

the petition does not signify that this Office condones the electronic distribution of the form or the placement of the form on a website for downloading. Petitioners are cautioned to provide any person either circulating or signing an initiative petition with careful instructions to avoid disqualification, including making sure the petitions are printed double-sided and that they remain exact copies of the originals.

### **CERTIFIED SIGNATURES**

Regardless of which type of petition is circulated, all signatures gathered must be those of registered voters in Massachusetts in the city or town in which the signatures are collected. All signatures must be certified by a majority (at least three) of the local registrars or election commissioners in the city or town in which the signatures are collected.

The final date for filing public policy petitions with local registrars or election commissioners is four weeks prior to the final filing date with the Secretary of the Commonwealth. For additional information, please see the calendars at pages 6, 10, 14, and 16.

### **FILE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE**

Petitioners ***should not wait*** until the final date for filing with local registrars. It is the petitioners' responsibility to deliver the signed petitions to local registrars or election commissioners by the appropriate deadline and to subsequently pick up the certified forms from the appropriate local election officials. The **petitioners** also bear responsibility for filing the certified petitions with the Secretary of the Commonwealth by the required filing date. Please be aware that all deadlines are at **5:00 p.m.** on the date specified.

### **SIGNATURES ON ALL PETITIONS**

In order for a signature to be certified, the signature must be legible and signed in person, substantially as registered. Next to the signature must be written the complete address where the voter is registered. A signature will be certified if it can reasonably be identified as that of a registered voter.

Further, each petition should contain signatures of registered voters from only one city or town. Registrars cannot certify names from communities other than their own. For more information, please see "Checklist for Gathering Signatures" on page 20.