



Winsome for Governor Volunteer Training



Objective



- The Winsome for Governor campaign is required by Virginia law to gather signatures of voters in order to be placed on the ballot.
- 10,000 Signatures from registered Virginia voters. 400 in each congressional district.
- In this training we will cover everything you need to know about petitions, how to properly gather signatures, and where to deliver completed petition forms.

All about Petitions



What is a petition?

- A Virginia Petition of Qualified Voters is a legal document provided by the Department of Elections that is circulated for the purpose of gathering signatures.

What is a circulator?

- A circulator is the individual who witnesses the signatures of qualified voters and presents them to a notary. Anyone can be a circulator with the exception of minors or felons who's voting rights have not been restored.

What is a notary?

- A notary is an individual who is qualified to witness and certify the signing of legal documents. After signatures are gathered, they must be notarized in order to be legally counted.

How can you help?



Get involved in the campaign. The nations focus will be on Virginia this November and we need to fight to ensure we keep the commonwealth **RED** for four more years!

How can you help:

- You can circulate petitions at a local event, a church, grocery store, GOP meeting, to your friends and family, or anywhere else you can think of!

Virginia Petition of Qualified Voters

(Must be filed with the SBE-505/520 Declaration of Candidacy)

Candidate Information

Candidate Ballot Name: Winsome Earle Sears

Full Residence Address (including city/state/zip): 200 Kemper Court, Stephenson, VA 22656

Office Sought: Governor of Virginia District: _____

Congressional District (optional): _____

Note to Circulator

- Review Instructions on page 3.
- The Circulator Affidavit on the reverse side **must** be completed and signed in front of a Notary.

Petition Signer Statement

We, the qualified voters of the district in which the above candidate seeks nomination or election and of _____ signed hereunder or on the reverse side of this page, do hereby petition the above _____ County/City/Town named individual to become a candidate for the office stated above in the (check only one)

General Election Special Election Democratic Primary Republican Primary

to be held on the 17th day of June, 20 25, and we do further petition that his/her name be printed upon the official ballots to be used at the election.

Note to Petition Signer

- Your signature on this petition must be your own and does not signify an intent to vote for the candidate.
- You may sign petitions for more than one candidate.
- Privacy notice:**
 - Providing the last four digits of your SSN is optional. You may sign the petition without providing this information.
 - The information provided will be checked against the official voter registration roll.
 - This form is available for public inspection but your SSN, or any part thereof, will not be provided.
- Fraud notice:** Any willfully false material statement or entry made on this form by any person shall constitute the crime of election fraud and be punishable as a Class 5 felony.

Office Use Only	#	Petition Signer	Date Signed (Must be on or after January 1st of election year.)	Last 4 Digits of SSN (optional)
	1.	Print Full Name _____ Signature _____ Full Residential Address (including city/state/zip) (PO Box not acceptable) _____		
	2.	Print Full Name _____ Signature _____ Full Residential Address (including city/state/zip) (PO Box not acceptable) _____		
	3.	Print Full Name _____ Signature _____ Full Residential Address (including city/state/zip) (PO Box not acceptable) _____		
	4.	Print Full Name _____ Signature _____ Full Residential Address (including city/state/zip) (PO Box not acceptable) _____		
	5.	Print Full Name _____ Signature _____ Full Residential Address (including city/state/zip) (PO Box not acceptable) _____		
	6.	Print Full Name _____ Signature _____ Full Residential Address (including city/state/zip) (PO Box not acceptable) _____		

Virginia Petition of Qualified Voters (continued from reverse side)

Candidate Ballot Name: Winsome Earle Sears Office Sought: Governor of Virginia

Note to Petition Signer

- Your signature on this petition must be your own and does not signify an intent to vote for the candidate.
- You may sign petitions for more than one candidate.
- Privacy notice:**
 - Providing the last four digits of your SSN is optional. You may sign the petition without providing this information.
 - The information provided will be checked against the official voter registration roll.
 - This form is available for public inspection but your SSN, or any part thereof, will not be provided.
- Fraud notice:** Any willfully false material statement or entry made on this form by any person shall constitute the crime of election fraud and be punishable as a Class 5 felony.

