

ARIZONA SECRETARY OF STATE’S OFFICE
COUNTY RECORDER PETITION SIGNATURE VERIFICATION GUIDE
 (REV. DEC. 2021)

ALL CANDIDATE NOMINATION PETITIONS (A.R.S. § 16-315 ; A.R.S. § 16-321 ; A.R.S. § 16-341(I))	
Petition Scenarios	Accept/ Reject
<p>1. Voter active/inactive, registered in proper party, and registered address is in district.</p> <p>Note: For candidate petitions, as long as the address in the registration record is in the district, the signature is <u>valid</u> (assuming all other requirements met), regardless of whether the address written on the petition is: (i) the same as the registered address or different; (ii) within or outside of the district; or (iii) a P.O. Box. A.R.S. § 16-321(B).</p>	ACCEPT
<p>2. Voter active/inactive and registered address is out of district.</p> <p>Note: For candidate petitions, if the address in the registration record is outside of the district, the signature is <u>invalid</u>, no matter what the address written on the petition is. A.R.S. § 16-321(B).</p>	REJECT
<p>3. Voter active/inactive and registered in different recognized party.</p> <p>Note: A voter not registered with a recognized party may sign a recognized party candidate’s petition, excluding a candidate for precinct committeeman. Additionally, any registered voter, regardless of party affiliation may sign an A.R.S. § 16-341 (independent) candidate’s petition.</p>	REJECT
<p>4. Voter not registered or registered to vote after the date of signing the petition. A.R.S. § 16-321(B).</p>	REJECT
<p>5. Voter is a minor who will be 18 years old by the next regular general election and, at the time of signing, was a registered voter (with their registration status in “suspense” due only to age) in the district of the office the candidate is seeking. A.R.S. § 16-101; A.R.S. § 16-121(A); A.R.S. § 16-321(B); Simpson v. Tarver, No. CV-20-0218-AP/EL (Ariz. Aug. 24, 2020).</p>	ACCEPT
<p>6. Voter provided no date on petition signature line.</p> <p>Note: However, omission of the year does not invalidate a date entry as long as it contains a valid month and day. <i>McKenna v. Soto</i>, 481 P.3d 695, 698-99 (2021).</p>	REJECT

<p>7. Duplicate for same candidate: Voter signed the same candidate’s petition more than once and another signature is dated on or before the same date as the signature being reviewed.</p> <p>Note: Both signatures must be identified by page and line number.</p>	<p>REJECT</p>
<p>8. Duplicate for same office: Voter signed more than one candidate’s petition for the same office and another signature is dated on or before the same date as the signature being reviewed.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both signatures must be identified by page and line number. • Signer may sign petitions up to the number of open seats for that office (<i>i.e.</i>, state house, city council members). 	<p>REJECT</p>
<p>9. Missing signature: voter provided other information but did not sign the petition.</p>	<p>REJECT</p>
<p>10. Missing printed name: voter did not provide printed name and other information provided is insufficient to identify the voter.</p> <p>Note: Do not reject if other information provided is sufficient to identify the voter. A.R.S. § 16-321; <i>Jenkins v. Hale</i>, 218 Ariz. 561, 565 (2008).</p>	<p>REJECT</p>
<p>11. Signature or other information printed by the signer is illegible and search of county’s database in an attempt to identify the voter was unsuccessful.</p>	<p>REJECT</p>
<p>12. Petition signature does not match voter’s signature in the voter registration record. A.R.S. § 16-321(D).</p>	<p>REJECT</p>
<p>13. Residence address or description of residence location is missing on petition signature line.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P.O. box is acceptable. <i>Jenkins v. Hale</i>, 218 Ariz. 561 (2008). • Missing city/town or zip code does not invalidate the signature if eligibility can be verified based on the incomplete address. <i>McKenna v. Soto</i>, 480 P.3d 695, 700 (2021). • Protected/secured registrants may write in “Protected Address,” “Protected Registrant,” “Secured Registrant,” or substantially similar designation in place of residence address. A.R.S. § 16-321(E). 	<p>REJECT</p>
<p>14. Voter signed the petition prior to the candidate filing a statement of interest for nomination if a statement of interest is required to be filed. A.R.S. § 16-341(I).</p>	<p>REJECT</p>
<p>15. Voter is a “federal-only” voter and petition is for state/local candidate. AG Opinion I13-011(R13-016) 2013.</p>	<p>REJECT</p>

CLEAN ELECTIONS - \$5 QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTION SLIPS (A.R.S. § 16-946)	
Petition Scenarios	Accept/Reject
<p>1. Voter active/inactive and registered address is in district.</p> <p>Note: For \$5 QC slips, as long as the address in the registration record is in the district (which may be the 2020 or 2022 district, as listed on the Statement of Interest or Nomination Paper), the signature is valid (assuming all other requirements met), regardless of whether the address written on the QC slip is: (i) the same as the registered address or different; (ii) within or outside of the district; or (iii) a P.O. Box. A.R.S. § 16-946(B)(1).</p>	ACCEPT
<p>2. Voter active/inactive and registered address is out of district.</p> <p>Note: For \$5 QC slips, if the address in the registration record is outside of the district (which may be the 2020 or 2022 district, as listed on the Statement of Interest or Nomination Paper), the signature is invalid, no matter what the address written on the QC slip is. A.R.S. § 16-946(B)(1).</p>	REJECT
<p>3. Voter is a “federal-only” voter. AG Opinion I13-011(R13-016) 2013.</p>	REJECT

