

Instructions for Petition Circulators – Maryland Green Party – Petition to Form a Political Party 2009-2010

Thank you for petitioning to maintain ballot access for the Maryland Green Party. We need as many volunteers to possible to help. We must collect 10,000 valid signatures from Maryland registered voters by December 31, 2010. Here are some instructions to help make sure every signature you collect will be validated.

IMPORTANT NOTE – ALL SIGNERS MUST INCLUDE THEIR ENTIRE LAST NAME, ENTIRE FIRST NAME, AND THE INITIALS OF ANY OTHER NAMES IN BOTH THEIR PRINTED NAME AND SIGNATURE. If

someone typically doesn't include their first name, complete last name or initials in their signature, please ask them to include them on this petition.

Be sure the back of the petition form is blank.

For additional petition sheets, make your own single-sided copies, download copies from www.mdgreens.org, or contact Brian Bittner (see below). Carry several petition sheets and copies of these instructions to recruit volunteers.

Use ink. Carry at least two pens with you and a clipboard at least 8-1/2-by-11 inches.

Use a separate petition sheet for each county.

Make sure the name of the county is filled in on the line on top of the petition sheet. Only people registered to vote in the county listed on top should sign the petition sheet. Baltimore City should also be listed on a single sheet, separate from Baltimore County. The form has a space to make a check mark for Baltimore City voters.

The signer must provide all information on the form. The “Date” of signing (the first column) must include the year, e.g., 4/15/10. Addresses should be the voter’s registration address. Do not allow ditto marks or abbreviations for street names or city names, e.g., “Balto.” for Baltimore.. However, “Dr.,” or “St.,” “Ave.,” etc., for Drive or Street is acceptable. Do not allow P.O. Boxes. You cannot register to vote at a P.O. Box.

Be sure all information is legible. If signer makes a mistake, draw a single line through that signature line and have the signer use the next line, or use another sheet.

The person gathering the signatures on a sheet must personally witness each signature on that sheet and must fill out, sign, and date the affidavit at the bottom of each sheet after the last signature is collected. The affidavit’s date must not be earlier than the latest date of any signature on the petition sheet.

If you encounter someone willing to help, give them a copy of the petition and these instructions. Make sure they read the instructions and ask them if they have any questions before beginning. Be sure to get their name, address, and phone number and give that information to your local petition coordinator or send it to Brian Bittner.

Use your own style, but a good approach is to ask, “Are you registered to vote in Maryland?” If they are, ask “Will you sign a petition to continue to have the Maryland Green Party recognized as a political party in the state?” If they will, find out what county they vote in and have the person sign a sheet for that county. We need 10,000 signatures, so don’t waste time with debates. Remember that the signer is not pledging to support the Party or vote for its candidates. The signer is merely indicating support for the Party’s right to remain a political party in Maryland.

Return completed petitions to your local petition coordinator or mail them to:

Brian Bittner
2123 Annapolis Road
Baltimore, MD 21230

If you have any questions, contact your local petition coordinator or Brian Bittner at 443-449-4159 or brian@brianbittner.org.