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 Vanderstock, 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.