

Chapter V. Petitions

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The right to circulate petitions can impact constitutional rights. The scope of the right to petition varies from state to state, depending on state constitutions and statutes. In Kansas, the right to petition is less expansive than in some other states and is statutory.

The processes of circulating and filing petitions, and election officers' review of petitions, can often become complicated. Although state statutes provide guidance in every situation, many additional rules for circulating petitions and for determining their sufficiency result from federal and state court cases.

Whether a person is a petition circulator filing a petition, an election officer receiving the petition, or a county attorney or counselor providing advice, it is important to know what type of petition one is dealing with to know the rules for answering the questions that inevitably arise. For instance, it is crucial to know whether a fundamental, constitutional right is involved in order to know how to legally make determinations regarding the petition. (See Section d in this chapter.)

a. Types of Petitions

Six major types of petitions are reviewed here.

1. Protest petitions

These are petitions authorized by specific statute allowing citizens to protest, or question, the action of a governing body. Often the protested action is an ordinance or resolution passed and published by the governing body in the normal course of its business.

A successful protest petition stops the governing body from carrying out the action detailed in the ordinance or resolution unless a majority of voters approve the action at a special election held in the jurisdiction.

A protest petition has three possible results:

- (1) An election is held with a majority of voters voting *against* the proposed action by the governing body, meaning there were more No votes than Yes votes. The governing body may not proceed further unless the entire process is begun again at a later time.
- (2) An election is held with a majority of voters voting *in favor of* the proposed action by the governing body, meaning there were more Yes votes than No votes. The governing body may proceed as planned.
- (3) The governing body may abandon its ordinance/resolution, recognizing there is strong voter sentiment against the planned course of action.

Because there are dozens of statutes authorizing protest petitions, there is no set of petition forms easily obtainable for use in exercising this right. Petitioners are advised to retain

private legal counsel to assist in drafting the petition, or at least to study relevant statutes on their own to learn the requirements of the petition.

A protest petition must be submitted to the county or district attorney, or the county counselor in counties that have counselors, for an opinion as to the legality of the form of the petition. The attorney has three options: (1) issue an opinion within 5 days expressing approval of the form of the petition; (2) not issue any opinion and the form of the question shall be deemed in compliance with the requirements of the act; (3) issue an advisory opinion that states the form of the question does not comply with the requirements of the act and state the specific grounds why. [KSA 25-3601(a)]

Protest petitions always pertain to an action taken by a local governing body, not a state or federal agency. They are circulated, filed and reviewed at the local level of government.

2. Statutory initiative petitions

These are petitions, with individual and specific statutory authorization, allowing citizens to initiate certain county or local government actions. They are different from protest petitions in that they are not circulated in protest of an action already taken by a governing body; rather, they seek to force a governing body to take action on an issue.

The statutory initiative petitions authorized in Kansas law should not be confused with general initiative petitions in other states. Some state constitutions grant broad authority to citizens to create new laws or submit constitutional amendments for statewide votes by petition. In Kansas, each initiative petition is grounded in statute, and these petitions do not create new laws or constitutional amendment elections. They merely force an existing governing body in a specific jurisdiction to take a desired action. Examples include petitions to establish corporate swine or dairy production or liquor by the drink, change the method of election of city council or local school board members, or to increase the number of members of a board of county commissioners.

As with protest petitions, statutory initiative petitions are required to be filed with the county or district attorney, or county counselor, for an opinion as to the legality of the form of the petition. The attorney has five business days to issue an opinion.

Most statutory initiative petitions deal with local governing bodies and are reviewed by county election officers or other local officers, although some are state-level petitions, such as a petition to change the method of selection of judges in a judicial district.

