

Gathering Signatures for SB 42, California Fair Elections Act

PART 1. Ask person to sign the petition for the California Fair Elections Act.

Smile and be friendly. Bring at least 2 clipboards with petitions on each so two people can sign at once, and if you're going to a big rally, more. The more people you speak to the more signatures you will gather!

If you're in the Bay Area and it's before May 18, be sure to use the petition that has a space for people to mark interest in attending the May 18 SB 42 campaign kickoff in Berkeley, and point it out to them to circle!

SCRIPT BELOW IS GREAT WHEN IN PUBLIC. Variation is okay, but definitely say the underlined parts.

"Have you heard about the California Fair Elections Act yet?"

THEM: "No", or "What's that?"

"Have you got 30 seconds?"

Then say: Great! It's a bill in the legislature to allow public financing of campaigns for candidates who take no large contributions from anybody. That way they can fight back against billionaire-funded candidates.

We use these petitions to show the legislators in Sacramento that we have grass roots support and we'd really appreciate your help.

(Reach out and hand them the petition ...If you do this matter-of-factly, they'll usually take it and start signing.)

As they sign, say: "Please print clearly so your signature counts!"

As they write their name: "If you could give your email address and phone, we can tell you when there are key actions you can take to help it pass. Your information is private -- we never share it."

If Campaign Kickoff Version: Tell them about the big SB 42 campaign kickoff in Berkeley featuring author Assembly Member Alex Lee, other elected officials, Clean Money, Common Cause, etc and ask if they can come! Give them a copy of the flyer if they say Yes or Maybe!

(Please watch to make sure that they are correctly filling out the petition and ask nicely if they left something off. Always for sure ask for their address and especially zip code.)

Verify that they legibly filled the petition out completely. If not, ask them to write it again and cross out the bad one!

PART 2. Send us the filled-in petitions as soon as you can!

1. Please clearly print your full name and the date at the top right of the petition.

2. Best Option: Email scanned copies to petitions@caclean.org. If you don't have access to a scanner you can email clear photos but be sure to take and save them at very high quality.

3. If you're part of an active Clean Money Action Group, you can turn them in to your coordinator.

4. Otherwise you can fax copies to (888) 375-5583 or email petitions@caclean.org or call (650) 858-2436 for the address to mail them to if you're unable to send them electronically.

Petitions can be downloaded from www.YesFairElections.org/materials . Please print in LANDSCAPE format.

Please keep the petitions clear of notes and doodles to make it easier for our data enterers to enter them.

If you want to become a data enterer yourself to help enter petitions into our database, email data@caclean.org!

How to Handle Common Statements

"I'm not registered to vote / don't live here."

"No problem! Our petition is just a support petition for legislation, anyone can sign to show support for the bill."

"I think I already signed."

"We haven't been circulating SB 42 petitions very long, so maybe you signed for another bill. Or if you signed online, these paper petitions matter more. So, can you sign this one?"

"Who is paying you or supports your work?"

"I'm a volunteer and don't get paid. California Clean Money Campaign, the sponsor of SB 42, is a non-partisan grassroots organization funded by small donations from people like you and me. Our average donation is just \$25!"

Your Rights & Responsibilities

Gathering signatures in public places is a key to pressuring the legislature to pass SB 42 – as well as get new volunteers for this and future fair election campaigns! Here are your rights and responsibilities.

In Public Areas (sidewalks, parks, civic buildings, train stations, civic plazas, parks)

It is legal to canvass and gather petition signatures on any public property if you do not create a disturbance, incite violence, etc. If you have gear such as ironing board, table, or backpack, please do not block any entrances or exits.

Multi-Use Lots and Storefronts

Multi-use lots and storefronts are the shared areas outside at strip malls, outdoor malls, etc. Like on public property, it is legal to gather signatures here if you do not create a disturbance or block access. This has been decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in multiple cases such as “Pruneyard” in 1980 and “Ralph’s” in 2013. Please approach people when they’re exiting the store, not when they’re entering, so they’re less likely to complain to a manager.

Single-Use Storefronts or Lots, and Shopping Malls -- We must ask for permission. Usually your coordinator will do it.

IF SOMEONE ASKS YOU TO LEAVE

Management may ask you to stop even where it’s legal. They may threaten to call the police. If either happens:



Always be calm and polite.



Make sure you're on public property or in an area of multi-use lots and storefronts. Make sure you and your gear aren't blocking entrances, exits, or flow. Make sure you're not causing a disturbance.



Calmly say that you're following the law which includes the right for anyone to gather signatures in that location. This right was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1980 “Pruneyard” decision and the “Ralph’s” decision in 2013.



Unless it's the police asking you to move, feel free to stay if you're following the law.



If the police approach you, stop what you're doing and politely give them your attention. Let them take the lead in the conversation. Don't interrupt. Offer to explain. If you explain, state that you're exercising your free speech rights under the "Pruneyard" decision. If they ask you to make a change or move, do so immediately and politely.