

Easy guidelines for circulating candidate petitions for Chris DeCarlo.

Virginia's Independent candidate to Congress.

May 21, 2012

Circulating candidate petitions is such a powerful act that many people do not want you to know how to do it because they don't want competition. But it is really fun and easy if you follow the simple instructions here and on the form. The most important part to remember is that as the circulator of the petition, your signature on the back of the form has to be notarized before you send it to me for submission to the Virginia State Board of Elections.

Introduction:

1. A requirement for a candidate to have their name printed on a ballot for election to any of Virginia's Congressional Districts is for the candidate to submit 1,000 signatures of registered voters that live in the Congressional district. And it is good practice to submit an additional 400 signatures to compensate for signatures that may not qualify. A registered voter includes 17-year-olds that are registered but not yet 18. You do not have to be 18 to sign the petition. The signatures are collected on a specific petition form provided by the Virginia State Board of Elections.
2. A candidate to represent a Congressional District to Congress does not have to reside in the specific Congressional District. They only have to be a resident of Virginia. Any resident of Virginia can represent any of Virginia's eleven Congressional Districts.
3. When a person signs a petition they are called a petitioner. As explained at the top of the official form, the petitioners that sign the form are stating that they would like, in this case Christopher DeCarlo, to be a candidate for the office of U.S. House of Representatives. The petitioners are not endorsing the candidate or stating that they intend to vote for the person.
4. The official form is available for download on my website www.HonestyAndEthics.com just below where you found these instructions. If it is easier, I have blank petitions ready to be mailed to you and if you call me you should receive them in two days. Please call me at 703-352-5777 to request them. Otherwise the form can be downloaded for either letter or legal size paper and it includes a cover sheet with printing instructions for the two page petition, front and back to be printed on the same sheet of paper. The legal size holds more signatures than the letter size and there is no limit on petitions you can circulate.
5. A candidate Petition of Qualified Voters is a powerful official document and care should be taken so that is properly handled and not mutilated or it could become unacceptable.

Sample request to prospective petitioner to sign petition:

“Are you a registered voter? Would you like to sign a petition so an independent candidate can get on the ballot to fight political corruption in Congress?”

Circulating petitions

1. It is ok if a non-registered voter signs the petition. The Board of Elections will just exclude their signature.

2. As petitioners sign the petition, emphasize that they print their name and address clearly so it is legible. Petitioners should print their legal name and not use abbreviations or nicknames for their first name. The name should be written clearly so the State Board of Elections can match the name on the petition with a name in their official voter records. If the name and address information does not match the voter polls or is not legible the State Board of Elections will not validate the signature and the signature will be excluded.
2. If a petitioner makes a mistake they can just start over on the line below. If someone reverses the signature line and the printed name line it is ok, it will still be accepted.
3. Your signature as a circulator is not valid on the petition you are circulating so remember to sign someone else's petition so your signature will count.
4. Partial pages are acceptable. The petitions do not need to be filled with signatures. Every signature counts. Petitions with one signature are acceptable and appreciated.
5. The Board of Elections greatly appreciates inclusion of the last four digits of the Social Security number but it is not required. You will find that once one person includes these numbers that others are more likely to continue adding theirs. One option is to start the top of each page with your information and then others can just follow the pattern you set.

Completing and returning petitions – *This is very, very important.*

1. The circulator must sign the back of the petition in the presence of a notary after the last signature has been written and before the petition is returned to me. All banks have notaries and a bank where you have an account should not charge for the service. The petition must be notarized to be valid. Please include your name; address and telephone number with the petition in case I have any questions and need to get back to you. Please put the petitions in the mail by June 6th because the deadline for submission in Richmond is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 12th. Please mail the petitions to me at 9754 Lee Highway, Fairfax, Virginia 22031.

Questions

Please call me anytime if you have any questions or comments or if you just want to talk about the petition drive. w) 703-352-5777 c)703-973-8102. Or send me an email to cdecarlo@fairfaxpropane and please include your telephone number so I can call you.

Coordination of effort

I have started a facebook page titled *Chris DeCarlo for Congress* as a place for anyone to communicate about this activity. Please let me know if you have any other ideas on how to proceed or if there is anything more I can do to provide assistance.