# **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.

step 1

General **Analysis** 

# Type of Writing

Thomas Jefferson

voter record signature

Thomas Jefferson

mail ballot signature

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

# **Speed of Writing**

Gerald Ford

voter record signature

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**

Franklin & Rogerelf

voter record signature

Fundin Do Rogerelf mail ballot signature

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

# **Proportion + Size of Signature**

Harry Truman

voter record signature

Harry ruman mail ballot signature

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 Names**

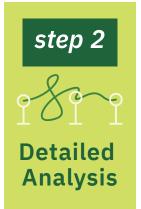
Another easy difference to notice. If the slant of writing is different, it is a sign the signature should be rejected for further review.

# **Incorrect Spelling**

John Kennedy

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





#### **Letter Spacing**



voter record signature

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

#### **Other Distinguishing Features**

Harold Washington voter record signature

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

#### **Size of Specific Letters**



mail ballot signature

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

#### **Pen Lifts**

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

#### **Crossbars and Loops**

Harold Washington voter record signature 1

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 for further review. 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

Theodore Caryon voter record signature

mail ballot signature

theodore Copy

Isabella Jones

voter record signature

mail ballot signature

### Signing with Initials

voter record signature

mail ballot signature

# Electronic Signature

Signing with a Nickname

Richael Green voter record signature

Michael Green