

**FW: Opinion: Remote Signing of Voter Registration Applications**

Degraffenreid, Veronica

**To:** Bartlett, Gary; McLean, Johnnie;**Cc:** Wright, Don; Burris, Marc; Susan Nichols;**Bcc:****Attachment:** [Inquiry E-signature 2 .pdf](#)

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Spoke with Michael of Allpoint Voter Services this morning. This process has been approved in writing from several other states: Nevada, Washington State, Oregon, Minnesota, Illinois and Massachusetts. A few other states gave verbal agreement and a few neither affirmed or rejected the process. No state rejected the process outright. 15 states in total reviewed this process.

Right now only the Obama Campaign and Rock the Vote are using this process. Allpoint is in discussion with other groups (maybe Republican party??), but they cannot announce their participation right now.

Allpoint is based out of Oakland, CA. There are two "pens." One is in Nevada and the other one in California.

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**From:** Degraffenreid, Veronica**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2012 11:23 AM**To:** SBOE\_Grp - Directors.BOE**Cc:** SEIMS.ADD.BOE**Subject:** Opinion: Remote Signing of Voter Registration Applications

The opinion expressed in this email was reviewed by SBOE and AG counsel, as well as senior management of the State Board of Elections.

Recently, county boards of elections in North Carolina began receiving mailed voter registration forms from Allpoint Voter Services. Please note that these forms were signed by a voter registration applicant using a remote pen that is controlled by the user on an Apple or Android device. The person will sign the touch screen on the device and the person's finger or stylus movements then controls a remote pen that applies an actual "wet" signature directly onto the national voter registration application. The signed voter registration application is then mailed directly to the appropriate county board of elections.

Please note that although the applicant is using a web-based tool or application to complete a voter registration form, this process is not online voter registration or accepting an electronic signature. Online voter registration involves a web user entering their voter registration information into a web application and then having that data uploaded or transmitted into our state's statewide voter registration database system. With online voter registration, the applicant does not have to sign a paper application and a paper application with a penned signature is never delivered to the election official.

Persons using this remote signing process have the option of printing their voter registration application themselves, for signing and personal delivery to their county board of elections, or they can sign (pen to paper) a voter registration form *remotely* using a touch screen device and have their signed form delivered to their appropriate election official by a third party. Essentially, this is a web-based voter registration drive. State and federal law permit groups or organizations to offer voter registration forms to individuals and these groups or organizations can then accept the forms and deliver them to election officials by the voter registration deadline.

Our attorneys have researched this matter and agree that the use of a printed voter registration form that is signed remotely by the applicant and is subsequently delivered to a board of elections by non-electronic means is permissible. These forms should be accepted as valid voter registration forms. For the applications that you

receive from Allpoint Voter Services, there is a "wet" signature on the application that was generated using a pen that is remotely controlled by the voter registration applicant. As an election official, you should continue to carefully review all voter registration applications, regardless of source. You must ensure that all required fields are completed on these forms. As you know, when voter registration applications are processed, the applicant's ID information will be validated through the DMV, and if ID information is not provided or does not validate, the applicant will need to show ID the first time he or she presents to vote.