



Every Vote Counts Act

Voters can correct a mismatched signature

How it Works

The Every Vote Counts Act (SB 759, authored by Senator McGuire) gives voters the right to be notified and to verify their signature when the signature on their vote-by-mail ballot does not match the signature in their voter registration record.

Previously, when a signature did not match, the voted ballot was not counted because the election official was unable to confirm the identity of the voter. The new law requires election officials to notify a voter of the signature mismatch by sending them a letter and Verification Signature Statement. The voter has the opportunity to verify their identity by signing the Verification Signature Statement and have their ballot counted. Voters must verify their signature by the deadline listed in the letter, which is by 5pm two days before the certification of the election.

The bill was passed in September 2018 and is active in the November 6, 2018, General Election and for all future elections.

What Voters Need to Know

Why did I receive a letter from my election office that my signature does not match?

You received a notice because the signature you signed on your vote-by-mail envelope looked different than the signature in your voter registration record. This may happen if a signature is not recognizable, printed rather than signed, or simply changed over time.

- Read the letter your received carefully and follow the instructions and deadline.
- Take the time to fill out, sign and submit the Verification Signature Statement form sent to you by your election officials. You have several ways to submit your new signature – by mail, email, or in-person at your county election office, vote center or polling place.

What signature is on my voter registration record?

Your voter registration record may hold a few samples of your signature, including the signature you provided when you first registered to vote and the signatures on forms issued by your election official. If you registered to vote online, then it will also include the signature from your state driver's license or identification card.

I don't have the same signature anymore. What do I do?

By signing and submitting the Signature Verification Statement, your election official will have your current signature on file.

Contact your election office if you have questions or need more information.

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices/>

* This is an excerpt from the *2018 Election Reform Primer: What Voters Need to Know*. The full document is available at <http://futureofcaelections.org/electionprimer2018/>.