

REFERENCE TITLE: elections; signature verification process

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2024

## **HCR 2028**

Introduced by  
Representatives Kolodin; McGarr; Senator Rogers

### A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENACTING AND ORDERING THE SUBMISSION TO THE PEOPLE OF A MEASURE RELATING  
TO VOTER SIGNATURE VERIFICATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,  
2 the Senate concurring:

3 1. Under the power of the referendum, as vested in the Legislature,  
4 the following measure, relating to voter signature verification, is  
5 enacted to become valid as a law if approved by the voters and on  
6 proclamation of the Governor:

7 AN ACT

8 AMENDING TITLE 16, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 8, ARIZONA REVISED  
9 STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 16-550.01; RELATING TO VOTER  
10 SIGNATURE VERIFICATION.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

12 Section 1. Title 16, chapter 4, article 8, Arizona  
13 Revised Statutes, is amended by adding section 16-550.01, to  
14 read:

15 16-550.01. Signature verification; procedures;  
16 exemption; intent; definitions

17 A. EXCEPT FOR EARLY BALLOTS TABULATED AS PRESCRIBED IN  
18 SECTION 16-579.02, ON RECEIPT OF THE ENVELOPE CONTAINING THE  
19 EARLY BALLOT AND THE BALLOT AFFIDAVIT, THE COUNTY RECORDER OR  
20 OTHER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS SHALL CONDUCT SIGNATURE  
21 VERIFICATION AS PRESCRIBED BY THIS SECTION.

22 B. THE EVALUATOR SHALL EXAMINE ALL THE BROAD  
23 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SIGNATURE. IF THE BROAD  
24 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SIGNATURE ON THE BALLOT AFFIDAVIT ARE  
25 CLEARLY CONSISTENT WITH THE BROAD CHARACTERISTICS OF THE  
26 VOTER'S SIGNATURE IN THE ELECTOR'S REGISTRATION RECORD, THE  
27 EVALUATOR MAY ACCEPT THE SIGNATURE AS VALID.

28 C. IF THE EVALUATOR FINDS DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THE  
29 SIGNATURE ON THE BALLOT AFFIDAVIT AND THE ELECTOR'S SIGNATURE  
30 IN THE ELECTOR'S REGISTRATION RECORD, THE EVALUATOR SHALL  
31 EXAMINE THE LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SIGNATURE. IF THE  
32 LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SIGNATURE ON THE BALLOT AFFIDAVIT  
33 ARE CLEARLY CONSISTENT WITH THE LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE  
34 VOTER'S SIGNATURE IN THE ELECTOR'S REGISTRATION RECORD, THE  
35 EVALUATOR MAY ACCEPT THE SIGNATURE AS VALID.

36 D. IF THE EVALUATOR FINDS A COMBINATION OF BROAD AND  
37 LOCAL CHARACTERISTIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SIGNATURE ON THE  
38 BALLOT AFFIDAVIT AND THE VOTER'S SIGNATURE IN THE ELECTOR'S  
39 REGISTRATION RECORD, THE EVALUATOR SHALL DENOTE THE SIGNATURE  
40 FOR A SECOND REVIEW THAT SHALL BE CONDUCTED BY AN EVALUATOR  
41 USING THE SAME STANDARDS PRESCRIBED BY THIS SECTION.

42 E. ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES, INCLUDING ELECTRONIC  
43 SIGNATURES THAT USE A TYPED FONT, SHALL BE EVALUATED AS  
44 PRESCRIBED BY THIS SECTION.

1 F. A BALLOT AFFIDAVIT IS EXEMPT FROM THE SIGNATURE  
2 VERIFICATION PROCESS IF THE BALLOT AFFIDAVIT CONTAINS A  
3 VOTER'S MARK AND IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE SIGNATURE OF A VOTER  
4 ASSISTANT.

5 G. THE LEGISLATURE INTENDS THAT THE ILLUSTRATIONS OF  
6 BROAD AND LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE 2020 SECRETARY OF  
7 STATE'S SIGNATURE VERIFICATION GUIDE BE USED AS REFERENCE.

8 H. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

9 1. "BROAD CHARACTERISTICS" MEANS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 10 (a) THE TYPE OF WRITING.
- 11 (b) THE SPEED OF WRITING.
- 12 (c) OVERALL SPACING.
- 13 (d) OVERALL SIZE AND PROPORTIONS.
- 14 (e) POSITION OF THE SIGNATURE.
- 15 (f) SPELLING AND PUNCTUATION.

16 2. "EVALUATOR" MEANS THE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS DESIGNATED  
17 BY THE COUNTY RECORDER OR OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS AND  
18 WHO CONDUCTS SIGNATURE VERIFICATION.

19 3. "LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS" MEANS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 20 (a) INTERNAL SPACING.
- 21 (b) THE SIZE OR PROPORTIONS OF A LETTER OR LETTER  
22 COMBINATION.
- 23 (c) CURVES, LOOPS AND CROSS POINTS.
- 24 (d) THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF PEN LIFTS.
- 25 (e) BEGINNING AND ENDING STROKES.

26 4. "SIGNATURE VERIFICATION" MEANS THE PROCESS OF  
27 MANUALLY COMPARING THE SIGNATURE ON A VOTER'S AFFIDAVIT  
28 ENVELOPE OR BALLOT AFFIDAVIT WITH THE VOTER'S SIGNATURE IN THE  
29 ELECTOR'S REGISTRATION RECORD.

30 Sec. 2. Intent

31 THE LEGISLATURE INTENDS THAT THE ILLUSTRATIONS OF BROAD  
32 AND LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE 2020 SECRETARY OF STATE'S  
33 SIGNATURE VERIFICATION GUIDE BE USED AS REFERENCE.

34 2. The Secretary of State shall submit this proposition to the  
35 voters at the next general election as provided by article IV, part 1,  
36 section 1, Constitution of Arizona.