

(Print these pages on white 8 ½ by 11 in paper only.)

Illinois Democracy Kit

For CITY OF ROCKFORD

Illinois Democracy Project

830 S. College Street, Springfield, IL 62704

Phone: 217 522-7767; Fax 217 528-7767

Email: campaign@showus.org

This “petition circulator” includes:

1. **Motive:** To let “the people” see high-impact bills *before they become law*.
2. **Means:** These instructions, a petition form and *your love of democracy* - this kit has all you need!
3. **Opportunity:** The Show Us Amendment is a *rare chance to restore democracy* in Illinois.

Instructions for using this Illinois Democracy Kit:

Step One: Ask *registered voters who live in the CITY OF ROCKFORD* to sign one the seven signature lines each, and to print clearly the information in spaces to the right of their signatures on the petition form. (If you have more than seven friends, you will need more forms; see how to get them below.)

Step Two: Take the signed petition – *without any marks on it* except in the signature lines – to a notary (at a bank, Realtor or other place of business). *In the notary’s presence*, fill out and sign the “Affidavit of Circulator” section and have the notary sign and stamp it.

Step Three: Mail the *original* (not copies) signed and notarized petition form(s) you circulated to:

Illinois Democracy Project, 830 S. College Street, Springfield, IL 62704.

Additional instructions and frequently asked questions:

1. What are the requirements of a “petition circulator”? You must be a *U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age*. If you meet those requirements, you may “circulate petitions” in any city or county of Illinois.

2. What about the signers? They must be *registered to vote from the address they print on the form*.

3. How do I get more blank petitions? Click “Petitions” at www.showus.org. Choose ROCKFORD from the menu and print the document that comes to your screen – on *8 ½ by 11-inch paper only*.

All signers *must vote in the same election jurisdiction* printed at the top of their petition. (If you circulate where others from several counties will gather – such as at a meeting or at a college campus – *print out petitions for each county* so everyone you encounter will have the chance to sign one.)

4. May I sign my own petition? Yes, if you are a registered voter living in the election jurisdiction printed at the top of the petition. (In that case, you would be signing it twice – as a voter, then later as the circulator.)

5. May I sign more than one? Absolutely not! *No one may sign more than one petition. And no one may sign “for” someone else who is not present.* (Falsifying a petition form is perjury, a serious crime.)

6. What if a signer makes a mistake? Just have him or her line it out (no “whiteout”) and initial the lined-out words and start again on another line. *Forms with fewer than seven signatures are still valid.*

7. Are abbreviations allowed? Only common abbreviations such “St.” for “Street” and “Ave.” for “Avenue,” will be allowed. *Otherwise, do not abbreviate.* (For example: “Jefferson St.” is valid; “Jeff” son St.” is not.)

8. What about the blank spaces and boxes? Leave them blank and unchecked. Make *no marks any place* outside of the signature lines. *Leave the “Affidavit” part blank until you are in front of the notary.*

9. Must the notary live in my county? No. A notary can notarize documents anywhere in the state. All notaries should know the rules but, just to be safe, we’d recommend a notary from ROCKFORD.

10. What if I have other questions? Email them to us at campaign@showus.org and we will reply.

PETITION FOR STATEWIDE QUESTION

We, the undersigned, registered and duly qualified voters of the State of Illinois, pursuant to Section 28-1 et. seq. of the Illinois Election Code, do hereby PETITION that the following question be placed on the ballot and submitted to the voters of the State of Illinois at large, for their approval or disapproval, by referendum at the General Election to be held on the 4th day of November, 2008, to wit:

Shall the Constitution of the State of Illinois be amended, by the addition of the following as a new Section 16 to Article IV of the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and by this Amendment require that a twenty-one day period of public review of any non-emergency bill, in its final form, must elapse before the final vote required for the bill to meet the procedural requirements for passage may be taken in the Illinois General Assembly?

SECTION 16. PUBLIC REVIEW OF NON-EMERGENCY LEGISLATION

(a) Public Review Period: Except bills passed as emergency legislation, the final vote required for any bill to meet the procedural requirements for passage shall not be taken before a public review period of twenty-one calendar days has elapsed since the latter of the date on which the bill was filed or, if amended, the date on which the bill was last amended.

(b) Joint Committee on Emergency Legislation: Prior to the election of the presiding officers of either house in odd-numbered years, the Secretary of State shall publicly draw by random selection the names of forty members of the House of Representatives, and the Governor shall publicly draw by random selection the names of twenty members of the Senate, and the members of the General Assembly whose names are drawn shall comprise the Joint Committee on Emergency Legislation. The member with most time served in the General Assembly shall be the chairperson, with ties in service to be resolved by lot. Any vacancy on the Joint Committee on Emergency Legislation shall be filled within thirty days by a public random selection of the name of a member of the same house and by the same state authority that selected the member whose departure created the vacancy.

