

Dear Speaker Chatfield and Leader Shirkey,

Due to the impacts of COVID-19, continued face-to-face petition gathering by the multiple ballot initiatives and Congressional campaigns in our state is a threat to public health.

However, our democracy cannot be compromised as we address this national health crisis. The guidelines coming from our state and federal government make it clear that we must look for alternative ways to fulfill this vital piece of the democratic process.

With this in mind, we are asking our elected officials to create an online petition signature option for this year. In the face of this public health pandemic, our government and communities are adjusting the way we do things for the safety of all of us; making petition signing digitally accessible can and should be one of those adjustments.

With so much at stake and Congressional campaigns also looking for guidance, we are asking for a prompt response no later than Monday, March 23, 2020 as decisions must be made quickly.

Thank you for your taking time to consider our proposal at this time as we fight for equity and democracy for all. We look forward to your prompt response.