

ATTEND A VIRTUAL TRAINING



[Circulator Training](#)

Learn how to circulate our petition! Our team leads trainings about how to circulate, best safety practices, answer commonly asked questions about the campaign and share how to help register someone to vote.

COLLECTING SIGNATURES

Who can collect signatures? *Anyone over 18 can collect signatures.*

Who can sign? *Anyone who is currently registered to vote in Nebraska.*

Signature collection rules:

- Use blue or black ink pens only.
- Start a new petition sheet for **every different county** signers are registered to vote in.
- **Read the object statement out loud for every signer.** If they say "you don't need to" just tell them you're required to do it.
 - a. Being caught having someone sign without reading them the object statement can get you into legal trouble.
- Don't sign your own petition sheet.
- Don't let someone else circulate your petition sheet or leave your petition somewhere for folks to sign without you present - **you must witness each signature.**
- **Signatures must be complete and legible as possible.**
 - a. Folks should sign the petition as closely as possible to how they're registered to vote (full name, address that they registered to vote with, and date of birth)
- Do not allow signers to use ditto marks [" ""]
 - a. Pay close attention to people as they sign!
 - b. No abbreviations for names or dates (e.g. "Taylor Swift" not "T. Swift," "11/15/23" not "11/15")
- Every petition sheet must be notarized
 - a. **IMPORTANT: Do not fill out any of the circulator affidavit until you are in front of a notary**

Assisted Signatures

- If a signer has a disability that makes it hard for them to write, another person may fill out their information and guide them to sign.
 - The assistant can be another person who is with the signer, or if there is no one else, you can help them.
- The assistant may help fill out the DATE, PRINTED NAME, DATE OF BIRTH and ADDRESS, but **the signer must sign the SIGNATURE box themselves.**
 - If the signer has a signature stamp they'd like to use, they can.
- **Assisted signatures must be marked as follows:**
 - If the assistant is not the circulator, on the next line they should write **“Assisted by” with their own name and address on the line below, and strike through the DATE, SIGNATURE, and DATE OF BIRTH boxes.** If the assistant would also like to sign the petition, they can, they just need to completely fill out another signature line.
 - If the assistant is you, the circulator, you should write **“Assisted by” with your initials to the side.**

Do:

- Be friendly and assertive! Approach everyone!
- Verbally read the object statement in its entirety to every individual signing
- Carry extra blank county petition sheets for signers that may be registered to vote in another county.
- Report any incidents of note to campaign staff
- Reach out with any questions that pop up
- Encourage others to get involved!

Don't:

- Have signers from more than one county sign a petition sheet
- Gather signatures within 200 feet of a polling place during an active election
- Offer or give anything of value to a potential signer to get them to sign the petition.
- Endorse or rate political parties when circulating for a nonprofit organization.
- Argue with people who refuse to sign.
- Have someone sign if they aren't registered to vote in the State of Nebraska
- Allow signers to sign any name but their own.
- Allow signers to sign their name more than once to your knowledge.
- Leave petitions unattended or in a place that is not securely in your possession or kept safe before they are turned in to the appropriate place.

Turning in petitions

- **ALL PETITION SHEETS MUST BE NOTARIZED (PHOTO ID REQUIRED)**
- Office hours will be available in Omaha and Lincoln to get petitions notarized and turned in.
 - For those outside Omaha and Lincoln, notaries can usually be found at banks, libraries, post offices, or the UPS Store.
 - Don't hesitate to reach out to campaign staff if needed - we can help coordinate notarization/hand offs!
- **Notarized petitions** can be mailed to:
 - ATTN: Jodi Lepaopao
Nebraska Appleseed Action Fund
PO Box 83613
Lincoln, NE 68508-3613

ATTEND A VIRTUAL TRAINING



Communications Training

Dive into vital communications skills for the campaign! Our team will be leading a training about peer to peer organizing, hosting a community house party, and how to communicate with the press!

MESSAGING GUIDE FOR VOLUNTEERS

Respect Nebraska Voters

Respect Nebraska Voters is collecting signatures to protect our right to propose and vote on laws that put hardworking families first and to ensure that when Nebraskans make a decision at the ballot box, state lawmakers respect it. Whatever issues you care about, from workers' rights to health care access, this matters to all of us. We are bringing people together from throughout the state and across political differences to collect signatures, qualify for the November 2026 ballot, and win — making sure politicians respect what Nebraska voters decide and ensuring we keep our freedom to decide what's right for our state, communities, and families in our hands.

