

**PETITIONS ARE DEAD**

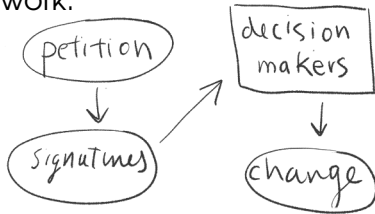
**Long Live  
Petitions**



***Do Petitions Still Work in  
the Year 2026?***

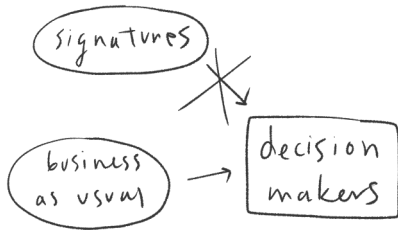
[heat-shield.space/long\\_live\\_petitions.html](http://heat-shield.space/long_live_petitions.html)

This is how petitions used to work:



But this only works if decision makers care about what we think.

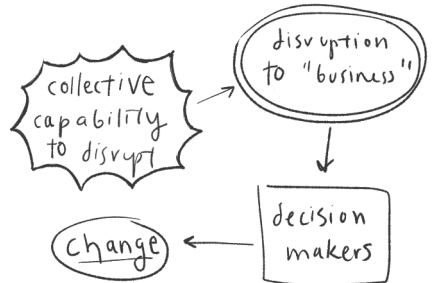
Now, decision makers only care about maintaining "business as usual"



So if we want to make change, we need to disrupt "business as usual"

But you can't disrupt "business as usual" by yourself: it's less effective and it's easy to be retaliated against.

**Many** people disrupting has a wider effect, and retaliation against that many people becomes disruptive on its own.

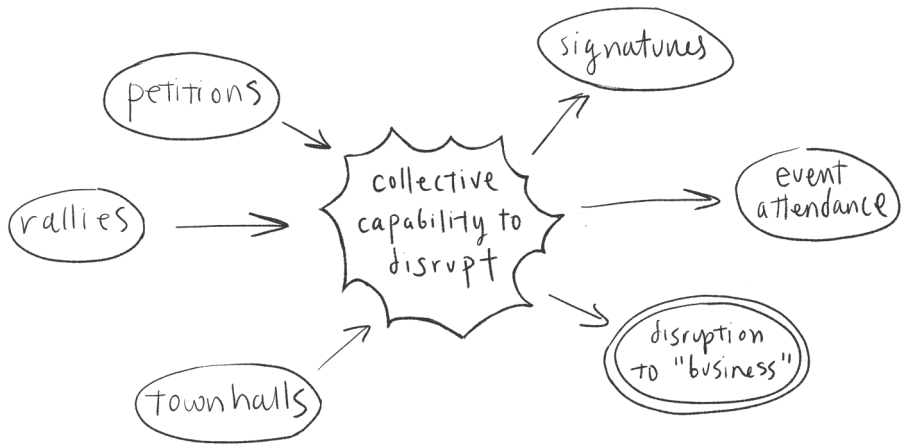


So what really matters is **collective** capability to disrupt

So the role of petitions now is dual fold

(1) it brings people in to our collective capability to disrupt

(2) it allows decision makers to estimate\* how many people are involved and how effective we would be at disrupting

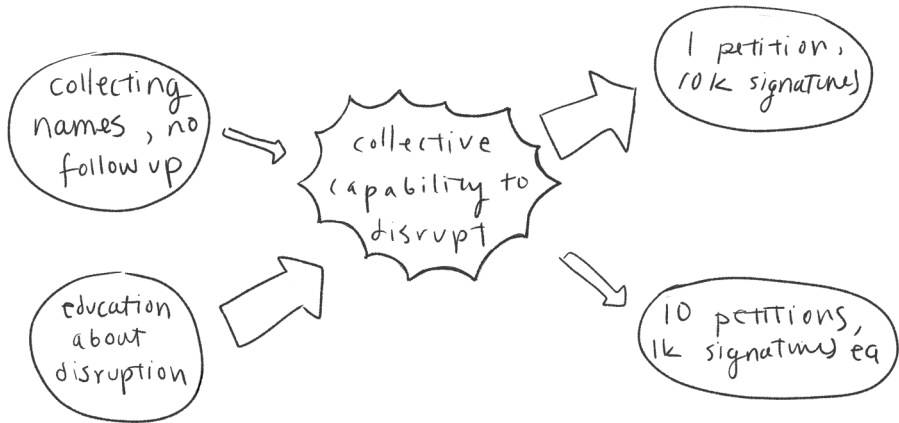


\*using bayesian probability! If you're also a good ol' fashioned AI nerd, check out [heat-shield.space/organizing\\_with\\_bayes.html](http://heat-shield.space/organizing_with_bayes.html)

Rallies, protests, days of action, similarly, don't directly affect change, but bring in new people and signal strength.

So when you ask if a petition is working, you have to be precise about what are you asking:

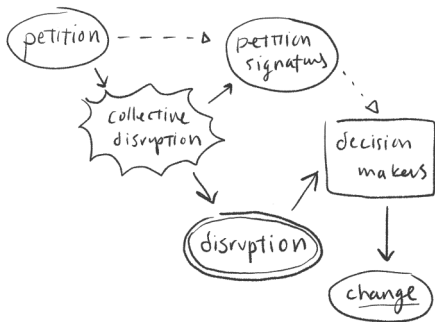
(2) is it an effective signal of strength? Does it show wide participation, unified direction, willingness to disrupt?



(1) is it bringing people in? Are those people ready to contribute to our ability to disrupt?

If we succeed at both (1) and (2), decision makers may give us the changes we want even \*before\* we exercise our capability to disrupt

In the old model of petitions, it makes sense to only sign petitions and participate in actions that align with your views.



But in this new model, the most important thing is to signal the ability to act as a collective.

What the petition says is less important than being part of the collective capability that it represents.