

# Paid Signature Gatherers

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Excell, Steve <sexcell@secstate.wa.gov>

To: Stefan Sharkansky

Thu, Jan 11, 2007 at 9:59 AM

Hi Stefan,

Following up on your inquiry...which I mentioned to Nick Handy, the State Elections Director...

For what it is worth: Nick said his initiative staff has compared the rejection rates of various initiatives from time to time when the sponsors claim to use all volunteers or all paid signature gatherers. For several decades, the initiative managers in our office feel the rejection rates were markedly higher for the petitions gathered by paid employees. This is still just “anecdotal” because the sponsors do not always put out accurate details on how their signatures were actually gathered – and some press accounts may make generalizations about the campaigns that the sponsors do not agree with.

If Nick can dig out the data from the last time they looked at this issue, he will send it to me and I will pass it along.

Steve