 their signature.
- If a voter asks how they can get involved, send their contact info to [volunteer@ilgp.org](mailto:volunteer@ilgp.org). You can also have an additional sign-up paper separate from the petition.