There is one type of petition authorized by law that can bring about new city ordinances, the subjects of which are not specifically outlined in law. The statute, KSA 12-3013, is titled "Petition for proposed ordinance." The electors in any city may propose the adoption of an ordinance by petition. If the petition is signed by the required number of voters, the city governing body may either (1) adopt the ordinance within 20 days without alteration, or (2) call a special election after 20 days, unless a regular city election is to be held within 90 days thereafter in which case the ordinance should be submitted at that election, to see if a majority of the voters in the city approve of the ordinance. If approved, the ordinance

goes into effect and may not be repealed or amended without another election or without having been in effect for ten years.

3. Candidate petitions

Candidate petitions are allowed by statute for certain candidates in many of the elective offices in Kansas. The specific requirements for these petitions are found in the various statutes governing candidate filings for the offices, but usually the requirement for a petition is signatures of registered voters in the election district equal to a percentage of the total registered voters, or the total affiliated with the party. Sometimes the requirement is a percentage of the total votes cast for the office of Secretary of State at the last general election at which the Secretary of State was elected.

The format for the petition forms is spelled out in the specific statutes governing the candidate filings.

Candidate petitions fall into two groups: (1) filing petitions and (2) nomination petitions.

(1) Filing petitions place the candidate's name on a primary election ballot. They may be used by candidates seeking the Democratic or Republican nominations for national, state, county and township offices at the partisan primary, or by candidates for city and local school board offices to file for their nonpartisan primaries. Filing petitions are used in lieu of a filing fee at the candidate's choice; the candidate must still win the primary election to proceed onto the general election ballot. All candidates, even those who file by petition, still must pay administrative fees to the Governmental Ethics Commission, and candidates for national and state offices also pay an administrative fee to the Secretary of State.

(2) Nomination petitions place the candidate's name directly on the general election ballot for national, state, county and township offices. They are filed by independent candidates (unaffiliated with a recognized political party). Such candidates do not pay a filing fee; in fact, there is no fee option for independent candidates.

Note:

Running as a candidate for public office can impact fundamental rights under the constitution. A CEO must be mindful of this when reviewing and determining the sufficiency of such petitions. (See Section d below.)

Exceptions to Candidate Petitions

Candidates representing recognized political parties for the offices of president and vice president of the United States are nominated for the general election at their parties' national nominating conventions and do not have an option of filing petitions, although independent candidates for president and vice president *must* be nominated by petition. Candidates representing recognized third parties for national, state, county and township offices are nominated for the general election at their parties' state nominating conventions and do not have an option of filing petitions.

Following are general requirements for candidate petitions.

Candidate Petition Requirements

Primary Candidate Petitions [KSA 25-205]

- The number of signatures required for United States Senator or for a state officer elected on a statewide basis (Governor/Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Commissioner of Insurance, State Treasurer) is 1% of the current party registration total as compiled by the SOS. This means the most recent registration figures certified to the SOS by the county election officers.
- The number of signatures required for state or national officer elected on less than a statewide basis is 2% of the current party registration total in the district.
- The number of signatures required for a county office is 3% of the current party registration total for the district as certified to the SOS.
- The number of signatures required for a township office is 3% of the current party registration total for the township as certified to the SOS.
- Candidates are requested to fill out a declaration of intention form with the filing officer to provide information used in designing the ballot and contacting the candidate.

Note: There is a limit of 5,000 signatures for any candidate petition, so the requirement is the lesser of 5,000 or the percentage of voters.

Independent Candidate Petitions [KSA 25-303]

- No person who has declared and retains a party affiliation may file as an independent.
- Candidates for any office to be filled by the voters of the entire state file a petition with signatures of 5,000 registered voters, however, in the case of the governor and lieutenant governor, it must be 5,000 registered voters for the pair.
- The number of signatures required for a national, state, or county office is 4% of the qualified voters of the district as certified by the county election officers to the SOS. In no case should that total be less than 25 nor more than 5,000.
- Candidates for township offices file a petition containing signatures of 5% of the qualified voters, and in no case fewer than 10 signatures.
- Signers of the petition must reside in the same county or district.
- No person may sign the petition of more than one person for the same office.
- A nomination paper for a candidate for governor must also contain the name of a candidate for lieutenant governor.
- The filing deadline is noon on the Monday preceding the date of the primary election. [K.S.A. 25-305(b)]

Petition Forms

- Candidates may obtain nomination petition forms in either the elections division of the Secretary of State’s office or in the county election office.
- The top section of the petition, stating the candidate’s name (as it is to appear on the ballot), address, office sought, etc., must be completed before the petition can be circulated and signed. [KSA 25-205(b)] It includes a declaration that the signer intends to support the candidate named in the petition.

