

DEMOCRACY IS FOR PEOPLE

A PUBLIC CITIZEN PROJECT

How to Set up Petitioning

What to bring:

1. **A friend.** You can gather signatures by yourself, with a buddy or as part of a group, but it's always more fun if you bring a friend.
2. **A copy of the [legal guidelines for petitioning for your state](#).** You'll want to keep your state's rules fresh in your mind and have them handy as a reference point if poll workers are unsure about your right to petition. Help your poll captain ensure that election officials and poll workers understand what you're doing, and if questions come up you and your captain can contact your city/regional coordinator (usually by replying to the email list or attending a planning conference call). Stay polite and obey any instructions given, even if you believe the officials are in the wrong.
3. **Layers of clothes.** The weather really starts to change in early November, so check the news and be prepared for the elements. You know your local climate better than we do, but keep in mind that you'll be outside for several hours and any temperature or conditions will start to feel more extreme.
4. **Petitions.** Having a few extra petitions just in case never hurt. You may receive them from your organization but can also be downloaded at
<http://www.citizen.org/documents/Petition%202016%2010.17.2016.pdf>.
5. **Clipboards and lots of pens.** Tying the pens to the clipboards is very helpful. Clipboards can be made out of cardboard boxes if you don't want to buy one.
6. **Labels/Buttons.** You can create "Corporations Are Not People" labels/buttons.
7. If you can, bring a **table and/or sign.** Using a visual element will attract attention and engage people passing by. Make "Corporations Are Not People", "End Corporate Rule", or "Citizens United" signs. Signs **must not** endorse or disparage a particular candidate or party.
8. **A great attitude!** The best way to attract voters is by being outgoing and respectful. YOU are the frontline in the amendment movement. If someone disagrees with the petition, remain polite and don't spend too much time debating the issue. You are there to help people who want to get involved find the movement, this is an opportunity for those people, so don't let too many pass by while you engage with the rare person who disagrees.

What To Do:

1. If you are able to stand, stand with your body facing the person approaching you, make eye contact and smile as she or he approaches. If you need to sit, position yourself to greet people as they approach
2. Approach people as they are leaving the polling place so that you are the only one asking for their attention.
3. Use a catchy line to get people's attention. For example: "Sign a post card to get big money out of politics," or "Make your voice heard twice and help stop corporations from buying elections!"

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4. Have a prepared, concise statement that says what you're doing, identifies the problem of *Citizens United* and money in politics, and asks people to sign. Practice saying it before you get to the polls, and use it to start every conversation. For example:

"The 2010 *Citizens United* Supreme Court ruling has allowed corporations and wealthy individuals to flood our elections with billions of dollars, making the voices of people like me and you less and less significant in our political process. Will you join me and 2 million others in signing a petition calling for a constitutional amendment to state that democracy and constitutional rights are for the people, not the corporations?"

5. Look over [the Fact Sheet](#) to be ready to answer questions that arise and print extra copies to give to people looking for more information. Be sure that you are focused on this one issue. You **must not** discuss particular candidates or parties, even if voters want to engage with you about it.

6. Make sure you or your designated contact enter all collected signatures into Excel documents and send them to amendment@citizen.org no later than **Wednesday, November 14th**. Use these signatures for your own local organizing effort also.

7. Make sure you or your designated contact send in all the *hard copy petitions* by **Wednesday, November 14th** by mail to: Democracy is For People Campaign, Public Citizen, 1600 20th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009