

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTING SIGNATURES

## **Where to go**

- **Churches** are excellent places to go. Also MBTA stations, shopping areas, post offices, dumps, busy sidewalks, or even door to door. You can collect signatures alone or in pairs. Sometimes it's good to set up a small table.
- You have the right to collect signatures on any public sidewalk or public area. However on private property, such as malls, shopping centers, etc., it's a good idea to ask the management where it would be all right for you to do it.

## **What to say**

- Many people say, "Could you please sign my petition? It'll only take 15 seconds for this ballot question." or "Please sign this petition to let the people vote on changing our marriage laws" or whatever you're comfortable with. **DO NOT** allow yourself to be drawn into a conversation or debate because it will waste time.
- We've provided a handout that explains the issue. You can also give copies out.
- Just in case anyone **harasses or intimidates** you or potential signers, see our accompanying instructions. It's illegal and we are serious about enforcing it.

## **Signing the petitions**

- Registered Massachusetts voters of any party (or unenrolled) can sign.
- They should write their street address as they're registered, not a PO box. It's not necessary for them to write in their ward or precinct.
- Each sheet can only have voters of one town. You should write the name of the town in the spaces on the front and back of the sheet. If a voter from another town accidentally signs, he won't be counted.
- There can be as few as 1 or as many as 20 signers on each sheet.
- It's a good idea to use a clipboard. Sheets must be signed in **pen**, not pencil. Sometimes it's good to have a couple of clipboards going at the same time.
- **Important: Do not allow** any stray marks, scribbling, stains, numbering, or lettering to be written on the sheets. It will disqualify them. On the back of each sheet is a description of the criminal penalty for unlawfully defacing petitions.

## **Sending them back & getting more**

- If you run out of sheets, call or email and we'll send you more. You can also Xerox your own or download them from [MassResistance.org](http://MassResistance.org). But they must be exact copies, both front and back.
- As you finish getting sheets signed, you can mail them back to us or phone us and we'll come and get them. The address and phone number are on the front of each sheet.
- You are fighting the good fight!

*We may be updating these instructions from time to time. Check [MassResistance.org](http://MassResistance.org). If you have any questions, you can call our office at 781-890-6001.*