



## Frequently Asked Questions for Supervisors of Election Emergency Rule 1SER 20-2 Candidate Qualifying by Petition

**Question:** What does the emergency rule do?

**Answer:** The emergency rule dispenses with the requirement that voters' signatures be original, ink signatures to be verified as valid.

**Question:** When is the emergency rule effective?

**Answer:** Friday, April 2, 2020 through Wednesday, July 1, 2020. If extended, you will receive notice.

**Question:** What methods of submission of signed petitions are allowed?

**Answer:** The same methods allowed before the emergency rule are still allowed. Signed petitions may be submitted by mail or hand-delivery. If your office is closed to the public, consider using a secure drop box for hand delivered petitions. The emergency rule does not prohibit you from also accepting signed petitions via email as an attachment (*e.g.* .pdf, .jpeg, etc) or any other method that will allow you to verify the required information in the required format. You should communicate all methods of submission you will accept, along with pertinent information like the designated email address, and attachment and batching preferences.

**Question:** Can I accept petitions directly from voters, or from others on behalf of a candidate, or must I only accept submissions directly from candidates?

**Answer:** Yes. Neither the statute nor the emergency rule restricts you to accepting signed petitions only from a candidate. It is however, the candidate's responsibility to ensure their signed petitions are submitted to the correct supervisor and to pay the supervisor before verification (unless an undue burden oath is on file).

**Question:** Can I verify as valid signatures that are copies, or were affixed using digital technology like DocuSign, Adobe Pro, etc.?

**Answer:** Yes. The voter's signature can be an original, ink signature, or an image of the signature. There is no restriction on how the signature must be applied. But remember, the signature must match the one you have on file. The rest of the rule remains unchanged in that "[i]f all other requirements for the petition are met," and "after comparing the signature on the petition and the signature of the registered voter in the voter registration system" you can "determine that the petition signer is the same as the registered voter..." then it should be verified as valid. *See* 1SER20-2(5)(g).

**Question:** What is the required size and format for petitions?

**Answer:** The size and format requirements have not changed. *See* 1SER20-2(3) (Format of Petition). The appropriate form must be used (DS-DE 104, 18A, or 18B) and "be reproduced for use by candidates in their exact wording and formats without any changes in their text or formats, except the forms may be reduced or enlarged proportionally in size as a whole document." *Id.* at (3)(b). A submitted petition must be in the required format without any change to the template. *Id.* The forms "may not be less than 3 inches by 5 inches or no larger than 8 ½ inches by 11 inches" and must be submitted separately. *Id.* If these and the other requirements are met, and the signature matches the one on file, then the petition should be verified as valid.