Circulators

- According to Kansas law, circulators must: [1] be a United States citizen; [2] be at least 18 years of age; [3] have not been convicted of a felony or if convicted of a felony been pardoned or have had civil rights restored; and [4] agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the state for purposes of subpoena enforcement regarding the integrity and reliability of the petition process. [KSA 25-3608]
- Candidates may be circulators for themselves. [KSA 25-205(d), 25-303(e)]
- The circulator of each page of the petition must witness every signature placed on the page and must include a signed, notarized affidavit of that fact with the petition. One affidavit may apply to all pages submitted by a particular circulator. [KSA 25-3602(b)(4); 25-205(d); 25-303(e); AGO 77-303; AGO 78-40; AGO 81-230]
- A circulator may circulate petitions in more than one county, as long as each petition sheet contains residents of the same county.

Petition Signers

- Only persons of the same party affiliation who are registered voters may sign a petition for a candidate nominated by a party. [KSA 25-205(b)]
- Petition signers must include their printed name, signature, address, city, and date signed. Candidate petitions can impact fundamental rights under the constitution. A CEO should be mindful of this when reviewing for sufficiency of petitions. The Kansas Court of Appeals has held that because of the fundamental rights affected in a recall petition, statutes regarding them “should be interpreted liberally” and “any restriction” be “narrowly construed.” *Cline v. Meis*, 21 Kan. App. 2d 622, 905 P.2d 1072, 1076 (Kan. Ct. App. 1995). For example, the Court held that the addresses of the signers did not need match the addresses on their voter files. *Id.* at 1078. If the signers are currently registered voters in the election district of the candidate, their signatures count. *Id.* (See Section d in this chapter.) [KSA 25-205(c), 25-303(e)]
- A person may sign only one petition for each office. [KSA 25-205(c)]
- All signers of each petition sheet must reside in the same county and election district.
- A signer may withdraw his/her signature from a petition by giving written notice to the election officer no later than the third day after the petition was filed. [KSA 25-3602(c)]

Filing Petitions

- The petition filing deadline for candidates representing political parties is noon on June 1, or if that date falls on a weekend or holiday, at noon on the next business day. [KSA 25-205(a)(1)] In redistricting years (the second year of the decade), the filing deadline may be on a date other than June 1. [KSA 25-205(g), (h)]
- The filing deadline for independent candidates is noon the day before the state primary election on the first Tuesday in August. [KSA 25-305(b)]
- If more than one circulator is carrying petitions for the same candidate, all must be submitted as a group to the appropriate filing office at one time. [KSA 25-3602(a)]
- The petition must be filed within 180 days after the date the first signature was collected. [KSA 25-3602(d)]
- Petitions for United States senator, representatives in Congress and state officers (governor/SOS/AG/commissioner of insurance, state treasurer, state senators, state representatives, members of state board of education, district court judges and district magistrate judges) must be filed in the office of the SOS. [KSA 25-208(1)]
- Petitions for county and township officers must be filed in the county election office. [KSA 25-208(2)]

