

VOTE Petition FAQs

What is this petition all about?

The VOTE Library Petition is prepared in accordance with *The Referendum and Plebiscite Act*. This legislation provides a mechanism for Saskatchewan voters to petition the government on a question and to force it to a province-wide vote.

What's the question that would be put to a vote?

It's at the top of the petition form: *Should the Government of Saskatchewan maintain provincial funding for public libraries in Saskatchewan at least at 2016 levels, indexed for inflation?*

This is the question we want to be able to say YES to.

Will that limit library funding in future?

Not legally. But as recent events indicate, funding decisions are political. Any government uses whatever it can to justify the decisions it makes. We want to make a very strong statement about the support Saskatchewan people have for their public library system. If we can show them how important libraries are to us, no government in the future will try to do this again and we will continue to work for libraries to be funded as they should be.

Wouldn't a vote be expensive?

Yes – as we get close to the number required to legally compel the government to hold a vote, we will ask them to reinstate funding for the public library system and we will stop.

Who can sign?

In order to sign, you must be an elector. The term “elector” is defined in *The referendum ad Plebiscite Regulations* to mean a person who is entitled to vote under *The Election Act, 1996* and whose name was on the voters list at the last federal, provincial or municipal election. If you are 18, a Canadian citizen, and you have lived in Saskatchewan for the last six months you are entitled to vote under *The Election Act, 1996*. If you voted in the last federal, provincial or municipal election, your name is probably on a voters list.

By when do the signatures on this petition have to be collected?

There is no time limit, but obviously, sooner is better, in order to stop cuts to libraries as soon as possible.

Can I sign online?

No. Everyone must sign on paper.

Where do I send the signatures I've collected?

Mail them or drop them off at 3301 College Ave, Regina, SK S4T 1W3. If you can scan and email or fax first, that would be great. Email to merrilee@rrc-law.ca; fax to (306) 525-8912.

I've signed a petition to the Legislature, should I sign this one too?

Absolutely! The petition to the Legislature will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly and it will remind MLAs that the people of Saskatchewan care about their libraries. Unfortunately, that petition can't force the government to change, but it will help to keep up the pressure.

Other questions? Email merrilee@rrc-law.ca.