



J. KENNETH BLACKWELL
Ohio Secretary of State

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DIRECTIVE 2005-17

August 15, 2005

TO: BOARDS OF ELECTIONS
Members, Directors & Deputy Directors

An initiative petition proposing three constitutional amendments was filed by "Reform Ohio Now, Inc." in this office on August 9, 2005. Enclosed for certification by your office are the part-petitions that were circulated in your county.

Each part-petition must be examined pursuant to the instructions that are enclosed. **Please read the instructions carefully before you start your examination and have each examiner do the same.** As soon as your certification of these part-petitions is complete, return the completed form and all valid and invalid part-petitions to our office. These must be returned by a trackable method such as certified mail, UPS or FedEx, or in person. **You must review and return these part-petitions to this office, together with your certification, no later than August 29, 2005.** It is advised that you make copies of the part-petitions before you send the originals back to this office, in the event that a protest is filed in your county.

In addition to checking the signatures, you also must also check the petition papers for proper verification. Check each part-petition to determine that the circulator's statement (i.e., the statement of solicitor on the last page of the part -petition) has been properly completed, since a part-petition is invalid if the circulator's statement is not properly completed.

Pursuant to R.C. 3519.06(E), a part-petition for a state issue is invalid if the board finds that one person has affixed more than one signature to the part-petition. Therefore, for state issue petitions, a board is not required to investigate the circumstances to determine whether the circulator knowingly or unknowingly allowed a person to affix more than one signature. Circulators of state issue petitions are **not** required to be qualified electors or residents of the state. In addition, do not invalidate a part-petition because the issuance statement, the circulator compensation statement, or the employer identification statement is blank, incomplete, or improperly filled out.

In the event that the initiative petition is found to contain an insufficient number of valid signatures, the petitioners will have another 10 days to file additional signatures. If filed, the additional part-petitions (supplemental petitions) then will be forwarded to the boards for verification. **Important - Since no person may sign a petition more than once, it is imperative that boards maintain the names of those persons who signed the original part-petitions in order to properly verify the signatures on the supplemental part-petitions.**

Voter registration forms enclosed: Please be aware that completed voter registration forms may be enclosed with the part-petitions for your county. These forms were filed in this office before the part-petitions were filed, and it is our understanding that the persons who completed the forms have signed the part-petitions. Please treat these as in-person registrations.

If you have any question concerning the handling of part-petitions or procedures to be followed, please contact the Elections Division at (614) 466-2585.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Kenneth Blackwell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

J. Kenneth Blackwell