

Gathering Signatures for SB 24 & AB 270 for Public Financing

PART 1. Ask person to sign the petition for the public financing of campaigns bills. 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!

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

"Hello, my name is _____! Have you heard about the bill to get Big Money out of politics?"

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

"Have you got 30 seconds?"

If they say yes, say: Great! It's a bill in the legislature to allow public financing of campaigns which is a proven way to reduce the influence of big money in politics. Under current law, big cities – like San Francisco, Berkeley, and Los Angeles – have the option of providing public financing so candidates don't raise money from special interests, but counties, smaller cities and the state itself don't. SB 24 and AB 270 would give that option to all levels of government so we can make candidates accountable to voters, not big money donors.

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: "When you give your email address and phone, we can tell you when you can take action to help it pass like by contacting your legislators and asking them to vote "Yes" on the bill. Your information is private -- we never share it."

Then: "If you might like to volunteer like me, circle 'Yes' or 'Maybe' to volunteering, or you can circle "Yes" or "Maybe" to donating to help our grassroots campaign pass it.

(Please watch to make sure that they are correctly filling out the petition.)

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. Print YOUR NAME at top and turn in to your coordinator or our office

- 1. Please clearly print your full name and the date at the top right of the petition.**
- 2. If you're part of an active Clean Money Action Group, turn them in to your coordinator.**
- 3. Otherwise, turn in to the California Clean Money Campaign office:**

Mail: California Clean Money Action Fund, 12100 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 800, Los Angeles, CA 90025.

Fax: (888) 375-5583. **Email scanned copies (please send pdfs, not images or jpegs):** petitions@caclean.org

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

Please keep the petitions clear of notes and doodles. The scanned petitions may be sent to Sacramento and shared with legislators. So please keep them clean and neat!

How to Handle Common Statements

"I'm not registered to vote."

"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 AB 270 and SB 34 petitions very long, so maybe you signed for another bill. Or if you signed online, these paper petitions matter more because we actually turn them in with your signature. 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 AB 270 and SB 34, is a non-partisan grassroots organization funded by small donations from people like you and me. Our average donation is \$25!"

Your Rights & Responsibilities

Gathering signatures in public places is a key to pressuring the legislature to pass SB 24 and AB 270 – 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.