



***How to Collect Signatures  
Renew MA, Stop Taxpayer  
Funded Abortion Initiative  
August - Nov. 2019***

*Need 80,239 certified signatures, will shoot for 120,000*

*Due at the Town Clerks by November 20, 2019. Due at Secretary Of State by December 4, 2019.*

**Get a legal size clipboard.** The petition papers will be letter size but it's more comfortable for people to sign. Tape the "New Signature Tracking" document we will send you to the clipboard. Please email us to receive this document. Put your petition papers on top.

**Signatures can only be from only one town per sheet.** We can't have people from different towns on the same sheet. A town for our purposes is where the town clerk is. Because only one town clerk will be certifying each sheet, all the signatures must be from that town. For example, the villages of W. Barnstable, Centerville, Osterville, Cotuit, Hyannis and Marstons Mills all fall under "Barnstable" because there is a Barnstable Town Hall and Town Clerk.

**There are three (3) places on the form that need to have the town filled in,** one in the front, 2 on the back. Please fill those in before you ask for signatures and double check them before you bring to town clerk or give to town captain.

**If the Town Clerk cannot read the signature, it will be disqualified even if they can read the address.** You may ask the signer to print his name next to the signature. If you notice an illegible signature you may ask them to sign the sheet again. **DO NOT CROSS OUT THE ILLEGIBLE SIGNATURE!**

**If you must make copies they have to be exact copies double-sided** (not shrunk). They cannot be two one-sided papers taped together! We are able to provide you with as many correct copies as needed, so if at all possible, call your regional director or town captain for copies. You can reach us at Tom@StopTaxpayerAbortion.org and your email will be forwarded to the correct regional director. We urge you not to make copies yourself, as the signatures will be disqualified if the papers are not printed properly.

**Please give us counts of how many signatures you've gathered on a regular basis.** This is extremely important so we can track our progress and update our supporters. Without accurate tracking, we will fail.

**Stray marks are not allowed.** The SOS office is very nit picky about the cleanliness of the papers. If they see a stray mark or anything crossed off they may throw out the whole sheet. If anyone uses the side of the page to get the ink flowing or crosses out their town, simply put that sheet away and start a new one.

Please only use half a sheet and file it away safely. I know the sight of a completely full sheet is satisfying, but it's also devastating to discover that same sheet has a coffee stain on it (and will get thrown out).

**Highlighting is not allowed either.** Do not highlight or write ANYTHING on papers other than signatures and addresses. Don't cross anything out. If someone realizes they made a mistake, just redo it. If they signed on the wrong town paper just give them the correct paper to sign. These names are all checked by the town clerks so if they don't live there anymore that signature will get thrown out but no one will get in trouble for signing twice! Their signature will only count once. If someone crosses out or makes a stray mark put that paper away and start a new one. Don't throw it away. Still submit to the town clerk.

**Good Places to get signatures:**

Grocery Stores (especially Market Basket) – please call ahead and reserve/ask permission from store manager (important so you're not competing with the boy scouts selling popcorn, etc.)

Churches - please schedule 2-3 Sundays in a row, to be sure everyone at your church has signed, and then we ask that you assist with other churches, and grocery stores, as we need hundreds of volunteers to be successful.

Outside Post Offices between 10-12 when they're busiest (you're never allowed to collect signatures inside the Post office.)

Home Depots – great on weekend mornings, ask Manager

Fall Special Town meetings – one hour before start time as people are walking in

Door to Door – we will be forming teams, this is very important, so keep in touch with your coordinator  
Local Fairs and Festivals, kids sporting events, any place there are a lot of people and parents.

**Collect from any town.** Keep push pieces with you if anyone needs more information on how their tax dollars go to fund abortion. If you have spare sheets and someone is from another town in MA that's far away, start a new sheet even if it's just for one signature. Give that to your town or regional captain. We will be able to get that sheet to its rightful town clerk.

**These are official documents.** It is a federal violation to tamper with them. Don't try to copy one side onto another sheet or do any other funky things. If someone threatens to destroy or rip them, get your phone and take pictures or video whilst reminding them it's a federal crime.

**Anyone can sign.** Rs, Us, or Ds, as long as they are a registered voter in Massachusetts.

**Check in every Sunday night** Send your regional captain the number of **new** signatures you get every Sunday night, not totals. Please keep track in your own way of new signatures. Consider using the "Signature Tracking Spreadsheet" given out by our regional directors. Including already counted signatures or already certified signatures messes up our total number and we will not have an accurate tally, so please pay close attention.

**What to say?** “Hi, I’m collecting signatures to put the mandate that our taxpayer dollars fund abortion onto the ballot so we can stop funding abortion. Did you know your taxes go to fund abortion? Would you please sign?” Of course you have to speak FAST. We stay away from “would you like to sign?” If someone is reluctant, you can reiterate it’s just to get it on the ballot, you don’t have to know how you’re going to vote until Nov. 2020, and people need to know about the law and it being on the ballot will force an education campaign. When they confirm, say: “great, what town are you registered to vote in?” If they are not registered say thanks anyway, your signature won’t help. If they don’t know what you’re talking about, just give them a push piece and explain it briefly. If you don’t ask they won’t sign. If you stand there waiting for people to ask you what you’re doing and volunteer to sign you will be very lonely. Please be friendly and proactive. If someone wants to debate you on the merits of the law say “thanks anyway” and focus on potential signatures. You will watch 10 potential signatures walk by while you argue with one opponent. Resist the temptation to debate!

**Recruiting More Volunteers** When you run into people passionately with us on the issue, ask them to help! Always have scrap paper with you (another benefit of a legal sized clip board) and ask them for their names, phone numbers, and email addresses. Give their info to your regional captain, and we’ll get in touch with them, add them to our email updates, etc.

**Signs and Push pieces** We are having signs and push pieces printed. We’ll give each town captain signs that can be used throughout the campaign. Putting a homemade arrow that says “sign here” will be helpful for the signature drive. Please give push pieces (that give some simple facts about their tax dollars funding abortion) to anyone that questions the drive. Get in touch with your town or regional captain to get signs and push pieces.

**Petitions** Give your signature papers to your town captain or regional director on a rolling basis. If there is no captain in your town please take them to your town clerk’s office to get certified, pick them up from the Clerk when they’re ready and then contact your regional captain to get them from you. Please don’t wait until the last minute (late October) as we need to have a running count of how many certified signatures we have, our certification rate, and how many we still need.

**Social Media** Post on your Facebook page and tweet where you’ll be collecting signatures. Please share Stop Taxpayer Funded Abortion, Renew MA Coalition, MFI, MCFL, and other supporters Facebook posts and retweet our tweets!

Any questions? Email Robert Aufiero at [Robert@RenewMACoalition.org](mailto:Robert@RenewMACoalition.org), Kathy Lynch at [Kathy@RenewMACoalition.org](mailto:Kathy@RenewMACoalition.org), Steve Fruzzetti at [Steve@RenewMACoalition.org](mailto:Steve@RenewMACoalition.org) or Attorney Tom Harvey at [THarveyesq@aol.com](mailto:THarveyesq@aol.com)

THANK YOU!!