



Certification: Statutory Obligations of the County Recorder

[A.R.S. § 19-121.02](#)

A. Within fifteen days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and other legal holidays, after receiving the facsimile signature sheets from the secretary of state pursuant to section 19-121.01, the county recorder shall determine which signatures of individuals whose names were transmitted shall be disqualified for any of the following reasons:

1. No residence address or description of residence location is provided.
2. No date of signing is provided.
3. The signature is illegible and the signer is otherwise unidentifiable.
4. The address provided is illegible or nonexistent.
5. The individual was not a qualified elector on the date of signing the petition.
6. The individual was a registered voter but was not at least eighteen years of age on the date of signing the petition or affidavit.
7. The signature was disqualified after comparison with the signature on the affidavit of registration.
8. If a petitioner signed more than once, all but one otherwise valid signature shall be disqualified.
9. If a petition signer's signature is determined to be invalid after a comparison is made between the signature and handwriting on the petition and the petition signer's voter registration file.
10. If the person circulating the petition was a justice of the peace or a county recorder at the time the person circulated the petition.
11. For the same reasons any signatures or entire petition sheets could have been removed by the secretary of state pursuant to section 19-121.01, subsection A, paragraph 1 or 3

B. Within the same time period provided in subsection A of this section, the county recorder shall certify to the secretary of state the following:

1. The name of any individual whose signature was included in the random sample and disqualified by the county recorder together with the petition page and line number of the disqualified signature.
2. The total number of signatures selected for the random sample and transmitted to the county recorder for verification and the total number of random sample signatures disqualified.

C. The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of the county recorder's certification.

D. At the time of the certification, the county recorder shall:

1. Return the facsimile signature sheets to the secretary of state.



Maricopa County

Office of the Recorder

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2. Send notice of the results of the certification by mail to the person or organization that submitted the initiative or referendum petitions and to the secretary of state.

Petition Signature Verification Observer Guidelines

111 South Third Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85003-2281 | Phone: (602) 506-3535 | Fax: (602) 506-3273
www.recorder.maricopa.gov



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The Maricopa County Recorder is responsible for verifying the eligibility of signatures that are part of the random selection of signatures received by the Arizona Secretary of State ([A.R.S. § 19-121.02](#)). Observer protocols are in place to maintain the integrity of the Recorder's process in an orderly and professional manner. Maricopa County will begin processing on Tuesday, August 22, 2017. Hours of operation will be from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday beginning Tuesday, August 22 through September 11, 2017.

1. Representatives from proponent and opponent committees may designate a person to observe the signature verification process. Two members of the public can also observe with four total observers in the room at a time.
A schedule shall be provided to the County Recorder's Office in advance including the name and time frame for each observer.
2. Observers are required to sign in and out each day.
If an observer leaves MCTEC during their allotted time frame, they will need to sign out and back in upon returning. (i.e., lunch breaks, smoke breaks, etc.).
3. Observers will be assigned lockers, if needed to store their personal items.
No cell phones, cameras or any recording devices are allowed.
4. "Restricted Access" passes will be provided to each observer upon sign in at the MCTEC front counter.
Access will be limited. Observers will not have open access to MCTEC and will need to be escorted to and from the designated room (including restroom breaks).
5. Observers shall not stand closer than 2 feet of a Recorder's staff member.
6. Observers will be required to leave the designated area during the staff's scheduled breaks.
7. Observers are not permitted to ask questions of the staff.
8. Observers may ask questions of the Supervisor on duty.
If the Supervisor is not available, the observer may write down the question or wait for the Supervisor to become available.
9. Photography and recording (both audio and video) are not permissible.
10. Observers who interfere with the signature verification process will be asked to leave and will not be able to return.

By signing below, you agree to follow the protocols set forth by the Maricopa County Recorder.

Observer Name: _____ Observer Signature: _____

Date: _____