As a volunteer, ***you are a crucial part of this movement!***

Explaining our Constitutional Amendment

If passed by voters in November, our constitutional amendment will **change the number of state lawmakers required to undo or change laws voters have passed from two-thirds of the state legislature to a four-fifths supermajority**. It also protects our freedom to vote on important issues facing our communities by **strengthening protections for the ballot initiative process itself**, preventing politicians from passing laws that restrict the people's ability to bring initiatives.

Key Messages

USE REAL EXAMPLES: Nebraskans are tired of politicians ignoring the will of the people and undermining what we've already voted for.

- **You know your experience(s) with ballot initiatives best!** Whether you volunteered for a ballot initiative, voted at the ballot box, or have been impacted by these actions - lean into these examples when talking with folks.
- The Legislature passed a bill that modified the voter-approved measure on paid sick leave to take coverage away from 140,000 hardworking Nebraskans.

- State legislators have voted to weaken the minimum wage increase Nebraska voters approved, including capping future cost-of-living increases.
- After Nebraskans voted against private school vouchers last year, the Governor and Legislature moved forward with a new voucher program that takes taxpayer dollars away from public schools and gives them to wealthy families who send their kids to private schools.
- The new state commission overseeing medical marijuana ignored key parts of the law voters passed, severely limiting access and adding burdensome requirements for doctors and patients.

NEBRASKANS KNOW BEST: Too many politicians think they know better than the people who elected them. But Nebraskans know what's best for Nebraska. This measure protects our right to propose and vote on laws that put hardworking families first and ensures that when Nebraskans make a decision at the ballot box, politicians respect it.

FREEDOM TO VOTE: We need to protect our freedom to vote on important issues facing our communities. By strengthening protections for ballot initiatives, **we are keeping the freedom to decide what's right for our state, our communities, and our families in our hands.**

When in doubt - say so!

If someone asks a question you don't know the answer to, that's okay! Rather than trying to guess, **"That's a great question, I'm actually not sure. Can I check on that and follow up with you?"** works in a pinch!

Pass along additional common questions as you hear them, and we will add them to our list of community questions!

OBJECT STATEMENT – MUST BE READ ALOUD (IN ENGLISH) TO EVERY PERSON THAT SIGNS. For Spanish speakers, you can show them the translated object statement while reading in English.

Amend the Nebraska Constitution to protect the people's reserved initiative and referendum powers by requiring a four-fifths vote of the Legislature to change, impair, or repeal citizen-initiated laws or to pass new laws affecting the initiative and referendum process, and prohibiting all legislative enactments that condition, restrict, burden, or impair these reserved powers.

Enmendar la Constitución de Nebraska para proteger los poderes de iniciativa y referéndum reservados por el pueblo, requiriendo un voto de cuatro quintos de la Legislatura para cambiar, debilitar, o revocar leyes iniciadas por los ciudadanos o para aprobar nuevas leyes que afecten el proceso de iniciativa y referéndum, y prohibiendo todas promulgaciones legislativas que condicionen, limiten, sobrecarguen, o deterioren estos poderes reservados.

SAMPLE SCRIPT

Introduction

Hi, there! I'm [NAME], a volunteer with Respect Nebraska Voters! We're here collecting signatures to protect the will of Nebraska's voters and Nebraska's ballot initiative process. Have you heard about the issue at all or had a chance to sign the petition?

More info

If approved by voters in November, this ballot initiative will increase the number of state lawmakers required to undo or change voter-approved policies from two-thirds of the state legislature to a four-fifths supermajority. It also strengthens protections for the ballot initiative process itself, preventing politicians from passing laws that restrict the people's ability to bring initiatives.

"I'll sign"

Thank you so much! Are you a registered voter in the state of Nebraska?

- **If not:** I can help you register! *[Scan QR Code on petition board]*
- **If not eligible to register to vote:** Unfortunately only Nebraska registered voters can sign - thank you anyway!

What county are you registered to vote in? *[Use the appropriate county petition.]*

I'm required to read this object statement to you. You can wait to sign or start signing while I read it. ***[Read full object statement to each signer]***

To make sure your signature counts, *please write as clearly as possible*. Today's date is _____. Thanks so much for helping Nebraska put this issue on the ballot!

