

Signature Comparison

Think about signatures at two levels: quick analysis of the general character of the signature, then sharp focus on individual details. No threshold of minor discrepancies should outweigh your judgment that the general character of two signatures is so similar that they must have been written by the same hand.

General Analysis

The Type of Writing

Voter Record Signature

Thomas Jefferson

Mail Ballot Signature

Thomas Jefferson

Easy difference to notice and a sign the signature should be rejected.

Speed of Writing

Voter Record Signature

Gerald Ford

Mail Ballot Signature

Gerald Ford

A forger will be more deliberate with forging a signature, leading to hesitation marks or a smoother looking signature.

Spacing Between Names

Voter Record Signature

Franklin D Roosevelt

Mail Ballot Signature

Franklin D Roosevelt

If the spacing between first and last name is not consistent, it may be a sign the signature should be rejected.

Proportions and Size of Signature

Voter Record Signature

Harry Truman

Mail Ballot Signature

Harry Truman

A signature should have consistency in terms of the size and proportion. In the example above, the proportions are different between the two signatures.

Slant of Writing

Voter Record Signature

Cynthia

Mail Ballot Signature

Cynthia

Another easy difference to notice. If the slant of writing is different, it is a sign the signature should be rejected.

Incorrect Spelling

Voter Record Signature

John Kennedy

Mail Ballot Signature

John Kenedy

This is a very straightforward issue. If the name is misspelled, the signature should be rejected.

Detailed Analysis

Letter Spacing

Voter Record Signature

Andrew

Mail Ballot Signature

Andrew

If the spacing between letters is not consistent, it may be a sign the signature should be rejected.

Size of Specific Letters

Voter Record Signature

Steven

Mail Ballot Signature

Steven

If the size of a specific letter is not consistent, it may be a sign the signature should be rejected.

Other Distinguishing Features

Voter Record Signature

Harold Washington

Mail Ballot Signature

Harold Washington

Differences in unique features, such as curves, loops, and cross-points, may be a sign the signature should be rejected.

Pen Lifts

Voter Record Signature

Cleveland

Mail Ballot Signature

Cleveland

A forger will be more deliberate with forging a signature, leading to pen lifts not present in a normal signature.

Beginning and Ending Strokes

Voter Record Signature

Harold Washington

Mail Ballot Signature

Harold Washington

Beginning and ending strokes may change as a forger is more deliberate in their writing.

Acceptable Signatures

It can be difficult to know when a signature variation should or should not lead to rejecting a ballot envelope. The presence of a signature variance does not mean a signature should be rejected. The following examples detail common signature variations that should be accepted.

Age / Other Factors

Voter Record Signature

Theodore Cuyon

Mail Ballot Signature

Theodore Cuyon

Signing With A Nickname

Voter Record Signature

Isabella Jones

Mail Ballot Signature

Bella Jones

Signing With Initials

Voter Record Signature

Terry Jones Woods

Mail Ballot Signature

TJ Woods

Electronic Signature

Voter Record Signature

Michael Green

Mail Ballot Signature

Michael Green

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Mail Ballot Signature



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Speed of Writing

Voter Record Signature



Mail Ballot Signature



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Spacing Between Names

Voter Record Signature



Mail Ballot Signature



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Proportions and Size of Signature

Voter Record Signature



Mail Ballot Signature



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Slant of Writing

Voter Record Signature



Mail Ballot Signature



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Detailed Analysis

Letter Spacing

Voter Record Signature



Mail Ballot Signature



If the spacing between letters is not consistent, it may be a sign the signature should be rejected.

Size of Specific Letters

Voter Record Signature



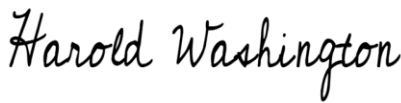
Mail Ballot Signature



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Other Distinguishing Features

Voter Record Signature



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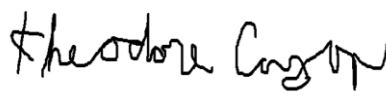
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Age / Other Factors

Voter Record Signature



Mail Ballot Signature



Signing With A Nickname

Voter Record Signature



Mail Ballot Signature

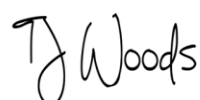


Signing With Initials

Voter Record Signature



Mail Ballot Signature



Electronic Signature

Voter Record Signature



Mail Ballot Signature



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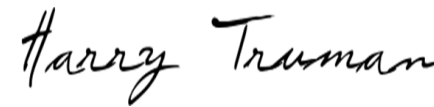
Mail Ballot Signature



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Proportions and Size of Signature

Voter Record Signature



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