Office Use Only	#	Petition Signer	Date Signed (Must be on or after January 1st of election year.)	Last 4 Digits of SSN (optional)
	7.	Print Full Name _____ Signature _____ Full Residential Address (including city/state/zip) (PO Box not acceptable) _____		
	8.	Print Full Name _____ Signature _____ Full Residential Address (including city/state/zip) (PO Box not acceptable) _____		
	9.	Print Full Name _____ Signature _____ Full Residential Address (including city/state/zip) (PO Box not acceptable) _____		
	10.	Print Full Name _____ Signature _____ Full Residential Address (including city/state/zip) (PO Box not acceptable) _____		
	11.	Print Full Name _____ Signature _____ Full Residential Address (including city/state/zip) (PO Box not acceptable) _____		
	12.	Print Full Name _____ Signature _____ Full Residential Address (including city/state/zip) (PO Box not acceptable) _____		

Circulator Affidavit

I, _____ (print full name), swear or affirm that (i) my full residential address (including city/state/zip) is _____, (ii) I am not a minor, (iii) I am not a felon whose voting rights have not been restored; (iv) I have witnessed the signature of each person who signed this page and its reverse side; and (v) I consent to the jurisdiction of the courts of Virginia in resolving any disputes concerning the circulation of petitions, or signatures contained therein. I understand that falsely signing this Affidavit is a felony punishable by a maximum fine up to \$2,500 and/or imprisonment up to ten years.

Circulator Signature: _____ Date: _____

Notary

State of _____ County/City of _____

The foregoing instrument was subscribed and sworn before me this _____ day of _____, 20 _____, by (circulator name) _____.

Notary Signature _____ Registration # _____ Commission Expiration _____

Place photographically Reproducible Stamp/Seal Here



Understanding the Top of petition pages


The form below is an example of a petition for Fairfax County in the 11th Congressional District.

We ask that the petition forms are separated by County/Independent City as well as congressional district. Therefore, you will have different forms for voters in Fairfax's 11th Congressional district and Fairfax's 8th Congressional district. Also, separate petitions by locality where a signer from Prince William will sign a different petition than a voter from Manassas City.

Candidate Information	Candidate Ballot Name: <u>Winsome Earle Sears</u> Full Residence Address (including city/state/zip): <u>200 Kemper Court, Stephenson, VA 22656</u> Office Sought: <u>Governor of Virginia</u> District: _____ Congressional District (optional): <u>11</u>
Note to Circulator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Instructions on page 3.• The Circulator Affidavit on the reverse side must be completed and signed in front of a Notary.
Petition Signer Statement	We, the qualified voters of the district in which the above candidate seeks nomination or election and of <u>Fairfax</u> signed hereunder or on the reverse side of this page, do hereby petition the above County/City/Town named individual to become a candidate for the office stated above in the (check only one)

Correct Entry:

Correct and Incorrect entries



1.	<p>Evan Harwood Print Full Name</p> <p>123 Winsome Dr, Fairfax VA 22222 Full Residential Address (including city/state/zip) (PO Box not acceptable)</p>	<p>Evan's Signature Signature</p>	01/28/2025	Optional
----	--	---------------------------------------	------------	----------

The correct petition signer included their full name, signature, full address, and the date.

Incorrect Entry:

1.	<p>E. Harwood Print Full Name</p> <p>123 Winsome Dr, FFX VA Full Residential Address (including city/state/zip) (PO Box not acceptable)</p>	<p>No Signature Signature</p>	01/28	Optional
----	--	-----------------------------------	-------	----------

The incorrect petition signer abbreviated their name, put no signature, abbreviated their city, forget to put their Zip Code, and forget to put the year. All of which are common mistakes a circulator needs to watch for.

