

## Collecting Signatures for Petition Initiatives

*A petition initiative is a signature drive of only voters to put a law on the ballot for voters to decide. Our petitions current in 2023 are:*

**Rad[ia]tion]Limits at Last Tree Laws | Fair Legislature at LastTreeLaws.com**

### Returning Petitions

We would like to collect all **certified** petitions in Holyoke at latest by **5 December 2023** and then send them ourselves to Boston, because we need to count & prove we have enough before sending them to Boston.

Here's how you can help:

1. Check our current list of towns for drop off to see if there is a coordinator, or a coordinator who needs help that can collect petitions:

<https://lasttreelaws.com/2023/11/towns-with-coordinator/>

2. If not, you can help! Volunteer to coordinate collection from a certain town using:

→ our online form:

<https://share.mayfirst.org/apps/forms/s/M6izDL08jT667iY7ZzWqqmq5>

→ email:

[elmo@lasttreelaws.com](mailto:elmo@lasttreelaws.com)

3. Join a conference call to ask - calls are listed at [lasttreelaws.com/calendar](https://lasttreelaws.com/calendar). We use [freeconferencecalling.com](https://www.freeconferencecalling.com), which has a desktop app, too - The current number, which may change, is:

1 (302)202 1104  
Code: 483409

4. If you can't coordinate, and there isn't anyone else, you can send the petitions on your own. Here are the very last minute due dates and mailing addresses for petitions that have voter signatures verified by 3 voter registrars, as required, for arrival by 5 December 2023 Tues. or preferably EARLIER:

#### **BEST**

Arrival by 5 Dec. Tues.

Petition  
c/o Kirstin Beatty  
149 Central Pk Dr  
Holyoke, MA 01040

#### **SECOND BEST**

Arrival by 5 p.m. 6 Dec. Wed.

Elections Division  
Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth  
1 Ashburton Place, Room 1705  
Boston, MA 02108

- Drive and drop off or coordinate to meet and drop off
- Mail 30 November regular mail (USPS regular mail can take 5 days)
- Mail 2 December priority mail (USPS) – calculate a price online
- Mail 3 December with 2-day shipping:
  - with FedEx – calculate price online
  - with Priority Mail Express (USPS) – calculate price online

## Support Our Petition Initiatives:

### RadLimits at Last Tree Laws; Fair Legislature at LastTreeLaws.com

We need your help as petition initiatives are tough. We have to make sure petitions follow the rules, we get enough signatures, and that we deliver them on time. After signing, petitions go to town clerks, we count them, we pick up and deliver to the state.

## PETITION INSTRUCTIONS

**ONLY REGISTERED VOTER SIGNATURES COUNT** – Check your status at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/> (linked at [lasttreelaws.com/COUNT](https://lasttreelaws.com/COUNT))

**DO NOT make ANY other marks.** If you make a mistake, just use another line. **DO NOT STRIKE OR LINE MISTAKES.** Extra marks, even coffee stains, invalidate petitions.

1. Only 1 town may be listed on a petition! Fill in on both sides.
2. Sign as registered and, if messy, print your name, too.
3. Print your street and number (and apt.# if any).
4. Leave blank the ward and precinct (prec.).

**MARRIED** – sign your own name (e.g. Mary Smith, not Mrs. John Smith)

**PHYSICALLY DISABLED only** – may authorize another person to sign for you

**FOLDING** is fine. ½ full is good.

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO CIRCULATORS AND SIGNERS

- DO NOT ALTER THIS INITIATIVE PETITION IN ANY WAY. ADDITIONAL MARKINGS ON THIS PETITION WILL DISQUALIFY ANY SIGNATURES ON THIS PETITION SHEET.
- For your signature to be valid, you must be a registered voter in the city or town named below and your signature should be written substantially as requested. DO NOT sign the same petition more than once.
- If you are prevented by physical disability from writing, you may authorize some person to write your name and residence in your presence.

REGISTRAR USE ONLY	I. SIGNATURE to be made in person with name substantially as registered (except in case of physical disability as stated above)	II. NOW REGISTERED AT (street, number and apartment number, if any) (city or town will be the same as stated below)	WARD	PREC.
1	<i>Mary Smith</i> Mary Smith	900 Mass. Avenue		
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				

**WARNING** – criminal penalty for unlawfully signing, altering, defacing, mutilating, destroying, or suppressing this petition: fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment for up to one year.

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO REGISTRARS

- You must time-stamp or write in date and time these papers are received.
  - Check this  again if the name of each qualified voter to be certified. For names not certified, use the code at the right. Draw a line through any blank spaces not containing signatures.
  - Each sheet must be certified by at least three registrars. A facsimile stamp is acceptable.
  - You must complete certification no later than December 4, 2023.
- N - no such registered voter at that address, or address is illegible.  
S - unable to identify signature as that of voter because of form of signature, or signature is illegible.  
W - wrong community.  
T - already signed paper for this question.

CERTIFICATION OF NAMES		At least three registrars' names must be signed or stamped below.	
We certify that _____			
above signatures checked from this city or town			
_____ City or Town		_____ City or Town	
Registrars of Voters or Election Commissioners of			

ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS OF **CAMBRIDGE** MAY SIGN THIS SHEET

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## TURN IN SIGNATURES ASAP & TELL US

**GIVE TO TOWN OR CITY CLERKS FOR CERTIFICATION** by Wed. Nov. 15 or at latest a week later 5 PM Nov. 22, Wed., but a time-stamp is needed & some offices require appointments. FIND TOWN CLERKS at <https://lasttreelaws.com/COUNT>

**HELP US COUNT SIGNATURES!** Fill out a form to share town & signature count (we must prove we have enough) at <https://lasttreelaws.com/COUNT>

**HELP RETURN PETITIONS FROM CLERKS!** By 5 p.m. Wednesday, December 6, certified petitions (with 3 voter registrars' stamps) must be at Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, 1 Ashburton Place, Room 1705, Boston, MA 02108. You can: **coordinate** with us ([action@lasttreelaws.com](mailto:action@lasttreelaws.com)) & **FedEx** to Elections Division; **volunteer** to collect from a town, **donate** to cover costs, & **OR** return certified petitions BEFORE Dec. 6 to: K Beatty, Petition, 149 Central Pk Dr, Holyoke, MA 01040 and we will drive them to Boston. 1st-class USPS mail can take 5 days.