



WRITING AND CIRCULATING A PETITION

WHAT IS A PETITION?

A statement signed by a group of people urging a specific target to act is known as a petition. You could, for instance, get people to sign a petition to the governor asking him or her to sign a particular kind of bill. You will deliver the petition to the target once you have gathered enough signatures so that they can see how many people support the proposed action.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ONLINE AND OFFLINE PETITION?

A petition that can be "signed" online is an online petition. It can be shared on Facebook and Twitter, as well as, sent via email to others. A petition that can be signed in person is known as an offline petition. A specific petition may exist offline and online at the same time. The petition's text is identical; the only difference is the method used to collect signatures.

HOW DO I ORGANIZE A PETITION?

1. Select a subject and a target.

- What do you want to change about the situation, and who is in charge of making that change?
- Do you want a bill signed by your governor or a new bill introduced by a state legislator?

2. Keep the petition's language brief and straightforward.

- Your petition's goals should be easily understood by the signatories and the target.
- Outline the issue and desired course of action for the target.
- The urgency of the issue and the need for action should be conveyed in your petition.
- Keep the length of your petition between one and three paragraphs.

3. Gather Signatures

- Place yourself in areas with a lot of traffic, knock on doors, or bring your petition to events.
- Find additional people to help gather signatures.
- Ensure that all of the fields on your petition are filled in correctly by watching people sign it.

4. Deliver the Petition

- You can send your petitions by mail, fax, or in person. You can make it a little more powerful by giving it in person.
 - Bring others along.
 - Use the petitions to create a visual.
 - Tell local media outlets about the event.

5. After Delivery

- Share a social media post about your delivery. Include photos and a description of the experience.
- Schedule a meeting to discuss the next steps and efforts. If it's appropriate, invite everyone who signed the petition.



SAMPLE PETITION

To [insert target]:

Expand Access to Early Childhood Education for Families in Montana

Parents are unable to access high-quality child care because there are simply not enough programs and the cost is too high. Child care access supports families going to work and our overall economy. It is time for Montana to prioritize the cost and availability of excellent early childhood education now.

Families and early childhood educators ask you to expand eligibility for the Best Beginnings Scholarship to the maximum allowable level to help offset the child care cost burden for families.

All young children throughout the state of Montana deserve access to high-quality education from their earliest days. Parents deserve to have options for care that don't leave them wondering whether they can even afford to work. This is the time for change!

We the undersigned are concerned citizens and urge our [insert target] to [insert action(s) you are petitioning]

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date