(c) Emergency Legislation: If a bill is declared by the presiding officers of both houses to be emergency legislation, and if the bill describes a state of emergency and explains why a delay would exacerbate or render the bill ineffectual as a response to the emergency, and if at least three-fifths of the members of the Joint Committee on Emergency Legislation cast record votes in favor of a resolution recommending passage of the bill, and if the bill is not amended after its consideration by the Joint Committee on Emergency Legislation, then the bill may be considered concurrently and immediately in both houses and, if at least three-fifths of the members in each house cast record votes in favor of the bill, the bill shall be declared passed and, notwithstanding the provisions of Section 10 of this Article, shall take effect immediately upon being approved and signed by the Governor.

Yes
 No

Signature	Print Name	Residence Address (House # and name of street or RR)	City or Village	County	State
1.			ROCKFORD	WINNEBAGO	IL
2.			ROCKFORD	WINNEBAGO	IL
3.			ROCKFORD	WINNEBAGO	IL
4.			ROCKFORD	WINNEBAGO	IL
5.			ROCKFORD	WINNEBAGO	IL
6.			ROCKFORD	WINNEBAGO	IL
7.			ROCKFORD	WINNEBAGO	IL

AFFIDAVIT OF CIRCULATOR

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF _____) ss

I, _____, being first duly sworn, do hereby certify that I am 18 years of age or older and a citizen of the United States, and that I reside at _____, Street, in the _____ of _____,
(Street Address) ("City" or "Village") (Name of City/Village)

County of _____, State of Illinois, and that the signatures on the sheet were signed in my presence and are genuine, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the persons so signing were at the time of signing the petition duly qualified and registered voters of the State of Illinois, and that their respective residences are correctly stated, as set forth above.

(Signature of Circulator Making this Affidavit)

Signed and sworn to or affirmed by _____ before me, this _____ day of _____, 200__.
(Name of Circulator)

(Notary Public)

(SEAL OR STAMP)

SHEET NO. _____
(Leave Blank)

A citizens' call to action ...

www.showus.org

For government 'by the people' in Illinois

Illinois Democracy Project

830 S. College Street, Springfield, IL 62704

Phone: 217 522-7767; Fax 217 528-7767

Email: campaign@showus.org

Only you can revive democracy – government 'by the people' – in Illinois!

"Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly." Those are the first words of all bills enacted as law in Illinois. But our legislators clearly are no longer accountable only to the people they "represent." Much of their loyalty has been diverted to others.

The **Illinois Democracy Project** seeks to restore that lost accountability. Please help us to that. It won't cost you a dime. It will take just a little of your time. All you need to do is *exercise your rights*, granted by the framers of the Constitution of Illinois, *as a citizen who cares about democracy*.

The "Show Us Amendment"

We will amend the constitution to require a 21-day public review before a legislative vote may be cast to enact any non-emergency bill into law.

This will *give citizens time* to learn about bills that affect them – and to tell legislators what they think about the bills – *before the final vote is cast*.

This is *the heart of representative democracy*.

Civic engagement works. Democracy works, when given a chance. *That's all our amendment does*.

How can you play a role?

Sign our petitions. We need 350,000 signatures of registered voters by the end of April of 2008.

Better yet – be a petition circulator. If you're 18 or older and a U.S. citizen, you are eligible. *It is so easy to do.* Start at the web site www.showus.org.

Click the "Petitions" link. Print (1) the instructions to circulators and (2) a petition form for your city and/or county. Print out as many as you wish.

Following instructions, get friends and neighbors (all registered voters) to sign the petitions. Then, get the forms notarized and mail the originals to us at: 830 S. College St., Springfield, IL 62704.

As easy as that, you can *play the most vital role* in a reform effort that will be remembered in Illinois for years to come. Democracy will be restored.

The voice of the people will again be heard!

Who is the Illinois Democracy Project?

We are the Illinois Parent Teacher Association, the League of Women Voters of Illinois, the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Illinois and we are concerned *citizens from every part of the state*.

We're educators, business people, workers and retirees. We're Democrats and Republicans and Greens and nonpartisans. We're conservatives and liberals. We are people of many faiths and yet we also *share one faith – faith in democracy itself*.

Regrettably, our legislators – whom we elect *to represent us* – have become too unaccountable. Our policy preferences are ignored, and laws we know *most citizens would never approve of* are passed too quickly for "the people" to have a say about it.

In short, democracy – *government by the informed consent of the governed* – has broken down. In our own interest – in the interest of the children who will inherit the future – *we want it restored now*.

The Show Us Amendment will do just that! When we saw what was needed, we responded, in the words of the late Paul Simon – *an inspiration and shaper of our project* – "Count me in!"

Visit www.showus.org

For more information about this project, about the participating organizations and events in your area, visit our web site. **Democracy belongs to all of us.** *Help us make it work better for Illinois citizens.*

The Illinois Democracy Project, an ad hoc citizens' committee, is not affiliated with or funded by any organization. Our funding arm is the Show Us Committee. Our records are on file with the Illinois State Board of Elections.