

CYNTHIA FOR NY



Petitioning Guide | June 2018

Step 1: Getting Started

- **Who can petition?** All registered Democrats in New York State and notaries can petition. If you are not sure if you are a Democrat, you can check at <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov>. You do not need to live in a particular congressional district to carry a petition in that district..
- **How do I get petitions?** To download a petition, visit www.cynthiafornewyork.com. You can download a copy of the petition from our website. (This guide is available there too!) You can then print them out on regular printer paper at home. Next, be sure to fill out the online volunteer sign up form, and select that you are ready to “petition candidates onto the ballot.” This will connect you to the volunteer leader from your congressional district – the person who will be collecting your pages and resolving any issues you may have.
- **How do I get turf for door knocking?** To get turf to door knock, you must fill out the volunteer signup form at www.cynthiafornewyork.com. You will be sent the closest available turf to the zip code you submit. The list you receive will have the names and addresses for every registered Democrat in your turf.
- **What materials do I need?** Every time you go out, you should bring a stack of petitions, a clipboard or folder, a volunteer sign-up form (you never know!), and a black or blue pen (this is a legal form - no pencil). If available, you should bring some basic literature about Cynthia andn the campaign as well

Step 2: Legal Requirements

- **Date.** To avoid mistakes that can get petition sheets thrown out, we recommend that you use a new signature sheet every time you go out - even if you just get one signature.
- **Signature.** The only thing we legally need the voter to write themselves is their signature. Have them sign on the top line, and then print their name immediately underneath (people will sometimes try to do this in reverse). If they print their name illegibly or on the signature line, have them start fresh on the next line (more on fixing mistakes is included below.)
- **Address.** Though not always possible, try to retrieve the petition from the voter after they’ve signed, and fill out their address yourself – this eliminates the possibility for mistakes and illegibility. (See Images II – III.)

CYNTHIA FOR NY

- RESIDENCE COLUMN: Fill out the voters' street number, street name, and street suffix (st, ave, etc). DO NOT include apartment number. DO NOT fill out county or zip code in the Residence column – if the voter does this, ask them to start fresh on a new line.
- TOWN/CITY COLUMN: If the voter lives **outside of NYC**, write the town or the city where they are registered to vote. If you are in both a town and a city, check in with your volunteer leader or on your walk turf (will be listed under “Town/City”) to know which is correct. HOWEVER, if the voter lives **inside in NYC**, write the COUNTY you are in – DO NOT write “Brooklyn” or “New York City.” (Yes, this is confusing!)
 - Manhattan: New York County
 - Brooklyn: Kings County
 - Queens: Queens County
 - Staten Island: Richmond County
 - Bronx: Bronx County
- Witnessing your Petition. For your sheet to be valid, the date on the Statement of Witness must be the same or later than all of the signature dates on your sheet - after you have signed it, you CANNOT continue collecting signatures on that sheet. Follow the same rules for what information to include in the statement of witness as you do for filling out voter signatures (e.g. – no apartment numbers or zip codes). See a correctly completed statement of witness in Image IV.
 - **EXCEPT:** This time, if you live in NYC, next to “Town or City” write in “New York” (NOT New York City. We know - we’re sorry!) and next to “County” write your County as listed above.

Step 3: Approaching Voters on the Street and on the Doors

- *Demeanor.* Be positive, warm, and friendly. Have open body language, make eye contact, and square your shoulders with the voters'. Use assumptive, confident language - don't ask the voter if they want to sign the petition, put it into their hands assuming they will.
- *Use the below script for Door Knocking:*
 - “Hi! Is **[VOTER NAME]** available? [CONFIRM VOTER]. My name is [NAME] and I am a Democrat, volunteering to make sure Cynthia Nixon is on the ballot this September. [HAND VOTER PETITION.] Go ahead and sign here please!”
- *Use the below script for for Street Petitioning:*

