



Knights of Columbus



Thomas C. Williams, State Advocate
Washington State Council

April 26, 2020

My Brothers,

The Bishops of Washington are leading an effort to gather signatures to put Referendum 90 on the ballot this fall. Referendum 90 would allow voters to either reject or approve the new law requiring all school districts in the state to provide Comprehensive Sexual Health Education for grades kindergarten through 12.

This is a time-sensitive request as signatures must be filed by June 10th, and the organizers would prefer to complete signature collection by June 1st.

The pastor of your parish may reach out to your council to ask for assistance in gathering signatures for this effort.

As Knights of Columbus, we wish to be in solidarity with our priests and bishops, so I hope that you will consider assisting your pastor. Although gathering signatures for a voter referendum is neither a Knights of Columbus program, a fraternal activity, nor a charitable initiative, our members certainly may participate. However, one does not need to be a Knight or even a Catholic to support this referendum. Our members should be encouraged to participate in the effort as concerned citizens of the State of Washington, rather than as Knights of Columbus. In other words, gathering signatures for the referendum is not to be considered a council activity.

What does this mean for your council? You may wish to announce the pastor's request at your next council meeting. Knights who choose to support this effort should do so as strong Catholic men acting in partnership with other parish groups and parishioners. So, for example, if a table were set up outside the Church to collect signatures after Mass, there should not be a Knights banner or other Knights of Columbus insignia. Rather, we want to participate as parishioners supporting our priests and Bishops.

Any efforts to collect signatures for Referendum 90 should be in compliance with the most current government directives regarding social distancing.

I strongly encourage you to support this signature-gathering effort if asked by your pastor, and to do so in concert with other groups and individuals in the parish.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns, and thank you for your work to support our Church and Order.

Vivat Jesus!

Thomas C. Williams
State Advocate
Washington State Knights of Columbus