Validity

- The SOS determines the validity of petitions for U.S. senator or representative or state office within 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holiday) of the date of filing. [KSA 25-208a(a)]
- The CEO determines the validity of petitions for county and township office within 3 days of filing. [KSA 25-208a(b)]
- If a petition is found to be invalid, the election officer notifies the candidate of the invalid filing and the reason for the finding. The candidate may file an objection to such finding. [KSA 25-208a(c)]
- If a petition is found to be invalid, a candidate may not then submit additional signatures to create a valid filing. Partial filings are not permitted. Later or successive filings of documents are considered separate petitions. [KSA 25-3602(a)]
 - In cases where a person has signed more than one candidate's petition, his/her signature will count only on the first petition filed. In the case of independent nominations, if a person signs more than one petition for the same office, none of the signatures count, except that if the petitions are not filed simultaneously the first signature filed probably will already have been counted. [KSA 25-303(g)]
- Ditto marks are allowed in the address column on candidate petitions as long as they are "continuous and clearly made." [KSA 25-205(c)]

Legal References

KSA 25-205, 25-303, 25-2010, 25-2110

AGO 84-41

Constitution Party of Kansas, et al. v. Biggs, District Court Case No. 10-CV-4043

4. Recall petitions

Recall petitions may be filed by registered voters who wish to bring about an election to remove an elected official from office. Prior to circulating a petition to recall a local officer, a copy of the petition accompanied by the names and address of the recall committee and sponsors must be filed in the county election office. The members of the recall committee must subscribe before the CEO the copy of the petition so filed. a recall committee of three persons must register with the county election officer before circulating a petition for the recall of a local officer, and a list of circulators (called sponsors) also must be on file in the election office. Before circulation, the petition must be reviewed by the county/district attorney, who issues an opinion as to the sufficiency of the grounds for recall and the format of the petition, among other things. A local officer cannot be recalled during their first 120 days of their term in office or within less than 180 days remaining on their term in office. After the petition is circulated and filed, in order to be deemed sufficient it must contain names of registered voters in the election district equal to 40% of the total votes cast for all candidates for the office to be recalled at the last election for the current term of the person sought to be recalled. The necessary signatures on a petition for recall of a local officer must be secured within 90 days of the date the first signature was collected. If the person being recalled was appointed to the office to fill a vacancy, the signature requirement is computed using the election at which the officer's predecessor was elected.

There are separate procedures outlined in the law for recall of state officers and for recall of local officers.

For state officers, the petition procedure has two phases:

- (1) An application for recall, along with a required fee, must be filed in the office of the Secretary of State, or with the lieutenant governor's office if the secretary of state is to be recalled. The application must include, among other things, signatures of 10% of the number of votes cast for all candidates for the office sought to be recalled at the last general election for the current term of office.
- (2) If the application is approved, the recall petition must contain signatures of 40% of the number of votes cast for all candidates of the office to be recalled at the last general election at which the person was elected to the current term.

National officeholders and judicial officers are not subject to recall.

Note:

Recall petitions and voting to recall office holders can impact fundamental rights under the constitution. *Cline*, 21 Kan. App. 2d 622; Kan. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 99-38. The county election officer should be mindful of this when reviewing such petitions. (See Section d of this chapter.)

(For more on recall elections, see Chapter II, Section a 6.)

Legal References

KSA 25-4301 through 25-4331

5. Political party recognition petitions

The only method prescribed in Kansas law for political parties to gain official recognition is to file a petition with the Secretary of State. The petition must contain signatures of registered voters in the state equal to 2% of the total votes cast for all candidates for the office of governor in the last general election at which the governor was elected. The petition must be submitted by noon on June 1 of the year of the election in which the party wants to participate. [KSA 25-302a]

When a petition is filed, the Secretary of State distributes copies to the county election officers in the counties where the signatures were collected. The county election officers are allowed twenty days to notify the Secretary of State how many valid signatures were contained in the petition. The Secretary of State determines the sufficiency of the petition and notifies the petitioners. [KSA 25-302a]

Once a party has gained recognition, it may nominate candidates for general elections. The state voter registration application form is revised by the Secretary of State to list the new party as an option for party affiliation. [KSA 25-2309(b)(20)] Party affiliation lists maintained by county election officers, and certified periodically to the Secretary of State, must be modified to include the party. [KSA 25-3302]

(See also section IV f.)

Following are general requirements for party recognition petitions.

