

LEGISLATIVE
RESEARCH &
GENERAL COUNSEL



Electronic Signature Gathering

Kirsi Jarvis, Policy Analyst

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel
(OLRGC)

August 8, 2025

Agenda

Overview of UT Code

- Petition Types
- Requirements
- Changes in Code

Comparison with Other States

Examples from New Mexico and Denver

Questions

Petition Types

Electronic signature gathering is allowed for:

- 1. Initiatives (statewide and local);**
- 2. Referendums (statewide and local); and**
- 3. Candidate nominations (statewide and local)**



Requirements

Requirements (for all petition types):

- Signature-gatherer must use **a device** (i.e., a tablet) provided by the signature-gatherer or sponsor and is **approved by the Lt. Governor**
 - Does not store any information locally; requires use of Wi-Fi
- **Use of website or app designated by the Office of the Lt. Governor**
 - Information not stored locally on device; requires use of Wi-Fi
- Signature-gatherer presents the approved device to individual signing and **while in the physical presence of the individual**- wait for individual to reach each screen and advance
- Use of **driver's license or state ID card** to verify voter registration

Signature removal allowed



Changes in Code

GS2023- Electronic signature gathering and verification enacted in code; sponsors of petitions can use manual or electronic

GS2025- HB 300 passed and allows sponsors of petitions to **use manual, electronic, or both**

2023

2025



How UT Compares with Other States

UT is the **only state to allow for electronic signature gathering for all three petition types:** initiatives, referendums, and candidate nominations

Arizona and New Mexico currently have online petition platforms for candidate nominations

Denver and Washington, D.C. previously used an e-petition app

New Mexico

Online Petition Portal for
Candidate Nominations

In-use for two years

Voters can only sign if an
active registrant; linked
directly to the voter
registration database

Voter selects one of five
standard signatures

Signatures are not verified



Denver

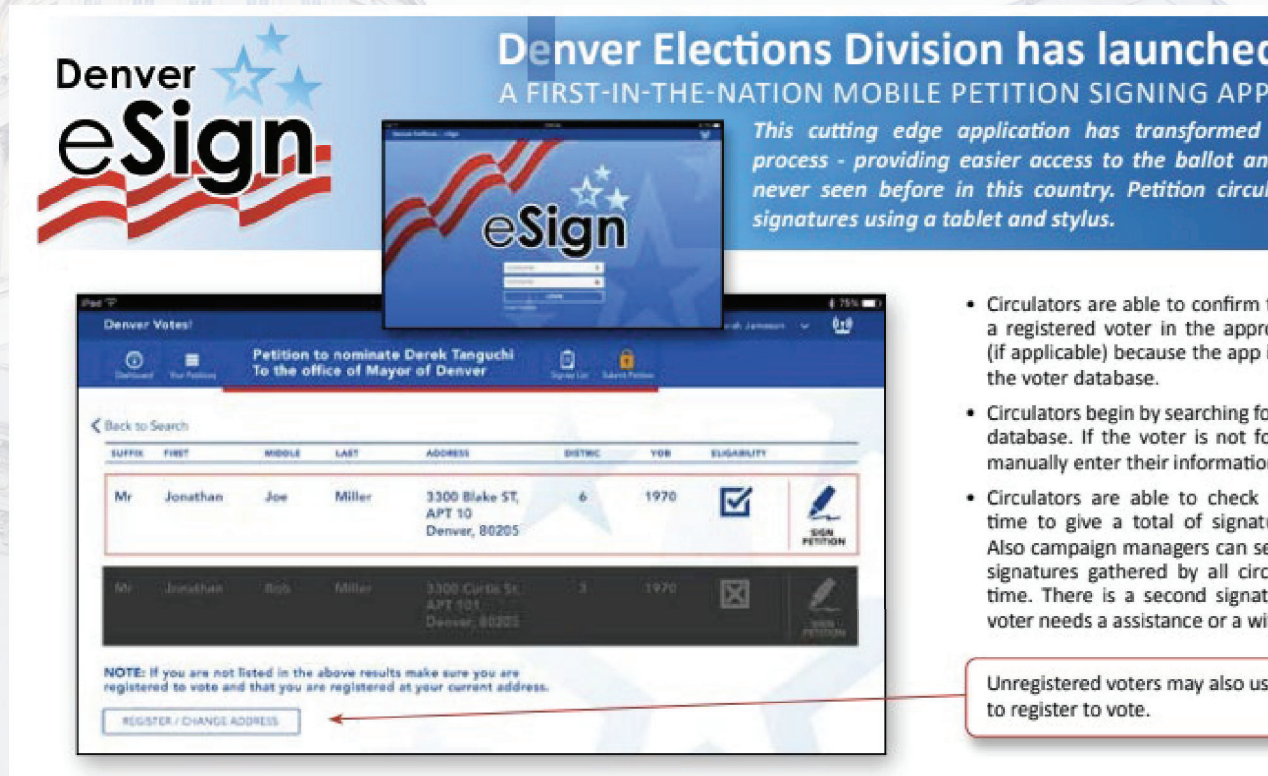
Developed own IOS app in 2014;
used for three years

Provided iPads for circulators to use;
required trainings

Included accessibility features (voice-
over and color)

Manually uploaded voter registration
lists daily- voters found themselves
with name, DOB, and address; signed
with stylus

Electronic signatures verified;
rejection rate much lower



Denver Elections Division has launched
A FIRST-IN-THE-NATION MOBILE PETITION SIGNING APP

This cutting edge application has transformed the process - providing easier access to the ballot and never seen before in this country. Petition circulators can now gather signatures using a tablet and stylus.

Denver eSign

Denver Votes!
Petition to nominate Derek Tanguchi
To the office of Mayor of Denver

SUFFIX	FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST	ADDRESS	DISTRICT	YOB	ELIGIBILITY
Mr	Jonathan	Joe	Miller	3300 Blake ST, APT 10 Denver, 80205	6	1970	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr	Jonathan	Bob	Miller	3300 Curtis St, APT 101 Denver, 80205	3	1970	<input type="checkbox"/>

NOTE: If you are not listed in the above results make sure you are registered to vote and that you are registered at your current address.

[REGISTER / CHANGE ADDRESS](#)

- Circulators are able to confirm if a registered voter in the appropriate district (if applicable) because the app has access to the voter database.
- Circulators begin by searching for a voter in the database. If the voter is not found, they can manually enter their information.
- Circulators are able to check the number of signatures gathered by all circulators in real time. There is a second signature gathering screen if a voter needs assistance or a witness.

Unregistered voters may also use the app to register to vote.



Additional Questions and Information

Contact OLRGC staff:

- Kirsi Jarvis, Policy Analyst
- Megan Bolin, Senior Policy Analyst
- Michael Cipriano, Associate General Counsel
- Thomas Vaughn, Managing Associate General Counsel