Requirements



- Petitions must be printed double sided with the circulator affidavit and notary as the back page.
- Signers must use black or blue ink.
- Signers must be registered to vote in Virginia.
- Print full legal name, signature, full address, and the date. The last four digits of their Social Security Number are optional.
- Every signature must be witnessed by the circulator. You can not sign your own petition and under NO circumstances should the circulator sign for another.

Extra Requirements - What will disqualify a page

The petition does not have the name, or some variation of the name, and address of the candidate on the front of the form;

Double-sided - The petition submitted is not the double-sided document, or a double-sided copy thereof, provided by the State Board of Elections

Prefilled - The petition fails to identify the office sought on the front of the form;

Notary - The circulator has not signed the petition affidavit and provided his current address;

Qualified - The circulator is a minor or a felon whose voting rights have not been restored

The circulator has not signed the petition he circulated in the presence of a notary

Notary - The circulator has not had a notary sign the affidavit for each petition submitted

Notary - A person other than the circulator signed the petition affidavit;

Notary - The notary has not affixed a photographically reproducible seal;

Notary - The notary has not included his registration number and commission expiration date

Extra Requirements (cont.) - What will disqualify a signature

The following omissions related to individual petition signatures are always material and any petition signature containing such omission shall be rendered invalid if:

1. The signer is not qualified to cast a ballot for the office for which the petition was circulated;
- 2. The signer is also the circulator of the petition**
3. The signer provided an accompanying date that is subsequent to the date upon which the notary signed the petition. (**Signer dates AFTER Notary dates.**)
4. The signer did not sign the petition
5. The signer provided an address that does not match the petition signer 's address in the Virginia voter registration system, unless the signer provided an address that is within the same precinct where a voter is currently registered in the Virginia voter registration system, and the signer can be reasonably identified as the same registered voter.

The Circulator Affidavit

Circulator Affidavit

I, _____ (print full name), swear or affirm that (i) my full residential address (including city/state/zip) is _____, (ii) I am not a minor, (iii) I am not a felon whose voting rights have not been restored; (iv) I have witnessed the signature of each person who signed this page and its reversed side; and (v) I consent to the jurisdiction of the courts of Virginia in resolving any disputes concerning the circulation of petitions, or signatures contained therein. I understand that falsely signing this Affidavit is a felony punishable by a maximum fine up to \$2,500 and/or imprisonment up to ten years.

Circulator Signature: _____ Date: _____

Notary

State of _____ County/City of _____

The foregoing instrument was subscribed and sworn before me this _____ day of _____, 20 _____

by _____ (circulator name)

Notary Signature

Registration #

Commission Expiration

Place photographically Reproducible Stamp/Seal Here

or

Place
Photographically
Reproducible
Seal/Stamp Here

Notarizing



On the back of the petition is the circulator affidavit and the notary statement. In order for the signatures to be counted, the circulator must bring the petition to a notary to be authorized.

Once the notary signs off and provides their stamp or seal, you will fill out the circulator affidavit in front of the notary. Do **NOT** fill out the affidavit before the notary signs.

Most banks, public libraries, law offices, some UPS or CVS stores have notaries.

If you do not know where to find the nearest notary, contact your Regional Political Director for assistance.

How to ask for petitions



Asking for petition signatures is easy!

Simply introduce yourself as a volunteer for the Winsome Sears campaign and that you are helping to gather signatures from voters in order for her to access the ballot. This signature does not commit your vote or go into the public record, it simply helps to get candidates on the ballot for the upcoming election. Would you be willing to sign? If they agree, witness their signature along with all required information and then thank them.

In GOP friendly circles, many have experienced signing for candidates before and will need little explanation. If they seem interested in volunteering, please share the contact information of your RPD.

If you are gathering signatures out in your community and meet someone new, take the time to explain the process if they seem confused or have questions.

Where to gather petitions



The best places to circulate petitions are where large groups of people are gathered in your communities.