"I don't know"

Signing today doesn't lock in your support. We want to make sure that the will of Nebraska voters is respected by our lawmakers. Last year, the Legislature politicians undermined voters on issues we voted on as recently as 2024. **By signing this petition, you are just giving Nebraskans a chance to vote on the issue in November.**

"No"

Thank you for your time, have a nice day!

Additional Opening Lines

- Are you registered to vote in Nebraska?
- Do you want to sign this petition to make it harder for politicians to undo voter-approved initiatives?
- Will you sign this petition to strengthen protections for Nebraska's ballot initiative process?
- Do you want to stop politicians from overturning your vote?
- Have you signed this petition to protect the will of the people?
- Have you signed the petition to protect direct democracy in Nebraska?
- Are you tired of politicians undermining the will of voters? Will you sign this petition to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot to make it harder for politicians to undo policies we already voted for?
- Politicians have repeatedly ignored the will of their constituents. Will you sign this petition to keep our lawmakers accountable to voters?

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

What would this do if passed?

This ballot initiative will **change the number of members of the Nebraska Legislature required to undo or change initiative-passed laws** from two-thirds of the Legislature to a four-fifths supermajority **AND protect our freedom to vote on important issues facing out communities** by preventing politicians from passing laws that restrict the people's ability to bring initiatives.

What's to stop the Legislature from undoing this initiative like they have others?

If passed, this will amend the Nebraska Constitution, **which can only be amended by the people**. The Legislature would only be able to seek changes to this initiative by referring it back to the people.

What legislative actions are covered by the new four-fifths threshold?

It only covers future legislative actions, after the 2026 election, that attempt to modify or repeal initiative-passed laws. **It does not apply retroactively to past legislative actions.**

For example, the law passed in 2025 to undermine paid sick leave would stay on the books.

What initiative-passed laws are covered by the new four-fifths threshold?

It applies to **statutory initiative measures adopted on or after November of 2004, which is when Nebraskans created the 2/3rds threshold.**

For example, any legislative attempt after the 2026 election to change laws passed by the people over the last 22 years, like the law ending predatory payday lending (passed via initiative in 2020), would require four-fifths approval. It will also safeguard any *future* statutory initiatives the people pass by requiring that same threshold for lawmakers to override or undermine what we vote for.

Does this apply to initiative-passed constitutional amendments, like abortion or voter ID?

No, **it only applies to legislative attempts to change statutes passed by voter-led initiatives like minimum wage, paid sick leave and the law ending predatory payday lending.** It does not modify the process for how the Constitution is amended.

Only the people can amend the Constitution. If the Legislature wants to amend any part of the Constitution, it must be done through the legislative referral process as outlined in the Constitution, which requires a 3/5 vote in the Legislature to refer to the people.

I'm still confused. Will this make it harder to change policies like the death penalty, abortion, or voter ID?

No. This initiative does not impact the status quo on any of those issues.

For background if needed:

- In the case of the death penalty, **Nebraska voters reinstated the death penalty in 2016** by repealing a law the legislature passed. **If voters pass our initiative, lawmakers could still vote to overturn the death penalty with a simple majority or 2/3rds majority** if there's a filibuster.
- Regarding abortion, **Nebraska voters approved a 12-week ban in 2024. Voters would need to approve a repeal the ban. Our initiative does not affect that.** It also does not change the threshold for lawmakers to pass a more restrictive ban statutorily or the threshold they need to send a full or partial rollback to voters via a proposed constitutional amendment.
- On voter ID, **Nebraska voters approved constitutional language requiring voter ID in 2022, which directed the Legislature to make rules around it.** Our initiative would not change the legislative thresholds for lawmakers to make changes to voter ID. Any effort to remove the requirement entirely would need to go back to a vote of the people.

What does this mean for medical marijuana access? I saw coverage where a state senator / volunteers had questions.

Officials should respect voters. That's what we're aiming to do. The challenge is that the new state commission overseeing medical marijuana is trying to limit access. Legally, nothing is stopping officials from doing the right thing right now. **We believe passing our initiative would send a clear message while still preserving pathways for expanded access.**

Where can I learn more?

You can find us online at RespectNEVoters.org

