

SIGNATURES FROM VOTERS IN GROUP RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

Close attention should be paid to pen strokes found on return envelopes from voters living in group residential facilities. The signatures of these voters are at a higher risk of deteriorating over time, and may look less and less like the comparison signature found in SCORE. With this risk in mind, the following precautions should be taken when reviewing signatures from these voters.

1. **Look for a pattern of deterioration in the voter's signature history.** You may do this for any signature that you review, but for those signatures from voters in group residential facilities, taking this extra step can be even more beneficial. If the signatures you review in SCORE reveal a pattern of deterioration, then this fact may reasonably explain the difference between the ballot's signature and the signature found in SCORE.
2. **Make sure the signature you are reviewing is actually a signature and not a mark.** Because these voters' signatures may deteriorate over time, it may be that the voter has chosen to make a mark instead of signing their ballot. Remember, if you determine that the voter made a mark and that the mark has been witnessed, you should accept the signature as valid.
3. **Be mindful of the voter's situation when reviewing signatures from group residential facility voters.** Remember that if, after going through normal signature analysis, the differences between two signatures can be reasonably explained, you should accept a voter's signature as valid.