Parades, festivals, gun shows, community yard sales, churches, outside grocery stores, chamber of commerce events, local GOP committee meetings. Many opportunities to circulate will occur over the next month. Sometimes looking up “events near me” will yield results for potential events that you can gather signatures.

When you are gathering signatures always remember to be respectful. Bring a pen and clipboard or some stable object for the signer to write on. If you are attending a nonpolitical event, most people who are willing to sign want to quickly go through the process. Give them the petition, make sure they correctly sign and move on to the next signer.

Our Regional Political Directors are on standby to find events for you and work with you to get the petitions circulated, so we can get them back. If you preferred to be assigned events that we need help at, please ask your Regional Political Director for an event.

The Timeline



Start: You can start circulating petitions now! Petition period is a limited period of time and the sooner you get started, the more signatures you can collect.

Middle: Stay connected with your regional political director as you collect signatures. Keep them updated as to how many you have, let them know any questions you have, and let them know if you need recommendations of events to attend. We are here to help!

End: Team Winsome's goal is to have all the signatures back to us **by March 10th**. The signatures will need to be notarized and in the mail or handed in to an RPD by that date.

How to Deliver Petitions to the Campaign



WE ARE HERE TO HELP

When you have completed the notary process, the last step is delivering the petitions to the campaign.

Reach out to your Regional Political Director to arrange a time to hand-off your petitions. You are helping them with their job by circulating these petitions, the least we can do is arrange a time to meet!

We are required to have the original copies of the petitions. Please do not mark on them besides what is required.



The 100 Club

The 100 Club is an exclusive group of dedicated volunteers who will help Lt. Governor Winsome Sears appear on the ballot for Governor.

How It Works:

- Commit to Getting 100 Signatures: Volunteer to gather 100 signatures in support of Lt. Governor Winsome Sears. These signatures are crucial for ensuring that Winsome Sears is on the ballot for Governor in the upcoming election.
- Deadline: All 100 signatures must be collected and submitted by March 10th.
- Exclusive Recognition: The first 100 volunteers to submit 100 signatures will officially become members of the 100 Club and receive special recognition and exclusive merch for their efforts!



What You'll Receive as a Member of the 100 Club

Special Commemorative Gift: Show your pride in being a 100 Club member with a special keepsake designed to honor your contribution to the campaign.

Exclusive 100 Club Gear: Gear up with exclusive 100 Club merchandise so you can proudly wear your support.

VIP Recognition at a Winsome Sears Campaign Event: Members will be recognized as VIPs at a future Winsome Sears campaign event, with premium seating and access to exclusive campaign opportunities.

Your Regional Political Director will keep track of the number of signatures you have collected. Only signatures that end in the hands of your RPD will count towards the 100 Club.



The Role of Regional Political Directors

Your Regional Political Directors, also referred to as RPDs, are responsible for campaign activities in a certain geographical area.

Current responsibilities include:

- Acting as the point of contact for volunteers and activists
- Collecting signatures and delivering petition pages to volunteers
- Attending events on behalf of the campaign
- Passing along event requests to the scheduling team

RPDs have many other responsibilities, but their main focus for the rest of February will be working with all of you to collect signatures.

If you need any petition materials, campaign literature, or anything like that - just ask your regional!



Thank you!

If you have any questions please contact your Regional Political Director.

- Northern Virginia - Evan Harwood - Evan@winsomeforgovernor.com
- Hampton Roads - Cole Trower - W.C.Trower@gmail.com
- Western Virginia - Mike Walsh - Mike@winsomeforgovernor.com
- Central Virginia - Will Dieterich - Will@winsomeforgovernor.com
- CD7 - Anthony Staats - Anthony@winsomeforgovernor.com

If you are unsure of your region contact Richard Waggoner - Richard@winsomeforgovernor.com

After this meeting, we will send you an email with: this slide deck, the volunteer guidelines, the petition rules, and the **pre-filled petitions** (MAKE SURE TO PRINT FRONT AND BACK!)

*Please check your spam folder, and mark my email not spam (It helps our delivery rate!)