CYNTHIA FOR NY

- “Hi! **Are you a registered Democrat?** [CONFIRM REGISTRATION.] Awesome! I’m a volunteering to make sure Cynthia Nixon i the ballot this September. [HAND VOTER PETITION.] Go ahead and sign here please!”
- *Common Voter Objections.*
 - *Why do you need my signature?* New York voting law requires that for candidates to even appear on the ballot, they must collect signatures from members of the party. [PASS VOTER CLIPBOARD.] Tens of thousands of voters sign every year - it’s just part of being a Democrat! ”
 - *I don’t have time.* “No worries! This will take 5 seconds - I just need a quick signature. [PASS VOTER CLIPBOARD.] You can do that right here!”
 - *I don’t know who I’m supporting yet.* “Totally fine! This isn’t a vote for a candidate and doesn’t imply you support them. New York voting law requires that for candidates to even appear on the ballot, they must collect signatures from members of the party. [PASS VOTER CLIPBOARD.] Tens of thousands of voters will sign petitions like this one every year - it’s just part of being a Democrat!”
 - *Where did you get my name/address?* “When you registered to vote you signed up as a Democrat. Tens of thousands of voters like you will sign petitions like this one every year - it’s just part of being a Democrat! [PASS VOTER CLIPBOARD.]”

Step 4: Finishing Up

- *What happens if I make a mistake?* The petition witness (you!) is the ONLY ONE who can correct errors. Don’t scribble out the row. Draw one straight line through the mistake and write your initials at the stop and end point of the line. If the voter is still there, cross out the entire row and start again on a new line. If you notice the mistake later, cross out just the error and write the correct information nearby.
- *How should I get these back to you?* At the end of every petitioning shift, please text a photo of your sheet to the volunteer leader in your CD so they can report the numbers back. They will also set up a time to get petitions from you, or tell you where to mail them. If you don’t know who to contact, text Ava at 415-308-1250 or Andy at 917-232-8502.. Your CD leader is in close touch with both campaigns tracking how close we are to our goals – they need to know your progress and catch errors before it’s too late. Write your cell phone number on the back of every petitioning sheet in case they catch an error and need to find you to fix it.
- Mail all petitions to Arthur Schwartz at 225 Broadway suite 1902 New York, NY 10007

CYNTHIA FOR NY

IMAGES



Image I: Signer only completes signature, with date and county already filled out

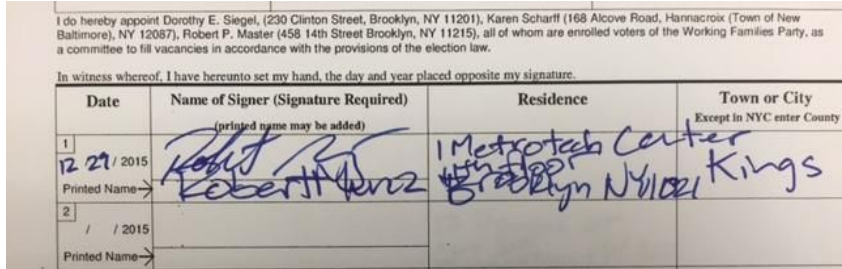


Image II: What happens when you let voters will out their Residence! They included the wrong info and it is illegible – the voter would need to start over on a new line.

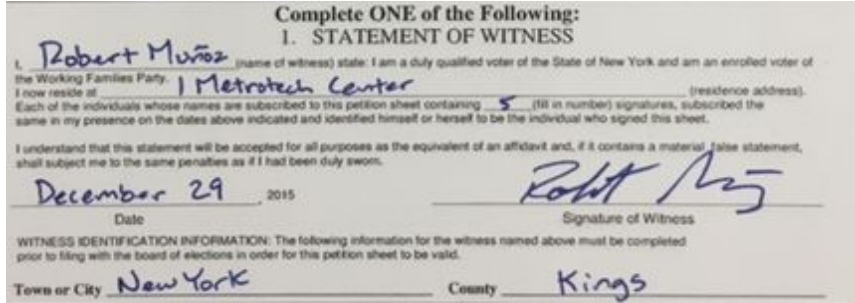


Image III: A correctly completed statement of witness – fill out all the same information you fill out for voters.

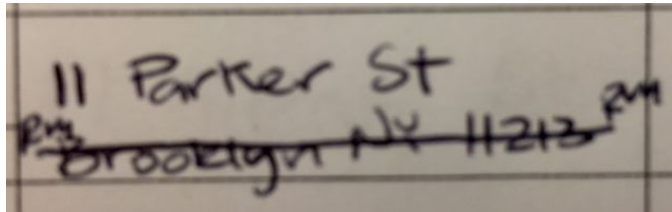


Image IV: This is how you correct an error – a neat line, initialed on both sides, and the correct info written nearby.