

Circulator Instructions
Citizens FOR a Smoke-Free Omaha Petition
www.SmokeFreeNebraska.org

1. You must be at least 19 years of age and **may live in any city** to circulate a petition. (Any aged registered voter in the city limits of Omaha may sign the petition. A few may be 17 – if they turn 18 before November’s Election Day.)
2. You must use only petition forms provided by Citizens FOR a Smoke-Free Omaha. **(Do NOT copy the petition forms!) Call the people below for more official copies before yours are full. If you copy them, they may not be counted!**
3. You may not sign your own petition.
4. You must witness every signature on the petition (see the person sign) you are circulating. (This means a circulator may not leave the petition at a location and return later when the petition is full. You may not share a petition with another person. For example, a husband and wife must have two petitions – one for each of them.)
5. The Circulator must not offer or give anything of value to a potential signer to get them to sign the petition. It is against the law!!
6. People should sign only one petition. Only one signature is valid and signing more than once will throw off our count of valid signatures.
7. Do not write anything in the blank line on the petition where it says, “ORDINANCE NO. ____”. That is for the City Clerk to use.
8. If your employer is paying you while you are getting people to sign the petition (while you are on company time), every page of your petition must say (in red), “**This petition is circulated by a paid circulator**”. If you don’t get paid, (on break or during lunch) every page of your petition must say (in red), “**This petition is circulated by a volunteer circulator**”. If your petition doesn’t have that printed in red on every page, tear it in half and throw it away (after you get those signers to re-sign a valid petition). Signatures on invalid petitions will not be counted. Note: If your employer pays \$250 or more for their employees to circulate the petition, they must file an “In Kind” donation report to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission (NADC). We will help them fill out that form. They should contact Mike Salkin or Mark Welsch for our help.
9. When finished collecting signatures on the petition form, you must, in the presence of a notary public, fill out the bottom portion of the petition, and sign the oath. Banks will usually do this for free. We have notaries available if needed.
10. Email Mark Welsch to let us know you have a completed petition (call if you don’t have Email). I’ll arrange to collect it. It would be great if you could drop it off to one of the sponsors of the petition.
11. **How to get people to sign your petition.** Start by asking every potential signer is, “**Are you a registered voter living inside the Omaha city limits?**”
 - a. **If no**, say, “Thank- you” and move on. **They cannot sign the petition.**
 - b. **If yes**, ask them, “**Would you like to sign an initiative petition to enact a City of Omaha ordinance to prohibit smoking in workplaces and public places?**” Or, you can just read the object statement at the top of the front page of the petition to each signer of the petition before they sign it.
 - c. BEFORE they start to sign, tell them **how**, so every signature is valid. Say, “**Please print legibly. Start with today’s date, including the year, print your name, just like you are registered to vote, the address you registered to vote at, including the city and zip code, sign your name and write in your birth date.**” Some people are not putting the date or their birthdate and some do not **PRINT** their name in the second box. Do not allow the signers to use any ditto marks. Women may not sign it “Mrs. John Smith”. They must use their own first name. If they make a mistake, ask them to draw a line or two through the incorrect line and start over on the next line.
 - d. As they sign, or when they are done, ask, “**Would you like to help by circulating a petition of your own? It is a lot of fun, and we need your help to gather 12,000 signatures!**”
 - e. **If no**, say, “Thank you for signing the petition!”
 - f. **If yes**, have them fill out a line on the “I will Circulate a Petition” form. **Make sure you can read their Email and phone number.** Always keep this form under the petitions on your clipboard – for easy access.
 - g. **Email or fax the new circulators’ information to Mike Salkin every day so we can send a petition to the new circulator and they can start helping very quickly.**

12. **Tips** – To get the most signatures on the petitions always have at least two clipboards and petitions with you. It is much easier to get a second person to sign the petition if they see someone else already signing one. Stand in places where many people walk past you, and ask them all, “Are you a registered voter in Omaha . . .”. An ironing board makes a good portable table. Attach the “SMOKE FREE OMAHA PETITION” sign to a clipboard or the ironing board so it hangs perpendicular to the ground. Go to high traffic areas such as, post offices, county treasurer’s offices, shopping malls, PTA meetings and other school functions, universities, the Gene Leahy Mall at noon.
13. Usually, public property such as sidewalks, parks etc. are available at any time the public is allowed to use them, just as long as you are not disrupting activities at those locations. The Circulator may circulate on city sidewalks with some limits at the Qwest Center. (Ask Mark Welsch about these limits.) Circulation on private property is at the discretion of the property owner. State law prohibits the gathering of signatures within 200 feet of a polling place, on Election Day. There is usually a yellow flag at the 200-foot limit and you’ll see campaign signs.

If you have any questions, Email or call:

Mark Welsch
5611 Howard Street
Omaha, NE 68106-1257
402-558-0463

GASPnebr@cox.net

Mike Salkin
418 S 166 St.
Omaha, NE 68118-2702
402-330-4324
Fax: 402-330-4002
MikeSalkin@cox.net

The Ordinance at a Glance

Our goal is 12,000 signatures so we will make sure to have over the required 9,325 valid signatures.

If this passes in November, **it will stop the smoking inside of all workplaces and inside all public places, with the exceptions listed below.** People will still be able to smoke in outdoor dining areas, city parks and on sidewalks.

- Bars, without kitchens, will be allowed to be smoky for only two years. This is to help them make the change to being smoke free without hurting their business.
- The only homes that will be made smoke free are those that provide licensed childcare, adult care or other licensed health care services. They are functioning like a business.
- No more than twenty percent (20%) of rooms rented to guests may be designated as smoking rooms. This is to help prevent smokers from fouling nonsmoking rooms in the hotels and motels with their smoke.
- Smoking will be allowed in nursing homes and long-term care facilities only if the person has a private room, or if all of the people in that room are smokers and they have all asked, in writing, to be placed in a room where smoking is permitted. If smoke from these places goes into nonsmoking areas, they will not be able to smoke in those rooms.
- Smoking will be allowed in scientific laboratories where the health effects of smoking are being studied.

Minors under the age of eighteen will not be allowed to go into bars if smoking is allowed inside of that bar. There is currently no law that prevents children from going into any bar.

If over half of the people vote for this ordinance in November, it takes effect on January 2, 2007.

If people ask too many questions, they probably just want to stop you from getting more signatures. Kindly tell them “I don’t have time to answer all of your questions, I need to get more people to sign the petition. Please go to the website www.SmokeFreeNebraska.org for more information.

To help out with a financial contribution (not tax-deductible) make your check out to:

“Citizens FOR a Smoke-Free Omaha” and mail it to:

**5611 Howard Street
Omaha, NE 68106.**