



Abortion Access Volunteer Petition Collection Guide

Thank you for agreeing to collect petitions to get abortion access on the ballot in 2024! **This information will help you understand the rules for petition collection and how to talk about access to abortion in your community!** And if you have any more questions, just email us at volunteer@floridiansprotectingfreedom.com

RULES FOR PETITION COLLECTION

- **This guide is for volunteer collectors, not any paid staff or paid petition collectors. Florida law dictates a separate process for anyone who collects petitions as part of their job.**
- All petitions must be filled out by voters who are already registered in the state of Florida.
- Best practice is to fill out petitions in blue or black ink
- All petitions should be checked to ensure that **the petition is complete and legible**
- Ripped, damaged, or illegible petitions are not accepted
- All petitions should be submitted within one week. When you are done collecting petitions, **please use a petition intake form and return the signed petitions to your local hub**
 - A list of local hubs can be found here: <https://flfree.link/hubs>
- Florida law mandates that **you must maintain a distance of 150 feet from the entrance of the polling location at all times** when collecting signatures for a ballot initiative. (F.S. 102.031) This distance should be clearly marked at each location.

REMEMBER...

- **Be Polite & Respect Personal Space.** No need to chase people down or block their paths.
- **Keep it Simple.** You don't need to debate or have all the answers. People don't need to understand the issue fully or agree with us to support having a public conversation and a vote in 2024.
- **It's okay not to know.** You may not have the answer to a question asked. That's okay. Avoid giving misinformation at all costs. Stay on message and admit if you do not know something. You can direct them to [FloridiansProtectingFreedom.com](https://floridiansprotectingfreedom.com) to find more answers!

- **Be bold.** Some people are going to say no! That's to be expected. But don't make assumptions that groups, people, or organizations won't be interested in being involved.
- **Know your rights.** You are allowed to petition on public property. This includes sidewalks, parks, in front of the DMV and libraries. If someone tells you you can't petition somewhere you think is public, the best response is "I thought I was on public property." If you are on private property and are asked to leave, you should politely comply.
- **Be flexible.** Evaluate whether or not you are using the best collection strategy and are in the best locations - be willing to try new things!
- **Treat petitions like GOLD.** Do not let petitions get lost, stolen, ripped, spilled on, etc!
- **It's about VALID petitions:** We are not trying to get as many petitions - we're trying to get as many VALID petitions as possible. Always check that someone completes the petition, signs and dates it, and has written legibly before letting them walk away.

WHERE SHOULD YOU COLLECT?

- **Big events.** Sporting events, festivals, concerts, parades, conventions, rallies, any events with 1000+ people. These effects are most effective with teams and a team leader and can yield a HUGE number of petitions- so they need planning.
- **Speaking events.** You can plan ahead of time to speak at clubs, forums, churches, in classes, or any other engagement! You just need to plan ahead and get permission from the organizer.
- **Regular locations.** DMV's, libraries, colleges, downtown, retail areas, nightlife areas. This doesn't require planning and can be done solo or with a group of other volunteers. It's also a strategy to get consistent sign ups if you regularly canvass at these locations.
- **In your personal network.** You may not get a TON of sign ups, but every petition counts and you can bring people into the movement who want to collect petitions with you!

TOOLS YOU NEED

A LOT of petitions. You never want to be caught empty handed!

- **Multiple clipboards.** This lets more than one person sign at once - very helpful in a crowd!
- **Blue or Black Pens.** Always keep extra in case they get lost, stolen, or run out of ink. Have at least twice as many as clipboards
- **Signs.** Make homemade signs that draw people into the effort!
- **Tables.** For major events, it's great to table! This allows for a central hub and makes getting many petitions easier.

SCRIPT

Question 1: Hello! Would you be willing to sign this petition to get abortion rights on the ballot in Florida on the 2024 ballot?

- **IF NO:** Thank you.
- **IF UNSURE:** Floridians should have the freedom to make their own personal health care decisions without interference from politicians. But politicians in Florida just signed the most extreme abortion ban in the nation. We believe that decisions around healthcare should be between an individual and their provider - not between them and elected officials. Signing your name just means you think the people of Florida should get a vote on this important issue during the 2024 election.
- **IF YES:** *move to question 2*

Question 2: Are you a registered voter in Florida?

- **IF YES:** Please complete the petition and sign and date at the bottom.
 - *Review petition to make sure it is complete once returned to you. You can read it back to the voter to ensure all their information is accurate*
- **IF NO:** You have to be registered to sign. You can register to vote at <https://registertovoteflorida.gov/home>
 - *The individual can use that link to register to vote, but they CANNOT sign a petition at that time*

Question 3: Thank you for signing the petition to put abortion access on the ballot in 2024! Would you like to help us get the word out about this effort?

- **IF YES:** Would you be willing to fill out a digital supporter card to get more information about how to get more involved?
 - *Share <https://flfree.link/volunteer> with the voter*
- **IF NO:** Thank you for your time

TALKING POINTS

- People don't turn to politicians for advice about birth control, mammograms, or cancer treatments. Politicians should not be involved in a person's personal medical decisions about their pregnancy.
- Abortion is a deeply personal and often complex decision for a pregnant person. You can't make that decision for someone else. It's just not that simple.
- You don't know a person's specific situation. You're not in their shoes.

MESSAGING GUIDANCE

- The "pro-choice" and "pro-life" labels don't reflect the conversation that's happening in America today. These labels don't reflect the complexity of how most people actually think and feel about abortion. Instead of putting people in one category or another, we should respect the real-life decisions people and their families face every day.
- Lead with empathy. Empathy allows us to move away from judgment and into a space to engage in conversation.
- When discussing the new abortion ban that restricts access before most people realize they're pregnant, it's more powerful to use "realize" than "know."
- Characterizing Florida as an abortion safe haven isn't helpful for us in driving support for this amendment.

REPORTING ISSUES AND SAFETY

We don't expect folks to encounter issues regularly when collecting petitions, but it can happen! Here's some guidance on what to do:

- If you have issues with a hub not following hours, not having petitions, or anything else report it at <https://flfree.link/report>
- If you have someone ask you hyper detailed questions about the campaign, trying filming you, or act aggressively, **stop engaging them immediately** and report it at <https://flfree.link/report>
- If you are approached by the media **do not speak for the campaign**. Please send them to media@floridiansprotectingfreedom.com

FAQ's

Question: Are you paid? Who funds this campaign?

Answer: I am a volunteer with Floridians Protecting Reproductive Freedom! This effort is funded by donors across the state and nation.

Question: Will there be a record of my signature?

Answer: This is a public record, just like whether or not you are a registered voter.

Question: Can I sign a petition for my mom, dad, or friend? I know all their information?

Answer: No. I can give you one to take home with you though! They can mail it to the address at the bottom of the petition.

Question: Can I take a petition with me?

Answer: Yes! You can mail it to the address at the bottom of the petition.

Question: Can a volunteer or staffer add the date to a petition?

Answer: No, the date must be added by the voter

Question: How long will it take?

Answer: 30 seconds - I just need you to add your name, address, birthdate, today's date, and a signature!

Question: It looks like a lot of information...

Answer: It's just your name, address, birthdate, today's date, and a signature! That way they can match your information to your voter registration.

Question: How do I know if I'm registered to vote?

Answer: You can check with your local supervisor of election online.

Question: I've filled this out before, can I still sign?

Answer: You can only sign a petition once. Please look at the language on this petition to ensure you didn't sign a different petition.

Question: How can I help?

You can sign up to volunteer at www.floridiansprotectingfreedom.org