

Think Before You Ink: Guidance On Signing Petitions

When approached by individuals gathering signatures we urge voters to ask the following questions before signing any petition.

- What does the measure seek to accomplish. Do you agree with those goals? Is the measure seeking changes that are consistent with your ideas about government? Do you think the proposed changes will make things better?
- Is it complex? If so, it may require thorough legislative examination.
- Is it confusing? If so, it may require court interpretation or resolution.
- Does it belong in our City Charter or State Constitution? If so, another ballot vote will be needed to amend it, so correcting unintended/unforeseen consequences will be cumbersome and costly.
- How will it be funded? Initiatives should create their own revenue sources.
- Who are the sponsors and opponents?
- Is the petition circulator a volunteer or paid? You have the right to ask and this statement of your right must be on the petition form.

Finally, Alameda citizens concerned about any type of voter fraud should contact the Alameda County District Attorney (510-272-6222) or the California Secretary of State (916-567-2166).