



FAIR DISTRICTS

FORM 15 FAQ

FOR THE CITIZENS NOT POLITICIANS AMENDMENT CAMPAIGN

NEED HELP?

- Reach out to Trevor Martin at tmartin@lwvohio.org.

FOR INDIVIDUALS

What is this?

- Ohio Redistricting Form 15 Application - Individual (see it [here](#))
- **Citizens Not Politicians** (CNP) needs everyone who is coordinating others in signature gathering to fill out this form. This means that anyone who will be distributing, transporting, or collecting petition booklets that they will not be using for their own personal use, needs to submit a Form 15.
- The form states that you may receive or provide compensation for circulating the statewide CNP petition. It is understood that you may be a volunteer and not actually employed to be part of collection efforts.

Why do we have to fill it out?

- Bottom line, we want every signature to count. Ohio law requires anyone who gives or receives "compensation" for any efforts toward getting a statewide issue or candidate on the ballot.
 - Read the statute [here](#).
- To comply with the rules in Section 3501.381 of Ohio law, the campaign is submitting Form 15 forms for all staff members AND all single team leaders who are organizing or supporting others in the signature collection work, across the entire campaign. Failure to follow Form 15 rules could result in invalidating signatures or undermining the whole campaign.

But I'm a volunteer– I'm not getting paid. Why do I have to submit this form?

- In Ohio's poorly crafted rules, "compensation" is a loose term. People who don't support the initiative process may try to interpret it to mean things like t-shirts, buttons, pens, or shared amenities (like coffee or snacks). Things that we wouldn't normally consider payment like what we would have with normal employment.
- Even if a volunteer doesn't accept or provide anything during their time supporting efforts to get our amendment onto the Ohio ballot, the legal broadness of "compensation" means any

of us could be accused of inadvertently violating the law, which could result in signatures being thrown out.

But I'm not paying anyone. Do I still have to submit the second form?

- Yes. Because "compensation" is so broad, we need anyone who is helping to oversee signature gathering for the CNP amendment to submit the form.
- Also, it's worth noting that language from Form 15s will be interpreted to mean an individual or entity *may* be compensated or *may* compensate. Signing and filing is a preventative step.

Ok, I get it. But would anyone even know if I was collecting signatures and didn't submit my forms?

- Yes! The Secretary of State's office checks every petition submitted for the circulator's name. People who want to see us fail may challenge our submitted signatures if they have reason to believe all of the relevant Form 15s haven't been filed.

Step-by-Step Guide to Submitting Form 15: Individuals

Part 1: Complete the google form provided by your Fair Districts, LWVO, or Common Cause contact (see it [here](#))

- Answer all of the form's questions. Be sure to use your full legal name and to double check for typos
- For organization, enter Fair Districts Ohio, League of Women Voters of Ohio, or Common Cause Ohio
- Upload a picture of your ID: ID can be your driver's license, utility bill, or anything that shows your legal name (it is okay to redact sensitive information)
 - Take a picture of your ID
 - Save that picture to your files, making sure to name the photo so you can easily find it
 - Click the "upload a file" button on the form
 - Click the "browse" button, then search your files for the photo of your ID
- Click submit

Part 2: Receive the forms to sign via email

- A staffer from AMT, the firm helping the full coalition to prepare and file all Form 15s, will send you a pre-populated PDF. The email you get will come from an email address that ends with @amtpolitical.us
- There will be two forms in one attachment: one for receiving compensation, the other for providing compensation
- BOTH forms need to be:
 - Reviewed to ensure they have your full legal name and correct contact information
 - Printed and signed with ink
 - Scanned to your files once you've signed
 - a document or photo scanner is needed for this; just taking a picture doesn't work. If you need help, reach out to Trevor at tmartin@lwvohio.org.
 - Send them back as attachments in the same email that sent you the forms
 - AMT will then submit your Form 15 to the Secretary of State

CHECKLIST FOR SUBMITTING FORMS

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| ✓ | Submit Google form online: it's here |
| ✓ | Look for an email from an email that ends with .amtpolitics.us : this has the two forms that need signatures |
| ✓ | Print the forms |
| ✓ | Sign BOTH forms with ink (no digital signatures) |
| ✓ | Scan both forms, and attach them in the reply email you send to the same email that sent them to you. Make sure the scan or photo you send back is readable and that the signed documents are fully visible. |