Requirements for Party Recognition Petitions

Note:

Formation of political parties can impact the exercise of the freedom of association for the advancement of political beliefs and the right of qualified voters to cast their votes effectively; both are fundamental rights. *See Williams v. Rhodes*, 393 U.S. 23, 30-31 (1968). Thus, a petition seeking official recognition of a party must be considered a fundamental rights petition and the laws and rules governing the determination of sufficiency should be liberally construed. (See Section d of this chapter.)

- The petition must be filed no later than noon, June 1, prior to the primary election held in August in even-number years, or if such date falls on Saturday, Sunday or a holiday, then the next following business day. [KSA 25-302a]
- The petition must contain signatures equal to 2% of the total votes cast for all candidates for the office of governor in the last preceding general election.
- The petitions declare support for the official recognition of a political party, the name of which must appear in the declaration. The Secretary of State may reject a party name if it is too long or too similar to the name of an existing recognized party. [KSA 25-302a]
- Each page or set of pages must have attached an affidavit stating that the circulator has the qualifications of a petition circulator, an elector of Kansas, except for residency, and that the circulator personally witnessed the signing of the petition

by each person whose name appears. The affidavit must be notarized. [KSA 25-302A; KSA 25-3608]

- Each page contains names of registered voters of a single county.
- The petition must be grouped according to the counties where the petition was circulated.
- The entire petition must be filed at one time. Any related petitions presented separately will be deemed separate and not part of earlier filings.
- No more than 20 days following receipt of petitions from the SOS, the CEO must certify the number of valid signatures. The SOS notifies the person who submitted the petition of the sufficiency or insufficiency of the signatures.
- Any registered voter may sign the petition regardless of party affiliation or lack thereof.

Legal References

KSA 25-116, 25-117, 25-302a, 25-302b, 25-302c

6. Unofficial, Nonbinding Petitions

Sometimes groups of citizens circulate unofficial petitions and present them to elected officials in an attempt to convince them to take an action desired by the petitioners. Absent a statute authorizing a petition for a specific purpose, the petition is likely not binding, but instead a political statement or expression by a group of citizens. If presented with such a petition, the county may wish to consult with their county attorney or counselor.

b. Petition Circulators

State laws were changed in 2001 to comply with a decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in *The U.S. Supreme Court has held that states may require petition circulators to possess the qualifications of electors in the states where they circulate petitions (i.e., they must be U.S. citizens and eighteen years of age or older), and they may require residency in the state, but they may not require actual registration or residency in the specific county or election district. Buckley vs. American Constitutional Law Foundation, Inc.* Kansas law reflects this decision, as well as a similar Kansas federal case, that petition circulators need not be Kansas residents. [KSA 25-302a]; *See Constitution Party of Kansas, et al. v. Biggs*, No. 10-CV-4043 (D. Kan.)

c. Procedure for Circulating

The statutes governing a particular type of petition might specify certain requirements, such as who may sign the petition, how many signatures are required, and the officer with

whom it must be filed. In such cases the specific rules should always be followed. If the statutes are not specific, there are general rules in KSA 25-3601 through 25-3608.

In general, the following rules should be observed:

1. The petitioners must submit the blank petition form to the county/district attorney (or county counselor if the county has one) for a written opinion as to the legality of the question on the petition. The attorney is required by law to issue an opinion within five business days. [KSA 25-3601(a)]
2. The petition circulators have 180 days from the date of the first signature to file the petition with the appropriate officer. [KSA 25-3602(d)] The period allowed for recall petitions is 90 days from the date the recall committee is notified that the petition form is valid. [KSA 25-4310, 25-4324]
3. For candidate petitions, recall petitions and party recognition petitions, each page of the petition may contain names from only one county. For other types of petitions such as protest petitions and statutory initiative petitions, there is no general statutory requirement that each page of the petition contain names from only one county, although this is strongly recommended to reduce the difficulty of verifying signatures.
4. The petition must be filed all at once. Later, partial filings are considered separate petitions. [KSA 25-3602(a)]
5. Each circulator must sign a notarized affidavit swearing that the circulator personally witnessed the signatures contained on that circulator's petition pages. One affidavit may be used for multiple pages if the affidavit and all pages are attached together. [KSA 25-3602(b)(4)]

