

Repeal the Death Tax

Frequently Asked Questions about Signature Collection

How many signatures do we need, and what's the deadline?

The Repeal the Death Tax Act is an initiative constitutional amendment, which needs 874,641 valid signatures of registered voters to qualify for the November 2024 ballot. We'll need at least 1.3 million signatures to make sure we have enough valid signatures. We are asking everyone to return all signed petitions to us on or before Tuesday, January 16.

Where should we mail or bring the signed petitions?

Petitions should be returned to the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. The address is:

HJTA
1201 K Street, Suite 1030
Sacramento, CA 95814

You can also drop off petitions at our office in Los Angeles (call 213-384-9656 for hours and availability):

HJTA
621 S. Westmoreland Avenue, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90005

Who can sign the petition?

Any registered voter in the state of California may sign the petition.

Who can circulate the petition for signatures?

Any person 18 years of age or older may circulate the petition for signatures. Circulators are not required to be registered voters, citizens or California residents.

How can we make sure that signatures are valid and counted?

Follow the directions carefully and make sure:

1. You write in the county where both of the petition signers are registered to vote
2. The petition signers themselves fill out their home address where they are registered to vote
3. The circulator completes (in their own handwriting) and signs the Declaration of Circulator
4. The petitions are returned to us in plenty of time to be sorted by county and processed

Does everything have to be hand-written or can we use a computer to pre-fill the information?

Everything must be hand-written. The voters must each fill in their own information in their own handwriting, and the Declaration of Circulator must be filled out by the circulator by hand, in ink. If you use a computer to pre-fill the information, the signatures WILL NOT BE VALID AND WILL NOT COUNT.

If a voter writes their street address in the bottom box and their city in the top box, does that make the signature invalid?

No, the signature should still be valid. But anytime you're not sure about something, you can always use a new petition and ask the voter to sign again to make sure it's correct and legible.

Can voters use an abbreviation for their city when they're writing their address?

It's best to write the full name of the city unless it's a very well-known abbreviation. The workers who verify signatures at the county elections offices will be working fast to match names and addresses on the petitions to the voter registration records. The clearer, the better.

Please explain a little more about the "Official Top Funders" sheet that we show to petition signers.

State law requires us to show an "Official Top Funders" sheet to everyone who signs the petition. This sheet is updated every month and also whenever a new "top funder" is added. A "top funder" is defined as a donor who has given \$50,000 or more in the last 12 months. As we begin this campaign, there are no top funders — it is all funded by smaller donations. So the "Official Top Funders" sheet simply shows that the petition circulation is paid for by Repeal the Death Tax, a Project of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. Check the website at RepealTheDeathTax.com on the first day of every month to get the current "Official Top Funders" sheet. The petitions themselves are valid for the entire campaign.

Can we print the "Official Top Funders" sheet on the back of the petition?

No, please don't. The Official Top Funders sheet must be current when it is shown to the voters before they sign. If you print the Top Funders sheet on the back of the petitions, you'll have to throw away those blank petitions on the 1st of the month. So please print the Official Top Funders sheet on a separate page and be sure to get the current version every month from the website at RepealTheDeathTax.com. (You can tape it to the back of a clipboard for convenience.)

Can we add an extra page for more signatures?

No. The signatures will not be valid and will not count. Only signatures on the official petition will count; extra pages will be thrown out.

If someone signed the petition last year, should they sign again?

Yes! This is a new initiative and last year's signatures don't count. Please sign this petition.

Can we sign electronically?

No. Electronic signatures are never valid on petitions to get an initiative on the ballot. Use paper and pen, blue or black ink, and make sure voters hand-write all their own information — names, addresses and signatures. Circulators must complete the Declaration of Circulator in their own handwriting.

If someone can't write their own signature, can they sign with an "X"?

Yes, it is legal to assist someone who cannot write their own name and address, and the voter can mark the signature line with an "X," however, the signature will only be valid and counted if the person's voter registration shows that an "X" is that voter's signature on file.

How often should we send in the signed petitions we've collected?

Please send them in as soon and as often as you reasonably can. Don't wait until the end.

Where can a voter check to see the exact name and address they used when they registered to vote?

Voters can go online to voterstatus.sos.ca.gov to check their voter registration.

Where can someone register to vote if they want to sign the petition but aren't registered?

Eligible California residents can register to vote online, right on their phones, at registertovote.ca.gov

Where can I get more petitions?

You can print as many petitions as you'd like, you can have copies made (just make sure the top margin is the same, or the petitions won't be valid), or you can call us to have petitions mailed to you. Our Sacramento office is 916-444-9950 and our L.A. office is 213-384-9656.

How much advertising are you going to do to get the word out?

As much as we can afford. Your generous donations make it possible. If you are able to support the campaign with a contribution, you can donate online at efundraisingconnections.com/c/RepealtheDeathTax/ or send a check payable to "Repeal the Death Tax." [Click here to download the donation form to accompany a donation by mail.](#) Thank you!