



Attorney General  
STATE CAPITOL  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Robert F. Corbin

October 19, 1979

**LAW LIBRARY  
ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Mr. Rick Bjorklund  
Coliseum Events Coordinator  
1826 West McDowell Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85005

Re: I79-262 (R78-223)

Dear Mr. Bjorklund:

On July 10, 1978, you wrote to our office for an opinion regarding the legality of allowing petitions of political parties and referendum or initiative groups to be circulated at the State Fairgrounds.

Along with your request you enclosed a copy of a letter from this office dated March 24, 1976, wherein we issued the following opinion:

Under our form of government, the right of the people to carry on this communication in public places and on public premises is beyond question. The State Fairgrounds and the Veterans Memorial Coliseum are within the categories of public places and public premises albeit they are under the "exclusive custody and direction" of the Board. A.R.S. § 3-1003.

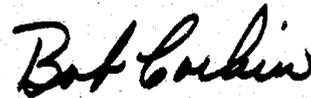
Under these circumstances, we are of the opinion that the citizens of Arizona have the right to enter upon these premises for the purpose of communicating their ideas, including the circulating of petitions, with respect to their exercise of the initiative power, subject only to the following restrictions: the communications must be carried on in a manner that will not endanger the health, safety or welfare of others on the premises or unreasonably

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disrupt or impede the normal operations of the business of the Board on the premises. We understand from our inquirers that they propose to station themselves outside of the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in a location or locations that do not obstruct or impede employees' work or the flow of patron traffic, but which nevertheless would afford them an opportunity to invite patrons to consider signing initiative petitions. In our view this would not unreasonably disrupt or impede your normal operations.

The principles and guidelines which were articulated in that letter are still viable and must be adhered to by your Board.<sup>1/</sup>

Sincerely,



BOB CORBIN  
Attorney General

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<sup>1/</sup> You have also asked several questions about the proper forms and procedures relating to petitions. We suggest you refer to the pertinent statutes for this information. Title 19 of the Arizona Revised Statutes details the procedures to be followed for initiative, referendum and recall. Title 16, Chapter 3 contains nomination petition requirements.