

Medicaid Expansion Petition Drive - County Leader Responsibilities

These are guidelines that I found helpful during my collection of 2000 signatures over an 8th month period in Bonner County, Idaho during 2015. Feel free to be creative and do what you can. You can achieve your goals without doing everything on this list.

County Clerk Role

To begin the process, the leader should stop by the county elections office to ask them what the preferred procedure will be and let them know that you want to help make this as easy as possible for everyone involved. Each county has the legal right to have their own procedures although they all will have some laws that can't be modified. Be mindful of the fact that we are creating a lot of tedious work for each office, so we need to be extra nice to these people and thank them for their hard work.

Getting Started

The Leaders will organize volunteers, train them on how to correctly fill out the petitions and then they will need to collect completed petitions, take them to the county, pick them up make a copy or scan the petitions and eventually mail everything to the Boise Reclaim Idaho Office. The leaders can encourage people to just take one petition to pass around to friends and co-workers. Signature collecting events may also be organized around appropriate local events such as the democrat's monthly meetings, plays, concerts, indivisible meetings and events, farmer's markets, art events, etc. Be creative and think about where large groups of progressive, registered voters might be standing in lines. Another possibility is to get a door knocking list (turf maps) from the area democrats of strong and leaning democrats and go door to door.

Local Business Assistance

Leaders can work with area businesses to develop one or two locations where petitions will be available for people to sign. Choose businesses where there is only one worker in the store at a time. This makes it easier as one person is supposed to confirm that they witnessed each signature. In exchange, you can mention the business in ads that will be directing people to these businesses. Once these locations are established, the county leaders can purchase ads in local papers, alternative papers, or radio stations to drive signers to these locations. Letters to the editor are free advertisement and sometimes local publications will run an article to help out especially if you run a few ads in their publication.

Rules for Signatures

The rules that must be followed for signature collecting are pretty straight forward.

- 1) Black ink or blue ink
- 2) Must be registered voter
- 3) Use physical mailing address that they are registered under (no PO box numbers)
- 4) Sign in the right spot - if you sign where it says print they will not accept the signature
- 5) Print legibly - if they can't read it they will red line the signature
- 6) One county per petition
- 7) Don't sign your own petition
- 8) Enter the full date 1/15/2018 for example

Registering and Signing at the Same Time

Go to Idaho Votes to check to see if someone is registered and what address is currently on record.

We now have online voter registration. If a person registers online then they should be able to sign right away. It's always a good idea to carry paper registration forms with you for people who don't use computers. If the person registers with a card some counties allow you to let them sign as long as the completed petition and card arrives to the office on that same day. This is tricky so it's best to have them register online if possible.

Completed Signature Page Process

When a signature page is complete, the **signature collector** must go to a local library or bank and have their signature notarized. If this step becomes an issue, the leader should consider becoming a notary public. It costs \$100 and is very easy to do (instructions are available on the Volunteer Tool Kit page of our website). Reclaim Idaho will reimburse the cost.

The leader will then take the completed, notarized petition into the county clerk's office. Once a week the leader will go back to collect the petitions that have been validated. Tally the numbers using the google sheets spreadsheet or in some manner you create that works for you.

Zach has requested that you take a photo or scan each petition and send that to him. He will be adding each name into Votebuilder for GOTV efforts in November. Keep the petitions in a safe place. You will eventually mail all your validated petitions to:

Zachary Reider, Field Director, 4795 Emerald St, Boise, ID 83706.

Zach will then take about 6,000 petitions in to the Secretary of State's office in Boise.

Other Helpful Tips

1. The team leader can hold weekly meetings at first to get people trained and motivated, but most of the communication work is done by email. Start a google sheets list of all of your volunteers so it will be easier to send out group emails. Write emails every now with updates and to ask for volunteers for certain events.
2. The most common reasons for invalid signatures:
 - 1) Not registered
 - 2) Illegible handwriting
 - 3) Address did not match registration card (moved and did not update registration card)
 - 4) Used PO box instead of physical address
 - 5) Signature changed from the time they signed their registration card
 - 6) Signature was in the print signature location
 - 7) Already signed
3. As you are collecting, encourage people to help collect signatures. See if they can collect 12 signatures among friends and family and get them started. The burn out rate can be pretty high so always try to find new volunteers. And of course, thank your volunteers for anything they are able to do.

4. Clipboards and pens come in handy and can be purchased on Amazon for a reasonable price.

Campaign Finance Regulations:

Since we are advocating for a political issue, we fall under the Idaho state regulations of election campaign contributions and expenses. This constitutes two requirements for county leaders:

1. All materials advocating for Medicaid expansion in the public forum must clearly state who paid for it. Please add the following statement at the bottom of all items sponsored by Reclaim Idaho, or to any items you would like to treat as an in-kind donation: **"Paid for by Reclaim Idaho, Garrett Strizich, Political Treasurer."**

Exceptions to this rule include social media posts and advertisements, internal procedures and communications, communications with volunteers, and small items where it would be a burden to include (e.g. buttons, pens, bumper stickers, small info cards, etc.).

2. In addition, all campaign expenses that are directly related to the ballot initiative campaign or Reclaim Idaho must be reported to the campaign treasurer for inclusion in our periodic report to Secretary of State. Importantly, this includes all in-kind donations (donations of products or professional services that would otherwise cost money). Please submit all expenses and a photo of receipts with the form provided to reclaimidahotreasurer@gmail.com.

Use this email for questions reclaimidaho@gmail.com