



## How to Conduct a Petition Drive at your Church

### *First*

- Talk to your pastor about conducting a non-partisan petition drive at your church. You may wish to provide your pastor with a copy of *Political Guidelines for Churches and Pastors* (<http://www.cwfa.org/brochures/pastors.pdf>) when you make your request. In the “Legislation” section circulating petitions is specifically mentioned as allowable activity.
- Ask if he will make an announcement during church services and/or include an announcement in the church bulletin that petitions are available and the location.

### *Next*

- Determine how many petitions you will need. Each petition allows for 10 signatures. *Please note that petition forms may NOT be photocopied.* Copied forms may be invalid.
- Determine the date or dates of your petition drive. Plan the drive well before the signature deadline.
- Order petitions. Be sure to allow sufficient time for delivery.
- Enlist volunteers to help collect signatures at the petition drive. Ideally, you will have enough volunteers collecting signatures to eliminate long lines of people waiting to sign.
- If you wish to include any informational handouts, obtain approval from your pastor or elders first.

### *The Drive*

- Remind the pastor to make an announcement about the petition drive.
- Set up a table that is in plain view of the congregants as they enter and exit the church. You might want to have balloons or a flag to draw attention to your table.
- Be sure to have plenty of pens available and have attendants at the table to ensure the forms are signed correctly and all signers are registered voters.

### *Other Important Information to Ensure Valid Signatures*

- Petitions must be signed by registered voters only and all *must reside in the same county*. Use a separate form for each county.
- Be sure to designate the county at the beginning of the text (sometimes on the back) and just above the signature area, if required on the form.
- Have voter registration forms on hand. If a signer is not registered, he or she may sign the petition if the registration form is completed and mailed right away.
- Check to be sure the petition has been filled out completely and is legible. Voters must **PRINT** their NAME and ADDRESS (where they are registered to vote) and then **SIGN**.
- Forms must be signed and dated by the circulator to be valid. The circulator must also be a registered voter, but need not reside in the same county as signers.
- Petitions with only one signer are valid, but must also be signed by a circulator, which can be the same person.
- For detailed information about the initiative process see the Secretary of State’s *Initiative Guide* at [http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/initiative\\_guide.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/initiative_guide.htm).