



# CITIZENS for Limited Taxation

39 Years as the Voice of Massachusetts Taxpayers  
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Dear Citizen for Limited Taxation;

Some CLT activists are working on the ongoing “Tank the Automatic Gas Tax Hikes” petition drive this fall. Those who want to collect or organize collection of many signatures, or work at the malls that the Tank the Automatic Gas Tax Hikes campaign has reserved, can email us at [petition@cltg.org](mailto:petition@cltg.org) and we’ll pass along your offer. If there are two of you working together at a mall, it’s actually a fun way to get signatures.

If you can’t make a big effort but want to help out with signatures on one petition in your city/town, you can download a copy of the petition below. Please carefully follow the instructions for downloading: *It has to be done exactly right*. Below, you’ll also find instructions and tips for petitioning, and a simple Q&A about the issue.

Both sets of instructions reflect a critical recent court decision which invalidates an entire petition sheet if there are any extraneous markings on it.

The only markings allowed whatsoever are the voter’s signature and street address, the proper city or town, and – if the signer knows it – his or her local ward and precinct. The signer may also print his name above his or her signature in the same box.

You may write *only* the name of the city or town in the printed boxes provided for that purpose. According to the court, any other marks whatsoever will invalidate the entire petition sheet and all signatures upon it.

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## **Instructions for printing your petition**

**The petition at the end of this document is in two pages. You must print it as a single page, front and back.**

**The petition must be printed doubled-sided. If you print only one side the whole page and all signatures on it will be disqualified.**

**It must be printed right side up on both sides of the page. In other words, one side of the page cannot be upside down in relation to the other. If that happens, the whole paper is disqualified.**

**There can be no extra marks! Your printer cannot streak any lines! If it does, the sheet and all signatures on it will be disqualified.**

**If you photocopy a sheet, the same law applies. Streaks from photocopying will disqualify the sheet and all signatures on it.**

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## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR PETITIONERS**

### ***MAKE SURE YOUR SIGNATURES COUNT***

**PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY  
AND SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**

### **DO'S**

**DO – sign the petition yourself, and ask members of your household, relatives and friends in your city/town, and neighbors to sign. Then if you have time, try to get a few more.**

**DO – make sure you collect signatures of Massachusetts registered voters. People who are not registered to vote will not be counted.**

**DO – notice that each petition sheet is for one city or town only. For example, if you want to petition in three different towns, you need at least three petitions – one for each town.**

**DO – print the name of the city or town in the box labeled “city or town” on the bottom of the front of the petition sheet. You may also print it in one or both of the boxes labeled “city or town” on the back. Do not write it anywhere else on the sheet.**

**DO – make sure that each signature is legible and signed in person as that voter is registered to vote. The voting address must follow the name (street address, *not* P.O. box.). If you can't make out the signature, ask the signer to neatly print his/her name in the same space above the signature. Also, a common error is a woman signing “Mrs. Fred Jones.” It should be “Mary A. Jones.” No Nicknames! Robert, not Bob; Katherine, not Kathy.**

**DO – When you have collected all the signatures you can on your sheet, take it to your city/town clerk at your city/town hall for certification. It's best to collect now while the weather is good, so try to turn it in ASAP, no later than Veterans Day week. Get a receipt from the clerk and mail it to us immediately. We'll sort the receipts and get them to the Tank the Gas Tax campaign, so your certified petition can be picked up from the clerk**

with others from your city/town and delivered to the Secretary of State by the deadline.

## **DON'TS**

**DON'T** — Let anyone sign for another person, whether that person is present or not!

**DON'T** — you print, stamp, write, highlight, scribble, dribble or number *anything* on these sheets— except for the name of the town in the boxes labeled “city or town”. Any other mark however seemingly insignificant can disqualify all of the signatures on that sheet.

