How to Sign the MDUSD Recall Petition

Step 1 – Determine the Area you reside in. It will be Area 1, Area 2, Area 3, Area 4 or Area 5. To do this visit:

Confirm your name & address as registered to vote:

https://www.cocovote.us/registration-and-voting-options/my-voting-information/#VoterLookupandSampleBallotSearch

Step 2 – Obtain the correct petition for your Trustee. There is a different petition for each Trustee. This means that there will be 5 forms. [Note: If you’re printing the petition yourself, print at 100%, or it won’t count.]

So, if you reside in Area 1 (Debra Mason), you may not sign the petition for Area 5 (Erin McFerrin).

Step 3 – Verify you have the correct petition. The text in the PETITION FOR RECALL section will state the name of the Trustee and the Area. The below example is from the petition for Debra Mason (Area 1).

PETITION FOR RECALL

TO THE HONORABLE Deborah R. Cooper, Pursuant to the California Constitution and California election laws, we the undersigned registered and qualified electors of the Mount Diablo Unified School District Area 1 of Contra Costa County, California, respectfully state that we seek the recall and removal of Debra Mason, holding the office of Board Member, in Mount Diablo Unified School District Area 1, California. We demand an election of a successor to that office. The following Notice of Intention to Circulate Recall Petition was served on 4/5/2021 to Debra Mason.

Step 4 – Sign the Petition

(1) Use only Black or Blue ink & print neatly. DO NOT TYPE! DO NOT HIGHLIGHT!

(2) Each person’s Name, Address and Signature MUST match his/her voter registration information.

(3) Each two lines of the form must be completed by the signer. Person#1 MAY NOT fill in the information for Person #2 to just sign. Each person must complete ALL information in his/her own handwriting.

(4) A recall petition does not have to have all 5 (or 6 for McFerrin) signers to be completed (although the more signatures the better). One signature on a recall petition is acceptable.

Handwrite.

Stay within ALL lines.
Step 5 – Complete the Declaration Section at the Bottom of the Petition.

DECEPTION OF PERSON CIRCULATING SECTION OF RECALL PETITION (MUST BE IN CIRCULATOR'S OWN HANDWRITING)

I, , solemnly swear (or affirm) all of the following: 1. That I am 18 years of age or older. 2. That my residence address, including street and number, is . 3. That my signature is my genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be. I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on (Date) at (City) (MM/DD/YYYY) California.

Circulator's Signature: 
Your Signature: 
Date: 
Date Signed: 

Step 6 – If you’re collecting signatures from friends, family, or your fellow community members:

1. DO NOT alter the petitions in any way (do not highlight anything)
2. First collect signatures, and then sign the declaration.
3. You may collect signatures for any board member BUT the person signing the petition must sign the correct petition for the Area they reside in. For example, you live in Area 1 (and you signed the petition for Debra Mason), BUT your friend wants to sign but lives in Area 4. All you need to do is make sure your friend handwrites his/her voter information and signs the petition for Area 4/Cherise Khaund.

Step 7 – Mail the completed Petition to:

Mt. Diablo Parent Advocates
4494 Treat Blvd. #21398
Concord, CA 94521

Made a mistake? No worries. Cross it out and use the next line.

Q: Privacy Concerns? Will the public know I signed the Recall Petition?
A: No.

Some voters may have concerns about possible harassment if they sign an initiative, a referendum, and/or a recall petition. Government Code Sec. 6253.5 provides that such petitions (and any memoranda prepared by the elections official in examining the petitions) are not deemed to be public records and are not open to inspection. There are two exceptions:

- Employees of the county elections official responsible for verifying the signatures; and
- Recall proponents, should the petition be deemed insufficient and fail to qualify for the ballot. In that event, proponents have the right to examine those signatures found to be invalid and the reasons therefore. “Proponents” are those individuals listed on the Notice of Intention (or a person authorized in writing by the proponent.) Any such examination shall begin within 21 days following a certification of insufficiency (E.C. §11301)