NEW PARTY RECOGNITION PETITIONS (A.R.S. § 16-801(A); A.R.S. § 16-803(E))	
Petition Signature Scenarios	Accept/Reject
<p>1. Voter active/inactive and petition address within the applicable jurisdiction.</p> <p>Note: For new party petitions, as long as the address written on the petition is within the applicable jurisdiction, the signature is valid (assuming all other requirements met), regardless of whether the address in the registration record is: (i) the same as the registered address or different; or (ii) within or outside of the applicable jurisdiction. A.R.S. § 16-803(E)(5).</p>	ACCEPT
<p>2. Voter active/inactive and petition address outside of the applicable jurisdiction.</p> <p>Note: For new party petitions, if the address written on the petition is outside of the applicable jurisdiction, the signature is invalid, no matter what the address in the voter registration record is. A.R.S. § 16-803(E)(5).</p>	REJECT
<p>3. Voter active/inactive, registration address in applicable jurisdiction and petition address is a P.O. Box. AG Opinion I09-011(R09-020) 2009.</p>	ACCEPT
<p>4. Voter not registered or registered to vote after the date of signing the petition. A.R.S. § 16-803(E)(2), (5).</p>	REJECT
<p>5. Voter provided no date on petition signature line. A.R.S. § 16-803(E)(2).</p>	REJECT
<p>6. Residence address or description of residence location on the petition is missing, illegible, or nonexistent. A.R.S. § 16-803(E)(1), (4).</p>	REJECT
<p>7. Signature is illegible and the signer is otherwise unidentifiable. A.R.S. § 16-803(E)(3).</p>	REJECT
<p>8. Petition signature does not match voter’s signature in the voter registration record. A.R.S. § 16-803(E)(7).</p>	REJECT
<p>9. Duplicate signature: Voter signed the same petition more than once and another signature is dated on or before the same date as the signature being reviewed. A.R.S. § 16-803(E)(8).</p> <p>Note: Each duplicate signature must be identified by page and line number.</p>	REJECT
<p>10. Voter was not 18 years old on the date of signing the petition. A.R.S. § 16-803(E)(6).</p>	REJECT
<p>11. Voter is a “federal-only” voter. AG Opinion I13-011(R13-016) 2013</p>	REJECT

INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL PETITIONS	
(A.R.S. § 19-112(A) ; A.R.S. § 19-121.02 ; A.R.S. § 19-205(A) ; A.R.S. § 19-208.02(A) ; AG Opinion I09-011(R09-020) 2009 .)	
Petition Signature Scenarios	Accept/Reject
<p>1. Voter active/inactive and petition address is within the applicable jurisdiction.</p> <p>Note: For initiative, referendum, and recall petitions, as long as the address written on the petition is within the applicable jurisdiction, the signature is valid (assuming all other requirements met), regardless of whether the address in the registration record is: (i) the same as the registered address or different; or (ii) within or outside of the applicable jurisdiction. A.R.S. § 19-121.02(A)(5).</p>	ACCEPT
<p>2. Voter active/inactive and petition address is outside of the applicable jurisdiction.</p> <p>Note: For initiative, referendum, and recall petitions, if the address written on the petition is outside of the applicable jurisdiction, the signature is invalid, no matter what the address in the voter registration record is. A.R.S. § 19-121.02(A)(5).</p>	REJECT
<p>3. Voter active/inactive and petition address is a P.O. Box. AG Opinion I09-011(R09-020) 2009.</p>	REJECT
<p>4. Voter is not registered or registered to vote after the date of signing the petition to vote. A.R.S. § 19-121.02(A)(5).</p>	REJECT
<p>5. Voter was not 18 years of age on the date of signing the petition. A.R.S. § 19-121.02(A)(6).</p>	REJECT
<p>6. Voter provided no date on petition signature line. A.R.S. § 19-121.02(A)(2).</p>	REJECT
<p>7. Signature is missing, or signature is illegible and the signer is otherwise unidentifiable. A.R.S. § 19-121.02(A)(3).</p>	REJECT
<p>8. Signature does not match voter’s signature in the voter registration record. A.R.S. § 19-121.02(A)(7), (9).</p>	REJECT
<p>9. Residence address or description of residence location is missing, illegible or nonexistent. A.R.S. § 19-121.02(A)(1), (4).</p> <p>Note: Protected/secured registrants may write in “Protected Address,” “Protected Registrant,” “Secured Registrant,” or substantially similar designation in place of residence address.</p>	REJECT

<p>10. Duplicate signature: Voter signed the same petition more than once and another signature is dated on or before the same date as the signature being reviewed. A.R.S. § 19-121.02(A)(8).</p> <p>Note: Each duplicate signature must be identified by page and line number.</p>	<p>REJECT</p>
<p>11. Voter is a “federal-only” voter and petition is for an initiative or referendum, or recall of a state/local candidate. AG Opinion I13-011(R13-016) 2013.</p>	<p>REJECT</p>
<p>12. Circulator was a Justice of the Peace or County Recorder at the time of circulating the petition. A.R.S. § 19-121.02(A)(10).</p>	<p>REJECT</p>