d. Determining Sufficiency of Petitions

Most petitions are filed with the county election officer, who is charged by law with the responsibility of determining the sufficiency of the petitions. Some petitions of national or statewide application are filed with the Secretary of State, who then coordinates with the various county election officers to determine sufficiency of the petitions. In some instances, the law requires petitions to be filed with other local officers, such as the county commission or city clerk. In such cases the county election officer is often involved at least to the point of supplying voter registration lists, if not to the extent of verifying the petition.

Fundamental Rights Petitions

Given the state and federal court cases handed down in recent years, it is imperative that the person verifying a petition know whether the petition involves a fundamental right before checking the signatures. A fundamental right can be a number of rights protected by the U.S. or Kansas Constitution. Some rights in the election contests include such as running for office, forming a political party [*Williams v. Rhodes*], or recall [*Cline v. Meis*]. Restrictions affecting petitions that impact involve fundamental rights are liberally construed. See *Cline v. Meis*. In such cases, a signature should be counted if the address shown on the petition next to the signature is in the election district affected by the petition,

even if the address does not match the residence address on the signer's voter registration record. *Id.* All the signatures on a particular page of any petition must be from voters in the same county.

A signature may still be invalidated if it does not reasonably appear to be the same as that contained on the registration list, if the signer is not a registered voter in the district, if the signer is not in the same county as the other signers on the page of the petition, or if the date of the signature is beyond the 180-day limit for filing the petition. Part or all of the entire petition may be invalidated if a circulator's affidavit is incorrect or if it does not contain the required number of valid signatures. The general rule for fundamental rights petitions is to count the signature if the associated information indicates the person is a registered voter in the election district unless the election officer has reason to believe the signature was not personally signed by the individual. *See generally Id.*

For petitions not involving a fundamental right, stricter rules may be applied in accordance with state laws and regulations. Examples of such petitions include petitions to establish or abolish liquor by the drink, corporate swine or dairy production facilities, school district local option budgets, and protest petitions. In these cases, a petition signature may be invalidated if the address does not match that on the registration list.

Guidelines for Verifying Petitions

The following is a general guideline to use to efficiently and thoroughly verify that the necessary number of signatures appear on a petition and that the petition itself conforms to law.

1. Make a photocopy of the original petition that can be written on.
2. Develop a scheme for coding signatures. See the Petition Verification Chart at the end of this section.
3. Verify the date that the first signature was obtained to ensure that no signatures nor the petition is to be invalidated due to timeliness.
4. Skip questionable signatures and return to them only if they are needed to meet the minimum qualifications of the petition.
5. Count only the signatures of registered voters unless the specific statute governing the petition does not require registration.
6. If the same person appears to have signed more than once, count only one signature.
7. Once the required minimum number of valid signatures is reached, it is not necessary to waste office employees' time in continuing to verify the remaining signatures.

It is strongly recommended that county election officers use the Petition Verification Chart at the end of this section and the petition module in the ELVIS voter registration system when reviewing signatures on petitions. The Secretary of State requires use of the coding system on the chart in determining sufficiency of petitions on national and state issues. Counties may use other coding systems for petitions on local issues, but a single system used for all types of petitions is less complicated.

Open Records

Petition documents are open records under the Kansas Open Records Act.

Illegal Activities

Suspected illegal activities such as fraud, forgery, multiple signatures by the same person, and false affidavits may be referred to law enforcement officials, the county or district attorney, or the Attorney General for investigation and possible prosecution.

