

Preparing for your meeting:

- 1) Print out the documents you will need:
 - [How to Petition on Election Day](#)
 - [Poll Captain Guide](#)
 - [Summary of Your State's Laws Concerning Polling](#)
- 2) Pull up a list of the polling locations in your area from your local board of elections website.

Sample Agenda for Petitioning Organizing Meetings

- A. Introductions – Ask everyone to introduce themselves and say why they are interested in this issue.
- B. Brief re-introduction to *Citizens United* ruling
If you want, order [“Priceless” from Bullfrog Films](#), a 60-minute documentary about the impacts of money in politics. You need to order this in advance! If you need something shorter, you can show [the 8-minute “Story of Citizens United” video](#) instead, or you can show both. There is also [a funny three-minute music video explaining Super PACs](#) you could show.
- C. Brief review of status of the movement to pass an amendment
 - More than **300 towns and cities** have passed resolutions calling for an amendment.
 - **9 state legislatures** have called for an amendment. A total of 30 states have had resolutions introduced in their legislatures.
 - **More than 125 members of Congress** have come on board, and many have indicated that they are likely to in the future.
 - **More than 2 million** petition signatures have been gathered calling for an amendment.
 - Thousands took the street last January in more than 350 towns and cities to protest the *Citizens United* ruling. We’re focusing this effort in major cities this coming January.
- D. Petitioning on Election Day

1) What we do with the signatures:

- a. We present the signatures to Congress to show the enormous and growing support for an amendment.
- b. We present these signatures in meetings with members of Congress and state legislators to show them that their constituents are passionate about this issue. For example, at a

recent press conference, we presented West Virginia lawmakers with signatures calling on them to pass a state resolution.

c. Signatures build our list of people, like yourself, who we call upon to take action and join us in this campaign.

d. Through the act of petitioning, you are educating people and building the movement for an amendment.

e. By meeting people who are excited, you are building a network of people who can work together in the future on this issue and others in your area.

* No one is more likely to want to learn about and take action on this issue than voters just coming out of the polls – this is why we are petitioning at these specific locations.

2) How to Petition

Review the [Shift Volunteers document](#), beginning with the “what to do” section and ending with a brief review of the “what to bring” section.

Review the [Summary of Your State’s Laws Concerning Polling](#) and your state’s petitioning laws.

3) Structure

The person who organizes this overall effort in a given area is the [Regional Coordinator](#).

Each polling location should have a **Poll Captain**, who is responsible for logistics at that polling station.

- Review the [“Poll Captain”](#) document.

- Determine who would like to be a poll captain and make a list of poll captains.

- Decide which polling locations to cover and which Poll Captains can/should cover them. If there are no other considerations, Poll Captains can just cover their neighborhood polling place.

- Briefly review the responsibilities of Poll Captains once you have selected Poll Captains and their locations.

4) Outreach for more volunteers

- **Brainstorming:** Everyone present should make a list of the folks and organizations they know who may want to help, and pledge to reach out to them. Discuss reaching out for

more volunteers via social media and flyering; each Poll Captain will want to do their best to recruit folks in their neighborhoods.

- It is also worth discussing petitioning before Election Day to gather signatures and recruit more volunteers. Public events like farmers markets are a great place to do this.

- If people are interested in helping with outreach by petitioning, flyering or using social media, create a concrete list of tasks (as well as times and places for particular people to petition) and **make a schedule**.

5) Logistics

- Discuss bringing snacks, hand-warmers and other comfort items for each team, and get pledges from people to cover particular items. (This is primarily the responsibility of the Poll Captain, but everyone can contribute)

*Clipboards, pens and petitions are a particularly important point: Where will they be procured? If necessary, you can agree to bring cardboard to the next meeting to make "Grassroots clipboards," which consist of a piece of corrugated cardboard and a binder clip.

- Confirm that Poll Captains are prepared to recruit volunteers for their polling location, will print out sufficient petitions and will secure cardboards, pens and snacks for their polling stations.

6) November 1 Conference Call/ Video Conference

- Discuss Democracy is for People's Nov. 1 conference call and video conference, which will serve as your final check-in before Election Day. ([The conference will be found here](#)).

-Make a list of everyone who will be attending, and encourage them to finish as much of their volunteer recruitment before then as they can, so they can bring their volunteers to the meetings.

Make sure everyone has signed the sign-in sheet, thank them for coming, and let poll captains know you will be in touch with them about their tasks.