## **TIPS FOR PETITIONING**

- 1. The BEST TIME to collect signatures is between 9 AM and 1 PM on Saturdays.**
- 2. The BEST PLACES to collect signatures are at town dumps and in front of banks, supermarkets and convenience stores: places where people come in numbers. You may also petition near the post office if you are on a municipal sidewalk.**
- 3. Local elections and town meetings are excellent places to collect signatures, as most people will be registered voters from a single city or town. Show up half an hour before town meeting begins.**
- 4. Bingo nights, Farmers' Markets, and community fairs can be good places: even if you can't be on the premises, you might stand near the entrance.**
- 5. Some people might hesitate to sign because they don't know enough about the issue. Emphasize that signing means only that they want to put the question on the November 2014 ballot for the voters to decide.**
- 6. Don't waste time debating. Most people will either sign or say no in the first 15 seconds. The highest number of signatures possible is your goal. Have a copy of the Q&A sheet for people to read while they wait to sign.**

## **SUGGESTED APPROACHES TO POTENTIAL SIGNERS**

**“Hi, are you a registered voter in this city/town?”**

**“Hi, will you sign our petition to put a question on the ballot?”**

**“Hi, would you like to stop automatic increases in the gas tax?”**

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### ABOUT THE TANK THE AUTOMATIC GAS TAX HIKES PETITION

**Q. Does this petition repeal the \$500-\$800 million tax increase passed by the Legislature in July?**

A. This petition repeals one outrageous part of that new tax law: the part that creates an automatic annual increase in the gas tax.

**Q. How can a tax increase automatically?**

A. The new law links the Massachusetts gas tax to the Consumer Price Index (CPI): as inflation rises, so does the tax – from its present 24 cents per gallon to infinity and beyond.

**Q. Why did the Legislature make this tax hike automatic?**

A. They made it automatic at the beginning of every year after 2014, so that they would never again have to vote for a gas tax increase. Our taxes will go up, but you'll never see a roll call vote letting you know how your legislators voted. We call this "taxation without representation." An Eagle Tribune editorial explains that "it frees cowardly legislators from having to stand up and be counted to raise the gas tax again...."

**Q. What if the CPI goes down?**

A. You will still be paying at least 24 cents per gallon! The legislature capped the *minimum* you will pay, but they did not cap the *maximum*; there is no upper limit.

**Q. Who will be hurt most by these automatic tax hikes?**

A. This new policy is directly aimed at the working poor and middle class. It will not only increase the cost of commuting to work, but it will also hike the costs of food and clothing that are delivered by gas-powered vehicles. Remember, 24 cents is just the *state's* gas tax. It doesn't include the federal gas tax.

**Q. If this automatic tax hike law isn't opposed by voters, could the Legislature pass automatic increases in the income and sales taxes too?**

A. Why not? No politician likes to be on record supporting a tax hike of any kind. If they get away with this one, they can also pass a law saying that other taxes will automatically increase with inflation, no roll call vote necessary.

**Q. How do we end this taxation without representation?**

A. Voters pass a ballot question in November 2014. The first step in the process is collecting 100,000 signatures this fall.

PLEASE SIGN THIS PETITION AND HELP MAKE THE LEGISLATURE  
ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS TAX-HIKE DECISIONS.



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## AN INITIATIVE PETITION

### FOR A LAW

Under Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth

### SUMMARY

This proposed law would eliminate the requirement that the state's gasoline tax, which was 24 cents per gallon as of September 2013, (1) be adjusted every

year by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index over the preceding year, but (2) not be adjusted below 21.5 cents per gallon.

