

The statute addressed in this opinion has changed. Please consult current Florida law.

DE 88-26 - June 21, 1988

**Obtaining Lists of Registered Voters
Section 98.211, F.S.**

To: Honorable Shirley P. Baccus, Supervisor of Elections, Brevard County, 400 South Street, Titusville, Florida 32780

Prepared by: Division of Elections

This is in reference to your request for an advisory opinion. Under Section 106.23(2), Florida Statutes, the Division of Elections has authority to issue advisory opinions relating to the Florida Election Code, Chapter 97-106, Florida Statutes, to several categories of persons, including supervisors of elections.

Your specific question is:

Who is allowed to sign the Oath for Acquisition for List of Registered Voters when a list is purchased by a candidate on the national or state level?

While the registration books are public records, there are limitations on who may receive copies of lists of registered voters from the supervisors of elections or who may make extracts from those records. Section 98.211(1)(a), Fla. Stat., as amended by Ch. 87-538, Laws of Fla. Included among the persons who may receive copies or make extracts are candidates. Section 98.211 (2)(d), Fla. Stat., as amended by Chapter 87-538, Laws of Fla. However, any person receiving a list of registered voters must sign an oath that such list will not be used for commercial purposes and will be used only for "elections, political or governmental activities, voter registration, law enforcement, or jury selection." Section 98.211(3), Fla. Stat., as amended by Chapter 87-538, Laws of Fla.

When a national or statewide candidate purchases a voter registration list, it is usually impossible or very difficult to obtain the candidate's signature on the oath. Your question is who may sign the oath for the candidate in such a situation.

The official representative of national or state candidates may sign the oath as an agent of the candidate for acquisition of lists of registered voters. The official representative of a national candidate is the state coordinator. The official representative for a state candidate is the campaign manager.

SUMMARY

National and state candidates may have their official representatives sign the oath for acquisition of lists of registered voters. The official representative of a national candidate is the state coordinator. The official representative for a state candidate is the campaign manager.