

REPEAL THE CASINO DEAL SIGNATURE DRIVE INSTRUCTIONS

God's people are called to love our neighbors – but casinos will bring great harm to our neighbors, to our communities and to our families. Casinos increase crime, addiction, bankruptcy, etc., all of which will profoundly impact the most vulnerable. It is time to clearly say “No” to casinos and to participate in the Repeal the Casino Deal effort.

We have one final hurdle to get the Repeal the Casino question on the ballot in November: we need to collect 11,485 certified signatures of Massachusetts registered voters starting on May 9th through June 18th when all petition papers must be turned into city & town clerks to be certified. Voter signatures who already signed last fall DO NOT COUNT so we need 11,485 new voters. We have been advised that it is not important to screen for those who have already signed. That gives us 39 days to collect 19,142 raw signatures, which at a conservative certification rate of 60% would allow us to meet the goal of 11,485.

Congregations can play a key part in this effort and may participate by collecting signatures following their time of worship. Tables can be used to host the signature forms and a public announcement during the service can guide people to the signature location. The church coordinator and church volunteers should be familiar with these simple guidelines. See the instructional video at www.friendsofeastboston.com.

Is it legal to collect signatures for Repeal inside houses of worship?

It is legal. Collecting signatures in houses of worship for a non-partisan ballot initiative is absolutely approved by the IRS: www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Lobbying. It is no different than voter registration.

What are the rules for signing?

For signatures to be valid, there are very specific and unforgiving rules, and the Secretary of State strictly enforces these rules:

- **Only the signatures of Massachusetts registered voters are counted.** The signature of someone who is unregistered to vote will not be counted towards our goal.
- **All signatures must be written in pen ink and legible, using their name and address as given in current voter registration records.** Ask them to stay well within the boxes for “Name” and “Address.” For clarity, a signer may also print his or her name with his signature, within the signature box. Nicknames will not count.
- It is critical the voter uses the address where he/she is registered to vote. **Anyone signing with a P.O. Box will not count.**
- **All signatures on a single petition sheet must be from the same city or town. For example, if you write Boston in the appropriate boxes on each side of the petition, that means only Boston voter signatures should sign that sheet.**

- When you come across a signer from a different town, begin a new petition sheet by writing in the voter's town name or use a sheet you've already started for that town.
- If someone mistakenly signs the wrong sheet, *don't cross out the signature*. Just ask them to sign again on the appropriate sheet. Any signatures on the original sheet will still count.
- It is not necessary for signers to fill in "Ward" or "Precinct."
- Voters should sign only once. The state uses a computerized system to keep track of signers so that a single voter's signature will not be counted more than once. The rule is that duplicates don't hurt, but won't help either!

What if I run out of blank petitions?

Only make your own copies from an original petition on white paper, double sided, both sided facing up. They must look exactly like the original. To obtain more petition sheets, call the Repeal the Casino Deal phone line at 617-701-7823 or email repealthecasinodeal@gmail.com.

Does every sheet need to be full before I can hand it in?

No. We will be gathering signed petitions and submitting them throughout the campaign, so we can stay on top of sorting and counting.

Returning signed petitions

Mail petitions each week to:

Petition P
P.O. Box 520152
Winthrop, MA 02152

We need to sort and count signatures as we go so don't wait until the end. Mailings to the PO Box must be postmarked by June 9th so we can get them to the individual town halls.

Any Questions

Contact Rev. David Searles at 617-913-3396 or at davewsearles@gmail.com.