



Ohio Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell
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Directive 2005-02
January 19, 2005

Franklin County Board of Elections only

Pursuant to R.C. 3519.01(B)(1), a petition was filed in this office by persons seeking to file a referendum petition against Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 125th General Assembly. Enclosed are part-petitions which must be examined to determine the validity of the signatures. **Please read all the instructions that comprise this Directive carefully before you start examining the signatures.** The instructions incorporate decisions made by Judge Dale A. Crawford of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas relative to protests filed throughout the state on boards of elections' findings on the initiative petition to reduce the sales tax (the protests were consolidated in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas). The Secretary of State is appealing a number of issues in Judge Crawford's decisions; however, while the appeal is pending, the Secretary has incorporated Judge Crawford's rulings into the instructions.

Checking the petitions: Each person who signs a petition paper must be a qualified elector of the county in which the petition paper was circulated *as of the date the petition is examined* by the board (R.C. 3519.15). If the part-petition contains signatures from another county, the part-petition is not invalid but only signatures from your county shall be counted and the signatures from outside your county are invalid. (R.C. 3519.10). A signature must be written in cursive on the petition if it is in cursive on the elector's registration record. The name of the signer indicated on the petition *must be the same form* of the signer's name that is on the signer's registration record (e.g., if a signer signed his or her registration record with a full first name such as Bobbie Jo Brown, he or she may not use initials to indicate his or her name on the petition such as B.J. Brown).

Returning the petitions: As soon as your certification of these part-petitions is complete, return the completed form and all valid and invalid part-petitions to this office. You must deliver these part-petitions back to this office either in person or by a method that provides tracking. You must review these part-petitions, complete the certification form and **have them back to this office by no later than close of business on January 20.**

If you have any questions 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".

J. Kenneth Blackwell

Enclosures

REPORTING FORM
(Initial Filing - R.C. 3519.01(B))

On behalf of the **Franklin County Board of Elections**, I hereby certify that we have examined the enclosed part-petitions. The number of valid and invalid signatures on the part-petitions for the initial filing of the Am. Sub. H.B. 1 referendum petition is as follows:

	PETITIONS	SIGNATURES
1. Number of valid part-petitions	_____	
Number of valid signatures		_____
Number of invalid signatures		_____
2. Number of invalid part-petitions	_____	
Number of signatures on invalid part-petitions		_____
3. Total number of <i>part-petitions</i> received (valid and invalid)	_____	
4. Total number of <i>signatures</i> on part-petitions (valid and invalid)		_____

Signature _____

Director

Date

Keep a copy for your files

INSTRUCTIONS AND CODE SYMBOLS FOR VALIDATING SIGNATURES ON PETITIONS

Each signature must be individually examined. If a signature is valid, place a red check mark at the left margin beside it. After checking an entire part-petition, **write the number of valid signers** on the right side of the front page of each part-petition; **write the initials** of the board employee who checked the part-petition under the number.

If a signature is not valid, indicate what is wrong with it by using the following initials or, if no set of initials fits, an explanatory notation:

- NR "Not Registered." The signer is not registered to vote. Each signer of a petition paper must be a qualified elector registered to vote at the address shown on the petition paper **as of the date the board examines the petition.**
- NRA "Not Registered Address." The address provided on the petition is not the address on file with the board of elections **as of the date the board examines the petition.**
- NG "Not Genuine." The signature does not appear to be the genuine signature of the person whose signature it purports to be, is not in cursive if it should be, or is not the same form of the name as on the voter's registration record.
- ILL "Illegible"; applies only if both the signature and address are unreadable, so that it is impossible to check the signature against a voter registration record.
- ND "No Date." The petition does not indicate the date on which the signature was affixed. (Must include month, date and year; however, ditto marks are acceptable.)
- DUP "Duplication." The person has signed more than one part of the same petition.
- NA "No address." The signer must have entered his/her street and number, or RFD, and city, village, or township. The signer need not have entered the name of his/her county if it can be determined what county the signer is from by the other information given. The ward and precinct information is not required.
- OC "Other County." The signer is a resident of another county. **Do not cross out the signature or address; only place code at left margin.**
- CIR Circulator signed the part-petition he or she was circulating. (This invalidates the circulator's signature as a signer, but not the entire part-petition.)
- P "Pencil." The signature was written using a pencil *other than* an indelible pencil.

If the number of signatures on a part-petition is **more than the number indicated** by the circulator, **the entire part-petition is invalid.**

When invalidating an entire part-petition, indicate the reason for rejection on the front of that part-petition and separate it from any valid part-petition. **Do not invalidate a part-petition solely for the reason that it does not contain any valid signatures; it is a valid part-petition, but it contains zero valid signatures.**