

# SIGNATURE VALIDITY REQUIREMENTS FAQ

**Make sure everything is complete & legible before the signer walks away or you will have more work to do at best, or an invalid signature at worst!**

**Current site to verify voter registration in the state of Texas:**

<https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do>

Under Login

Choose Selection Criteria -> "Name, County, DoB"

Enter data from petition

ZipCodes are required for verification on this site

Some Larger counties have their own verification sites, check with your elections administrator office.

- Verify all signer registrations prior to Notarization
- DoB is required if they do not have their VUID (Voter Registration Number), one or the other is needed to verify registration.
- The signer only has to fill out the signature field, someone else, including the petitioner, can fill out the remaining information for the signer.
- Make sure you date every signature, ditto marks are valid.
- Abbreviations and ditto marks are O.K. as long as the information is "reasonably ascertainable". For example, "SA" for "San Antonio," "HOU" for "Houston" is okay.
- You may use white-out to make corrections. We suggest using quality correction tape because it's much cleaner and much easier to write on.
- The zip code and the state are \*not\* required in the address line, but the city \*is\* required. However you need a zip code to verify registrations at the site above.
- If you get a totally bogus signature, it happens, use a marker to black out that line. It is better to black out invalid signatures than to risk having the whole page thrown out by the SoS.
- Do not notarize the sheet until it has been verified

Several questions have arisen in the process of checking the validity of signatures against voter registrations. On Tuesday (5/9/00) we spoke with Stace Vandersteck, an attorney at the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's Office, and here is what she said: (note, nothing has changed as of 9/29/17)

Q: Are P.O. Box addresses sufficient?

A: No. There needs to be a physical residence address in the address line. However, a building name will suffice if no street address is available -- e.g., "Jester Dormitory".

Q: What if the address is wrong but the name and date of birth are correct?

A: As long as they are within the same county it is OK; the SOS will try to find them. If they change counties or are registered in another county, the address is not valid (you would not find it to validate).

Q: Is it O.K. if a signer crosses out or draws a line through the column asking for the voter registration number?

A: Yes.

Q: Is it O.K. if check marks appear next to signatures that we have checked against our voter registration lists?

A: Yes. And the information for each signer need not all fit into the space provided, as long as it appears on the page.

Q: Do we need to fill out the proper page number for each petitioner in the top right-hand corner of each document?

A: Yes and No. It is not required to validate the signatures on a page, however if you only notarize the top page of your set of petitions, you must number the pages and staple them together with the notarized page being #1 of \_\_\_\_, and on top.

Q: Do the petitioners who sign the documents before a notary need to be 18 years old and/or U.S. citizens?

A: Sandy Slaughter at the SOS's Notary Public Office, who informed us as follows:

No and no. A person only needs to have a valid identification (e.g., state id, driver's license, passport) to sign the document before a notary.