Requisites for Petition Signatures

- Only persons who are registered, qualified voters at the time of signing are entitled to sign the petition.
- A person can only sign a petition that is being circulated in his or her county of registration.
- If a petition circulator is a registered voter, he or she may sign the petition he or she is circulating. (Elections Code §§ 106, 9020, 9021.)
- Each signer must personally place on the petition his or her signature, printed name, residence address (or physical description of the location if there is no street address), and the name of the incorporated city or unincorporated community. (Elections Code § 100.)
- None of the above may be preprinted on the petition. Each signer may sign an initiative petition only once. (Elections Code § 18612.)

Ensure Signatures on Petitions are Verifiable

- o Declaration on EACH petition MUST be properly filled out in order to be VALID
- o See SAMPLES below

- o Each petition is County specific. All signatories MUST be registered in the county designated on the petition.

- o Voter MUST be registered to vote at the time of signing

TOP REASONS FOR REJECTING SIGNATURES

1. **Not Registered**. This has two categories: Not Registered, where there is just no record for the signer; and Not Registered Inactive/Canceled, where the voter was registered but moved and failed to reregister before signing the petition.

2. **Address mismatch**. The voter's record does not match that on the petition for the time period on the circulator's declaration.

3. **Signature mismatch**.

4. **Duplicate signature**. The voter signed the petition more than once.

5. **Name change**. The voter changed her name between the time she registered and signed the petition. This is usually a result of marriage but sometimes divorce.

6. **Mailing address**. The Elections Code requires voters to use their residence address on the petition, not a mailing address because that cannot be used to confirm where a person lives. Many Humboldt residents, for example, have rural addresses without a street number and commonly use a post office box for everything. However, people do not reside in PO boxes.

7. **Wrong district**. The signer does not live in the county.

SAMPLE SHORT SCRIPT when asking someone to sign the CHHA 2020

1. **First Question**:
   a. *"Would you like to sign a petition to Save California's multibillion-dollar Cannabis industry and its Compassionate Cannabis Use programs from destruction under 2016's AUMA?"*
   b. *"Would you like to restore fair and reasonable legislation in 2020 with the California Hemp Heritage Act 2020?"*
2. **Second Question**:
   a. *"Are you currently registered to vote?"*
      i. If they are registered to vote, ask:
         1. *"Do you currently live/reside at the place where you are registered to vote?"*
            a. *"Yes"* → *"Please sign the petition & make sure the address you provide matches where you are currently registered to vote."* (provide them with the appropriate County petition form)
      ii. "No" → *"Would you update your registration via this Voter Registration Card or online directly with the Secretary of State so you can sign the petition?"*
            a. *"Yes"* (Once you have ensured they registered or re-registered to vote, they may sign the petition)