What Is Signature Verification?
Why Your Signature Matters

WHAT IS SIGNATURE VERIFICATION?

Signature verification is the process used by election officials to confirm that the signature on your ballot return envelope matches the signature on file from your voter registration. This process is **required by Washington State law** and is completed for **every ballot returned**.

WHY YOUR SIGNATURE MATTERS

Your signature helps protect your vote and ensures fair, secure elections.

When you vote by mail, your signature is one of the most important tools used to confirm that your ballot was returned by you, the registered voter.

Signature verification helps:
• Prevent fraud and misuse of ballots
• Ensure equal treatment of all voters
• Maintain trust in election results

> **YOUR VOTE IS PRIVATE**
>
> Your signature is used only to verify your identity.
> *How you vote remains secret.*

HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

1. You sign your ballot return envelope
2. Election staff compare your signature to the one on file
3. If it matches, your ballot moves forward for counting or if there is a question, you are contacted and given a chance to fix it

IF THERE IS A SIGNATURE ISSUE

If your signature is missing or does not closely match:

• Election officials will contact you by mail, email or phone
• You will receive instructions to **cure** (fix) your signature
• Responding by the deadline allows your ballot to be counted

No ballot is rejected without notifying the voter and providing an opportunity to respond.

TIPS TO MAKE SURE YOUR BALLOT IS COUNTED

• Always sign your ballot return envelope
• Sign as you did when registering to vote OR how you signed on your driver's license
• Update your voter registration if your signature has changed

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QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP?

Visit your county elections website: https://www.co.wahkiakum.wa.us/419/Elections

Call or email for voter assistance: elections@co.wahkiakum.wa.us or (360) 795-3219