

**DE 90-29 - June 25, 1990**

## **Verification of Signatures on Petitions**

*To: Honorable Jackie Winchester, Supervisor of Elections, Palm Beach County, 301 North Olive Avenue, Room 105, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401-4795*

*Prepared by: Division of Elections*

This is in reference to your request for an advisory opinion. You are the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections, and the Division of Elections has authority under Section 106.23(2), Florida Statutes, to issue advisory opinions relating to the Florida Elections Code, Chapters 97-106, Florida Statutes, to certain categories of persons including supervisors of elections. Therefore, the Division has authority to issue this opinion to you.

Your specific question is:

When a supervisor of elections verifies signatures on a petition for a candidate to obtain ballot position by the petition method and the candidate is running in a single member district, should the signature be verified when an elector's address on the petition is different from the address on the voter registration books, and the address for the elector in the voter registration books is not in the candidate's district, but the address on the petition is in the candidate's district?

In Division of Elections Opinion 87-16, the Division indicated "the supervisor may not verify the name of an elector when the address on the petition is different than the address on the registration books and when the address on the petition is in a different precinct and would change the eligibility of the elector's signature to be counted on the petition."

If the supervisor has no reason to believe that the elector's address on the petition is not the elector's correct address, this address should be regarded as the correct and current address of the elector and if the address on the petition is in the correct single member district, the elector's signature should be verified for the petition.

### **SUMMARY**

When a supervisor of elections verifies signatures on a petition for a candidate to obtain ballot position by the petition method and the candidate is running in a single member district, the elector's signature should be verified even though an elector's address on the petition is different from the address on the voter registration books. If the address for the elector in the voter registration books is not in the candidate's district, but the address on the petition is in the candidate's district, it should still be verified unless the supervisor of elections has reason to believe that the elector's address on the petition is not the elector's correct address.