



ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session

HCR 2028: elections; signature verification process

Sponsor: Representative Kolodin, LD 3

Committee on Municipal Oversight & Elections

Overview

Outlines specified requirements for the verification of signatures on early ballot affidavits.

History

Upon receiving a voter's early ballot and ballot affidavit the County Recorder or officer in charge of elections must compare the voters' signatures with the signature of the elector on their registration record. If the County Recorder or officer in charge of elections determines the signature on the ballot affidavit is inconsistent with the signatures in the elector's registration record, the recorder or officer in charge of elections must make reasonable efforts to contact the elector, advise the elector of the inconsistent signature and allow them to either correct it or confirm the inconsistent signature. Signatures are required to be corrected no later than five business days after a primary, general or special election that includes a federal office or three business days after any other election ([A.R.S. § 16-550](#)).

Provisions

1. Establishes certain minimum standards for *signature verification*. (Sec.1)
2. Instructs the *evaluator* to first examine the *broad characteristics* of the signature, the *evaluator* may accept the signature as valid if the *broad characteristics* are a match to the elector's registration record. (Sec. 1)
3. Directs the *evaluator*, if the broad characteristics are not a clear match to the elector's registration record, to examine the *local characteristics* of the signature. (Sec. 1)
4. Requires a second review of a signature to be conducted, using the same established standards, if an *evaluator* finds discrepancies in a combination of *broad* and *local characteristics*. (Sec. 1)
5. Exempts ballot affidavits containing a voter's *mark* and accompanied by the signature of a voter assistant from the *signature verification* process. (Sec. 1)
6. Specifies electronic signatures must be examined for verification on a ballot affidavit, utilizing the established process. (Sec.1)
7. Defines *broad characteristics*, *evaluator*, *local characteristics* and *signature verification*. (Sec. 1)
8. Contains a legislative intent statement that specifies the 2020 Secretary of State's Signature Verification Guide is to be the reference for *broad* and *local* signature characteristics. (Sec. 2)

9. Requires the Secretary of State to submit the proposition to the voters at the next general election.
10. Becomes effective if approved by the voters and on proclamation of the Governor.