

Guidelines for Gathering Signatures for the Arkansas Restore Term Limits Amendment

Important: The state of Arkansas imposes strict rules regarding petitions and petition signatures gathered for amendments like Restore Term Limits. These rules, while not very difficult to follow, must be followed carefully to make sure the state counts the signatures on the petition as valid. The state will disqualify any signatures or petitions that were not collected in accordance with these rules.

To help ensure the signatures you gather are valid and will be counted by the state, please do your best to adhere to the following guidelines. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at (501) 825-0190 or RestoreTermLimits@Gmail.com.

If you haven't already done so, please watch our "Petition Sheet Training" How To Video available at www.RestoreTermLimits.org/120-club-training/

1. Use an approved petition. An approved petition is the copy you received from Arkansas Term Limits: a single sheet of white paper with spaces for signatures and a notary seal on one side, with instructions and the full text of the proposal on the other. The petition is also available to be printed off our website, www.RestoreTermLimits.org/petition

You are free to print or photocopy the blank petition as many times as you wish, so long as the photocopies are “front and back” (signature spaces on one side of the paper, proposal text on the other). Please do not type your own petitions or change the approved petition in any way.

2. Keep petition signatures separated by county. Each petition may only contain signatures from registered voters in a specific county. Suppose you're collecting signatures from voters registered in Faulkner County; simply write the word “Faulkner” in the county space at the top of your petition, and start collecting signatures. If a voter from Pulaski County wants to sign, you will need to collect his signature on a separate sheet marked “Pulaski.” The state has the power to throw out any petition with signatures from voters of more than one county.

3. Make sure signers are registered voters. Signatures from individuals who are not registered to vote will be disqualified by the state. To find out if someone is registered, ask if they voted in the most recent election.

4. Make sure voters write legibly and in all the appropriate spaces. If the state officials cannot read a person's handwriting, their signature will not be counted. Signers are also required to fill in all of the spaces, including their signature, printed name, date of birth, residence, city and date of signing.

5. Make sure you fill in all the appropriate spaces as a “Canvasser,” while having the petition notarized. After you are done collecting signatures, take the petition forms to a notary registered in the state of Arkansas, and fill out the appropriate spaces in the affidavit section on the lower left side; **this must be done in the presence of notary.** The notary will fill in the notary spaces and stamp on the lower right side. Once notarized, mail it back to us. Do not add signatures or any other information to the petition after notarization. To check whether a particular notary is in good standing with the state, please visit <http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/corps/notary/index.php>

6. Mail the petition back to us. The state only accepts original petition signatures, so please do not fax them to us or mail photocopies. Simply gather signatures, have the petition notarized and then mail the petition to Arkansas Term Limits at P.O. Box 38, Mayflower, AR. 72106. We’ll take care of getting the petitions to the proper state officials for you.

7. Make sure all signatures and information are written in permanent ink and are not photocopies. Pencil and photocopies can be easily changed or forged. Use permanent ink (preferably a ballpoint pen) for all handwriting on the petition, and mail it back to us. Do not use a marker or any type of felt pen that will bleed through the paper and deface the backside of the petition. If anything on the back is marked on, the whole sheet will not be counted.

8. Make sure no one -- yourself included – completes the petition on behalf of someone else, unless that person has a physical disability preventing them from signing. In the case of a disability, the individual signing for someone else must print their own name and sign in the margin, after printing the name, address and birth date of the disabled person(s).

9. Do not offer or accept any gift in exchange for obtaining a signature. This is a violation of Arkansas law.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I have to be a registered voter to gather signatures? No you do not; the only requirement is being at least 18 years of age. Canvassers need only gather the signatures themselves and sign an affidavit verifying that they witnessed each person’s signature being given, that they did not misrepresent the petition or the ballot proposal in any way, and that the signatures are – to the best of their knowledge – from valid, registered voters living in the state of Arkansas.

There are separate regulations for paid canvassers, who are full-time campaign workers we pay to collect high volumes of signatures on a regular basis. If you are one of those, please consult this form:

- 2. Am I required to witness each signature?** Yes.
- 3. Can I fax the petitions to Arkansas Term Limits?** No, we cannot accept photocopied or faxed petitions. Mail all petitions to Arkansas Term Limits at P.O. Box 38, Mayflower, AR. 72106.
- 4. Can I have people sign blank sheets of paper and staple these signatures to the petition when I'm done?** No, signatures on blank paper attached to the petition will be declared fraudulent by the state and thrown out. To gather more than one page of signatures, you may photocopy the original petition page (front and back) as many times as you want *before* you begin gathering signatures. If you have any questions, please call us at (501) 825-0190
- 5. Can I get more copies of the petition when I'm done?** Yes, our office can mail copies to you or you can print copies off our website, www.RestoreTermLimits.org.
- 6. Can my friends and family help me canvass for signatures?** Absolutely! Just provide them with these guidelines and front-and-back copies of the petition to circulate as they wish. To help make sure they complete the petition sheets correctly, they can view our training video at www.RestoreTermLimits.org/120-club-training/
- 7. Where can I gather signatures?** Pretty much anywhere: churches, civic organizations, public places (parks, sidewalks, etc.) Just be sure you have permission from the right people before canvassing on private property. Some government buildings have a no-solicitation policy, so please check in advance if you plan on canvassing there. Canvassing within 100 yards of a polling site is also prohibited by law.
- 8. What are the rules regarding notaries?** The petitions must be notarized by an in-state notary. The canvasser and the notary cannot be the same person. Notaries also cannot seal a petition before all signatures have been gathered on it. Be sure the notary's commission has not expired, that he or she seals and stamps on the lower-right hand corner of the page, and that he or she is not using the Great Seal of Arkansas to notarize petitions.