OFFICIAL TOP FUNDERS. Valid only for May 2021

PETITION FOR RECALL

Petition circulation paid for by Mt. Diablo Parent Advocates

Committee major funding from: n/a

Latest info: www.mtdiabloparentadvocates.com/top-funders
PETITION FOR RECALL

TO THE HONORABLE Deborah R. Cooper, Pursuant to the California Constitution and California election laws, we the undersigned registered and qualified electors of the Mount Diablo Unified School District Area 1 of Contra Costa County, California, respectfully state that we seek the recall and removal of Debra Mason, holding the office of Board Member, in Mount Diablo Unified School District Area 1, California. We demand an election of a successor to that office. The following Notice of Intention to Circulate Recall Petition was served on 4/5/2021 to Debra Mason:

TO THE HONORABLE Debra Mason: Pursuant to Section 11020, California Elections Code, the undersigned registered qualified voters of Contra Costa County’s Mount Diablo Unified School District, in the State of California, hereby give notice that we are the proponents of a recall petition and that we intend to seek your recall and removal from the office of Board of Education, in the Mount Diablo Unified School District, California, and to demand election of a successor in that position on the Board of Education. The grounds for the recall are as follows: 1. Ms. Mason’s inability to approve and oversee a sustainable budget, and failure to be a good stewards of tax payer funds. 2. Ms. Mason has demonstrated an inability to faithfully listen to the concerns of constituents in regard to providing an in-person learning opportunity to the greatest extent possible. 3. Ms. Mason has failed to advocate, at both state and local levels, for measures that would facilitate a choice to return to in-person learning for all students. Debra Mason ran unopposed to the MDUSD Board of Education in November of 2014. The voters of Contra Costa County’s Mount Diablo Unified School District are issuing a recall due to her inability to serve her constituents. The printed names of the proponents are as follows: Melanie Ropelato, Eva Musante Castro, Daniel Wright, Lynette S. Dashner, Hannah Gonzales, Tyler Ropelato, David E. Castro, Leah Wright, Ramon Gonzales Sr., Heather Hollis, Ryan Piacitelli, Abraham Karabel, Karen Vigil, Gene M. Vigil, Katie Ramey, Betzabeth Lesser, David Rippon, and April Graham.

THE ANSWER OF THE OFFICER TO BE RECALLED IS AS FOLLOWS: The past year has been a difficult one for all the families we serve as they have struggled with coping with a pandemic and care for their families. As a board member it has been equally difficult to find the best solutions to meet the needs of almost 30,000 students. That is why I have attended countless meetings and webinars to listen to what the experts are telling us about metrics and safety. I have asked questions of other districts around the state and country that are facing the same issues and also advocated for local and state guidance to assure a safe return to school in a timely manner. I have tried to respond to all the many emails I have received from parents and students that struggle with these decisions as well. Over the past two years I have questioned and requested more information before making budget decisions. I have often voted no on budget items that would have a negative effect on our budget, in an effort to be a good steward of the tax payer's dollars.

Each of the undersigned states for himself/herself that he or she is a registered and qualified elector of the Mount Diablo Unified School District Area 1 of Contra Costa County, California.

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DECLARATION OF PERSON CIRCULATING SECTION OF RECALL PETITION (MUST BE IN CIRCULATOR’S OWN HANDWRITING)

I, __________________________, solemnly swear (or affirm) all of the following: 1. That I am 18 years of age or older. 2. That my residence address, including street and number, is __________________________. (If no street or number exists, a designation of my residence adequate to readily ascertain its location is __________________________.) 3. That the signatures on this section of the petition form were obtained between ________________, 2021, and ________________, 2021; that I circulated the petition and I witnessed the signatures on this section of the petition form being written; and that, to the best of my information and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be. I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on (Date) ________________ at (City) __________________, California.

Circulator’s Signature________________________________________________________ Date______________