

WHERE YOU CAN CIRCULATE - AND CIRCULATOR SAFETY MEASURES

Where You Can/Cannot Circulate	Safety
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Private property (e.g., grocery store)</u> – Okay to circulate, if you have the owner/manager’s permission. This applies inside or outside (like the parking lot). • <u>Public parks and sidewalks</u> – Okay to circulate, and no official permit is required. But: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You can’t obstruct use of the sidewalk or be in a park when it’s closed. ○ You can’t be in a park when it’s closed. ○ You can’t solicit within a park in an area reserved for a private event, but you can be just outside the reserved area. ○ Not all parks are <i>public</i> parks, and not all sidewalks are <i>public</i> sidewalks. E.g., the sidewalk along the road of a post office is public, but the sidewalk leading to the post office isn’t. • <u>If someone tells you that you must have a permit, or that you can’t circulate on a public sidewalk or in a public park</u> – Tell them that you think that you may do so and ask for the code citation they’re relying upon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Politely ask for the person’s name (and badge number) and notify the petition committee at kstreet@electionlawgroup.com. If the person telling you this is not a police officer, you should continue to solicit. • <u>Public streets and public parking lots</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You can collect on public streets but shouldn’t because of traffic concerns. ○ You can collect in public parking lots, but cannot interfere with use of the parking lot (e.g. set up table in area where cars do not park). • <u>Door-to-door in neighborhoods</u> – Generally, you can. But: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Don’t knock if there’s a “No Soliciting” sign. ○ Many political subdivisions require prior registration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ While this may not be enforceable, if a local government employee or police officer tells you about the requirement, it’s best to register. ○ The subdivision may restrict circulating hours. ○ The subdivision may not charge a permit fee. • <u>Closed neighborhoods</u> – HOAs may prohibit all soliciting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If there’s is a “No Soliciting” sign at a neighborhood entrance, don’t solicit. ○ If there’s no sign and an HOA rep tells you soliciting is prohibited, request a copy of the regulation. • <u>Apartment buildings</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Generally, you can’t circulate because hallways are private property. ○ But try to get permission to circulate in a common area like the lobby. 	<p>Opponents have a 1st Amendment right to urge people not to sign, but they may not harass, intimidate or threaten. But it’s a matter of degree. For example, standing nearby and telling people not to sign is generally okay.</p> <p>But these might not be okay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physically blocking people from reaching you. • Standing right next to, in front of, or behind you. • Touching you or others without permission. • Stealing or defacing petitions. • Openly carrying a gun while telling people not to sign. • Taking videos or photos of signers vs. of you. • Telling you that they know where you live. • Continuingly taunting or attempting to talk to you after you have asked them to stop. <p>Safety protocols and evidence gathering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate in pairs. • Don’t talk with disrupters, and if they persist, tell them that you’re not there to talk, and that continued engagement is potentially assault. • If you feel unsafe, leave. • Call police (non-emergency) if the person’s behavior is physically threatening or preventing you from circulating, and file a police report if the police come. • Call 911 if there’s physical violence or damage to property or a realistic threat of physical violence. • If there’s on-site security, ask for assistance. • If it doesn’t put you in danger: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Video record the activity on your phone; ○ Photograph the person and their vehicle’s license plate, but don’t follow them; ○ Take notes about what’s happening; ○ Get witness contact information.

See back page for filing an incident report

Report any incident involving opponents or law enforcement via the QR code

