

How to Collect Signatures on the Fair Taxes Petition

"The name of the game is to talk to people."
- Cesar Chavez

The Fair Taxes for Healthy Communities (FTHC) Petition is an important vehicle for identifying people who will stand with us to help save our communities. Gathering signatures gives us an opportunity to talk to people and raise their awareness. Every signature is a step forward!

Suggestions for Signature-gathering

- Set a goal of collecting a certain number of signatures over the next two weeks.
- Start with your friends, co-workers, and neighbors. Think of meetings where you can pass the petition around. Think of public places where you could stand with a clipboard and collect signatures. You can also go out with other MCHC volunteers to collect signatures (Call Michael Gainer to find out times and places.)
- Make several photocopies of the form before you start. You might also want to have some copies of the MCHC flyers on hand for people who want more information.
- Focus on finding people who are supportive of the ideas in the petition. Don't spend too much time trying to talk reluctant people into signing.
- Make sure people print clearly. If not legible, ask them to let you print the information next to their name.
- Return signatures each week to MCHC, P.O. Box 644, Lexington, MA 02420.
- If you have any questions, contact Michael Gainer, MCHC Volunteer Coordinator, michael@masschc.org, 617-983-1615.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is this a legally recognized petition?

A: No, it is merely an expression of public opinion. But it is very valuable as an organizing effort.

Q: Why do we ask for contact information?

A: A signature *with* contact information is worth much more than a signature without. It allows us to keep people informed and ask them to call their legislators at critical times.

Q: How will the contact information be used?

A: We will contact people to tell them about what they can do to save our communities. We will not sell names to other organizations.

Q: Why are we asking for email addresses?

A: This simplifies the petitioning. And email allows us to contact signers cheaply and quickly.

Q: What if people want more information?

A: Give them one of our flyers. Suggest that they go to our website, www.masschc.org.

Q: What if someone wants to volunteer right away?

A: Take down their full contact information (including telephone number) and send the information to info@masschc.org. Ask them if they will help you gather signatures.

Q: Why should I return the signatures each week?

A: We need names as soon as possible to support the important budget decisions that will be made in the next few weeks.