

Town of Topsham

Petitioner's guidelines for collection of Signatures at the Polls

Arrangements (Title 21-A, § 662.4)

Petitioners collecting signatures for either candidates or issues are encouraged to make arrangements with the Town Clerk prior to Election Day or with the warden on Election Day.

Designated Location at the Polls (Title 21-A § 662.4)

The warden must select and designate a specific location at the voting place where the collection of signatures can take place. The location must be outside the guardrail, and it must be accessible and observable by voters.

Petitioners may not solicit a voter's signature until after the voter completes voting. Petitioners may be excluded from inside the polling place only if the polling place is so small that there is only space for the voting area, the registrar, and one pollwatcher from each qualified party. In that event, petitioners should be allowed to set up outside the voting place, but the warden must still monitor their activity to be sure that they do not solicit voters until after they have voted and do not violate the restricted political activities outlined in section 682.

Limits on Activity (Title 21-A § 662.4)

The warden can limit the number of persons collecting signatures to one person for each candidate or issue.

Petitioners may post a sign to indicate their candidate or issue. The sign may not influence a voter's choice on the ballot and may not contain slogans, but only the name of the petition.

The warden may direct the removal of any person collecting signatures who creates a disturbance, interferes with the free passage of voters, or otherwise violates the law at the voting place.

Local Policy

- Please contact the Town Clerk at ldumont@topshammaine.com well in advance of the election with your contact information
- Polling place is at the Topsham Fair Grounds Exhibition Hall, 32 Community Way
- Polls open at 8:00 am unless otherwise noted (Presidential Election 7:00 am)
- Petitioners may not arrive before 7:45 am
- Check in with the Town Clerk upon arrival
- Contact Voters only after they have voted and are exiting the polls
- Petitioners are located in the rear of the building near the exit area
- Space is limited on a first-come first-serve basis.
- You must supply your own small table and chair.
- Only one person at a time to man the petition table.
- Do not allow a crowd to gather where it will impede the voting process
- Please keep your voices to a minimum level to not disrupt the voters