



# MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS INITIATIVE

# NEWS

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Chetly Zarko

734-730-4842

## **MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS INITIATIVE ASKS VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE FINAL SIGNATURE SUBMISSIONS THIS WEEK**

The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative Committee is asking its volunteer petition circulators to finish collecting signatures this weekend and to immediately mail in all signatures. Staff and other supporters will then complete administrative processing of the signatures before they are filed with the State of Michigan's Bureau of Elections and Board of Canvassers. The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI) is a ballot proposal needing 317,757 signatures – once submitted the people of Michigan will be able to vote in November 2006 to end discrimination and preferences by state agencies based on race, gender, ethnicity, or national origin.

In an email calling volunteers and other supporters to make their final submissions of signatures, MCRI's Executive Director, Jennifer Gratz, stated, "I'd like to thank everyone for all their hard work, and am happy to announce that MCRI will be finishing the signature-gathering phase of the drive in the next several days." Although an exact date for the filing of the signatures has yet to be set while MCRI staff and volunteers conduct final preparations and processing of the forms, MCRI will notify the public and media outlets when appropriate.

Volunteers should mail petitions immediately – those that receive word of the close of this phase of the drive after Monday, January 3, 2005, should call MCRI staff at 734-730-4842 to make personal arrangements for pickup or delivery of their petitions.

The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative Committee (MCRI), a Michigan-based Ballot Question Committee, is dedicated to giving the people of Michigan the opportunity to end preferential treatment based on race, gender, ethnicity, or national origin by State or local governments. MCRI will make Michigan a place of equal opportunity for all, not a State that uses discrimination as a tool to create "diversity." Achieving "diversity" and "affirmative action" should never be an excuse to discriminate!

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