

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Petitioners should seek the advice of an attorney in drawing up their petition form and reviewing the requirements of the petition. The specific laws governing the type of petition must be consulted and strictly adhered to. If there are no laws providing for a certain type of petition, the petition is not binding on the governing body to which it is presented. Such a petition may, however, be presented to a governing body in an attempt to influence the body's course of action.
- Kansas does not have statewide statutory initiative. State laws and constitutional amendments are not proposed or adopted by petition as they are in some states.
- Before being circulated for signatures, most petitions must be submitted to the county counselor or county/district attorney for approval.

## ELECTION DATES

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR PRIMARY ELECTION

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1**  
Deadline to change party  
affiliation before primary

**TUESDAY, JULY 12**  
Deadline to register to  
vote in primary

**FRIDAY, JULY 29**  
Deadline to apply for an  
advance ballot to be mailed

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 2**  
Primary Election

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR GENERAL ELECTION

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18**  
Deadline to register to vote

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4**  
Deadline to apply for an  
advance ballot to be mailed

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8**  
General Election

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Kansas Secretary of State  
Memorial Hall, 1st Floor  
120 SW 10th Avenue | Topeka, KS 66612-1594  
800-262-VOTE (8683) or 785-296-4561  
Fax: 785-291-3051  
[www.sos.ks.gov](http://www.sos.ks.gov) | [www.voteks.org](http://www.voteks.org)  
[election@sos.ks.gov](mailto:election@sos.ks.gov)

County information may be found at  
[www.sos.ks.gov/elections/elections\\_registration\\_ceo.asp](http://www.sos.ks.gov/elections/elections_registration_ceo.asp)

Legal Sources: K.S.A. 25-205, 25-303, 25-3601 et seq., K.A.R 7-28-1. Rev. 2/4/16 tc

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# A GUIDE TO PETITION CIRCULATION

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[WWW.VOTEKS.ORG](http://WWW.VOTEKS.ORG)  
800-262-VOTE (8683)

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2016

# PETITION CIRCULATION

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**This is a guide for circulating a petition for a specific purpose as provided by law.**

This guide is not intended for candidates filing for office by petition.

## FORMS:

Except for recall petitions, there is no standard pre-printed petition forms for the various types of petitions provided by law.

## CIRCULATORS:

- Petition circulators may carry the petition throughout the election district.
- Circulators must possess the constitutional qualifications of electors (U.S. citizenship, Kansas residency, 18 years of age) but are not required by law to be registered voters in the election district.
- Each circulator must: (1) witness every signature on every page; (2) collect signatures from a single county on each page; (3) sign, and have notarized, an affidavit that is attached to or printed on the back of the petition form. One affidavit may apply to all pages submitted by a particular circulator if the circulator's petition pages are all together as one document and the affidavit is attached. An incorrect affidavit will invalidate all pages to which it applies.

- Circulators may not sign the front of a petition form that they are circulating because they may not witness their own signatures.

## SIGNERS:

- No one may sign more than once in a given petition drive. It is a crime to sign a petition for another person.
- All signers of a particular page of a petition must reside in the same county.
- For most petitions, signers must be registered voters and residents of the election district.
- Petition signers must include their printed name, signature, address, city, zip code and date of signature.

## SIGNATURE REQUIREMENT:

The number of signatures needed is provided in the law that governs the specific type of petition. Often it is a percentage of the registered voters or a percentage of the votes cast in a past election.

## FILING:

- If more than one circulator carries petitions in the same petition drive, all must be submitted at one time as a group to the appropriate filing office. If a petition is determined to be insufficient, later or successive filings are not allowed. The petition circulation process must begin again.

- Petitions must be grouped by county and circulator.
- Petitions must be filed within 180 days after the date the first signature was collected. For recall petitions, the rule is within 90 days. In addition, some petitions have specific statutory deadlines for submission.

## PROCESSING:

For local issues, petitions are often submitted to the county election office. Some petitions are filed with other units of government. In such cases, the petition is usually transmitted to the county election office for processing because the election office has custody of the voter registration records.

For state issues, petitions are filed with the secretary of state. The secretary of state transmits copies to county election officers for verification.