

Electronic Signature Gathering

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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)**

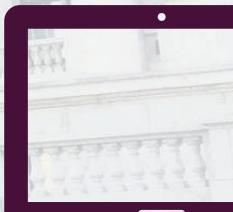


Requirements

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



The screenshot shows the homepage of the New Mexico Secretary of State's website. At the top, there is a large image of the New Mexico State Capitol building. Below the image, the seal of the State of New Mexico is displayed, followed by the text "New Mexico Secretary of State" and "Maggie Toulouse Oliver". To the right, there are links for "Elections@sos.nm.gov", "1-505-827-3600", and social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. The top navigation bar includes links for "Home", "About Us", "Candidate List", and a language selector for "English". The main content area features a large image of a sunset over a landscape. Overlaid on this image is a dark box containing the text: "Candidate Nominating Petitions - Offline Until 2026 Election Cycle" and "The online petition signature portal will reopen in time to collect signatures for 2026 June Primary Election candidates." Below this text are two teal-colored buttons: "Voters - disabled" and "Candidates - disabled".

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



- Circulators are able to confirm a registered voter in the app (if applicable) because the app has access to the voter database.
- Circulators begin by searching for the voter in the app's database. If the voter is not found, they can manually enter their information.
- Circulators are able to check the voter's registration time to give a total of signatures. Also campaign managers can see the total number of signatures gathered by all circulators in real time. There is a second signature verification step if the voter needs assistance or a witness.

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

Additional Questions and Information

Contact OLRGC staff:

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