**FILING DEADLINES.** Initiative petitions must be submitted to local election officials for certification of signatures no later than **5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20, 2013.** Local election officials must complete their certification no later than December 2, 2013. Thereafter, initiative petitions containing certified signatures must be retrieved by petitioners from the local election officials and then filed with the Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, One Ashburton Place, Room 1705, Boston, MA, no later than **5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4, 2013.**

<b>FIRST TEN SIGNERS</b>	<p><b>Steven W. Aylward</b>      154 Worcester Street  <b>Chanel N. Prunier</b>    43 Shirley Road  <b>Richard J. Howell</b>    47 Glenn Drive  <b>Stephen W. Coulter</b>   20 Beech Tree Farm Road  <b>Christopher P. Pinto</b> 58 Wildrose Avenue  <b>Desiree A. Awiszio</b>    7 Cataumet Street  <b>Mary Lou Daxland</b>    922 Drift Road  <b>Martin A. Lamb</b>        57 Wingate Road  <b>Leslie C. Gosule</b>      100 Marina Drive, #101  <b>Charles J. Gangi</b>       148 Main Street, #K322</p>	<p><b>Watertown</b>  <b>Shrewsbury</b>  <b>Wilbraham</b>  <b>Scituate</b>  <b>Worcester</b>  <b>Worcester</b>  <b>Westport</b>  <b>Holliston</b>  <b>Quincy</b>  <b>North Andover</b></p>	<p><b>REGISTRAR USE ONLY:</b></p> <p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-30deg); opacity: 0.5;">ONLY REGISTRAR MAY WRITE IN THIS AREA</p>
	<p>These names have been certified as names of registered voters in their places of residence. Original petition was filed on September 4, 2013.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>William Francis Galvin</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS</b></p>		<p><b>SPONSORS OF THIS PETITION MAY BE CONTACTED AT:</b></p> <p>Petition C          154 Worcester Street          Watertown, MA 02472          314-803-6649</p>

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CIRCULATORS AND SIGNERS**

**CIRCULATOR AND SIGNER INFORMATION**

- **DO NOT ALTER THIS INITIATIVE PETITION IN ANY WAY. ADDITIONAL MARKINGS ON THIS PETITION WILL DISQUALIFY ANY SIGNATURES ON THIS PETITION SHEET.**
- For your signature to be valid, you must be a registered voter in the city or town named below and your signature should be written substantially as registered. DO NOT sign the same petition more than once.
- If you are prevented by physical disability from writing, you may authorize some person to write your name and residence in your presence.

REGISTRAR USE ONLY	I. SIGNATURE to be made in person with name substantially as registered (except in case of physical disability as stated above)	II. NOW REGISTERED AT (street, number and apartment number, if any) (city or town will be the same as stated below)	WARD	PREC.
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

City or Town

**ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS OF**  **MAY SIGN THIS SHEET.**  **C**

(OVER)

Circulator petition sheet number

ATTENTION VOTERS: Before signing, read signer information on other side. CITY OR TOWN:

REGISTRAR USE ONLY		I. SIGNATURE to be made in person with name substantially as registered (except in case of physical disability as stated on other side)	II. NOW REGISTERED AT (street, number and apartment number, if any) (city or town will be the same as stated above)	WARD	PREC.
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					

**WARNING - criminal penalty for unlawfully signing, altering, defacing, mutilating, destroying, or suppressing this petition: fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment for up to one year.**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO REGISTRARS**

REGISTRAR INFORMATION

- You must time-stamp or write in date and time these papers are received.
- Check thus ✓ against the name of each qualified voter to be certified. For names not certified, use the code at the right. Draw a line through any blank spaces not containing signatures.
- Each sheet must be certified by at least three registrars. A facsimile stamp is acceptable.
- You must complete certification no later than December 2, 2013.

- N - no such registered voter at that address, or address is illegible.
- S - unable to identify signature as that of voter because of form of signature, or signature is illegible.
- W - wrong community.
- T - already signed papers for this question.

**CERTIFICATION OF SIGNATURES**

**At least three registrars' names must be signed or stamped below.**

\_\_\_\_\_ city or town \_\_\_\_\_ month and day

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We certify that \_\_\_\_\_  
(number of names certified – use numbers and words)

above signatures checked thus ✓ are names of qualified voters from this city or town.

**Registrars of Voters or Election Commissioners of**

\_\_\_\_\_ city or town \_\_\_\_\_ county

*City or Town*

ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS OF

MAY SIGN THIS SHEET.

