

Such petition shall consist of sheets having such form printed or written at the top thereof and shall be signed by the legal voters in their own proper persons only, and opposite the signature of each legal voter shall be written the house number and street name, if there be such; and if the petition is for the entire county, the city, town, village or election district, as the case may be, in which he resides, and the date of signing the same, no signature shall be valid or counted in considering such petition unless these requirements are complied with and unless the date of signing is less than six months preceding the date of filing the same. At the bottom of each sheet of such petition shall be added a statement signed by a resident of the political sub-division in which the signers thereof reside, with his residence address as aforesaid, stating that the signatures on that sheet of said petition are genuine and that to the best of his knowledge and belief the persons so signing were at the time of signing said petition legal voters of the said political sub-division; that their respective residences when required to be stated are correctly stated therein, and that each signer signed the same on the date set opposite his name. Such statement shall be sworn to before some officer residing in said county, where such legal voters reside, authorized to administer oaths therein, such sheets shall be fastened together in one document filed as a whole, and when filed shall not be withdrawn or added to. No signature shall be withdrawn after the filing of such petition, such petition so verified or a copy thereof duly certified as hereinafter provided shall be prima facie evidence that the signatures, statement of residence here required to be stated and dates upon such petition are genuine and true, and that the persons signing the same are legal voters of the political sub-divisions named therein. Upon request of any one filing such a petition and verified statement and paying or tendering to the Supervisors of Elections one dollar for each one hundred names, or fraction thereof signed thereto, together with a copy thereof. The Supervisors of Election shall immediately compare the original and copy and attach to such copy and deliver to such person their official certificate that such copy is a true copy of the original, stating the day when such original was filed in their office, whoever in making the sworn statement above prescribed shall knowingly, wilfully and corruptly swear falsely shall be deemed guilty of perjury, and on conviction thereof shall be punished accordingly, whoever forges the signature of any person upon any petition or statement provided for in this Act shall be deemed guilty of forgery, and on conviction thereof shall be punished accordingly.