Legal Advice

Election officers are not trained or authorized to provide legal advice to petitioners. It is common for individuals or groups wishing to draft and circulate a petition to ask the Secretary of State or the county election officer for advice and research on statutes pertaining to their issue. If the election officer has a past example of a particular type of petition being considered, he/she may provide copies to the persons inquiring. The persons planning to circulate the petition should be advised to retain private legal counsel to advise them in drafting the appropriate documents and following prescribed procedures.

Legal References

KSA 25-3602

KAR 7-28-1

U.S. Supreme Court, *Buckley vs. American Constitutional Law Foundation, Inc.*

Kansas Court of Appeals, *Cline vs. Meis*

PETITION VERIFICATION CHART

CODE	MEANING	COMMENTS
# ____	DUPLICATE SIGNATURES	Write the page number of the signature that has already been counted. Count only one.
A	AFFIDAVIT OF PETITION CIRCULATOR	Circulator signed affidavit on back of petition and also signed in regular signature line on front. Invalid because a person cannot witness his/her own signature.
B	BLANK DATE-- NO DATE OF SIGNATURE	Does not invalidate the signature unless it makes it impossible to tell if the petition was timely filed. If date of signature can be ascertained by reviewing lines before or after the signature in question, it is valid. See AGO 84-41.
C	CANCELLED VOTER	The voter's registration has been cancelled due to death, purge or other disqualification. Not a registered voter. Do not count if registration is required.
D	DISTRICT IS INCORRECT	Signer's residence must be in the election district covered by the petition. _____
F	FAMILY MEMBER, SPOUSE OR OTHER PERSON SIGNED	Each signer must sign for him/herself. If another person signs, it is forgery.
L	ILLEGIBLE INFORMATION	The handwriting is not clear or is marked out. Skip these signatures unless the petition is unable to be verified as sufficient without reviewing these signatures.
N	NAME OR SIGNATURE DOES NOT MATCH REGISTRATION RECORDS	1. The last name of the signature must be spelled identically to the registration card. 2. The signature is insufficient if it contains initials which are not consistent with the name or initials on the registration card. 3. The signature is insufficient if it does not appear to be similar to that on the registration card. 4. If there is evidence leading the election officer to believe any signature is not genuine, it is not considered sufficient. 5. NOTE: Prefixes such as Dr./Mr./Mrs. are to be disregarded. Count nicknames and abbreviations.
O	CIRCULATOR SIGNED OWN PETITION	If a circulator signs the petition he/she is circulating, then signs the affidavit of petition circulator, the signature is not counted. It is legally invalid to witness one's own action.
P	PARTY IS INCORRECT	Signers must be in the _____ party. This code is only for Democratic and Republican candidate petitions in filing for the primary.
R	RESIDENCE DOES NOT MATCH REGISTRATION RECORDS	Additional information on the registration records such as apartment number is acceptable. If only the additional information is given on the petition without the residence address, then it is not sufficient except when applied to petitions involving fundamental rights.
S	SIGNED IN PENCIL (RECALL ONLY)	This applies only to recall elections. The law requires signatures on recall petitions to be signed in ink.
T	TIME	There are several requirements that must be considered: 1. The petition is null and void if the date of the first signature is _____ or more [180 days prior to filing [K.S.A. 25-3602(d)] or more than 90 days prior to filing for recall (K.S.A. 25-4310 and 25-4324)]. 2. The registration date must be the same date or before the date of the signature. 3. Signature date must be before (filing date) _____ and circulator's notary date after (county/district attorney approval) _____.
U	UNREGISTERED-- CANNOT FIND ANY RECORD OF THIS NAME	Signature is not valid if signer is not a registered voter unless registration is not required for that type of petition.

Kansas Election Standards

V	VERIFIED DATA	The signature, residence and date on the petition have been checked and match the information on the voter's registration records and meets the criteria required by the controlling statutes. The signature is valid.
W	WITHDRAWN NAMES	Signers may withdraw their names from the petition by notification in writing prior to the filing of the petition in case of recall (K.S.A. 25-4324), or within 3 days after the petition is filed under the general petition statutes [K.S.A. 25-3602(c)].