

# Volunteer Deputy Registrar FAQs

---

- Can a campaign worker or candidate be a VDR?
  - *Yes. There is no prohibition against candidates or campaign workers serving as VDRs.*
- Can a VDR register people at rallies or campaign events?
  - *Yes. However, we recommend that VDRs offer applications to all persons that request an application. Remember a VDR may only accept applications they are legally allowed to accept (meets the qualifications-in-county, etc.).*
- Can a VDR associated with a candidate/campaign wear a t-shirt, buttons, or other political paraphernalia while serving as a VDR?
  - *Yes. However, certain venues (e.g., schools) may have rules about political materials on campus. Also, we recommend that anyone that requests a registration application should be provided with one, and the VDR should accept only those applications they are allowed to accept.*
- Can a VDR certified in County A register voters from County B?
  - *No, unless they are also appointed as a VDR in that county. VDR appointments must be made on a county-by-county basis.*
    - *Note: Under Section 13.044 of the Texas Election Code, a person commits a Class C misdemeanor by acting as a volunteer deputy registrar when he or she does not have an effective appointment as a deputy registrar.*
- If a VDR for County A accepts an application for a voter in County B, can the VDR turn the application in to County B?
  - *No. The VDR should turn the application in to County A, and County A should forward it to County B.*

- **If a VDR for County A accepts an application for a voter in County B, what should the Voter Registrar do?**
  - *The voter registrar should forward the application to the correct county under 13.072(d) of the Texas Election Code. The Voter Registrar should also strongly encourage the VDR to be deputized in additional counties if they expect to be in a position to receive applications from voters in other counties.*
  
- **Can there be a “statewide” volunteer deputy registrar?**
  - *No. Volunteer deputy registrar appointments are made on a county-by-county basis.*
  
- **May VDRs appoint others to assist them in registering voters?**
  - *No. Each volunteer deputy registrar must be appointed directly by the county voter registrar or that registrar’s deputy in the voter registrar’s office.*
  
- **Does a person have to re-take the SOS training in every county in which they wish to serve as a VDR?**
  - *No. The VDR may present their certification to additional counties, and ask for certification. However, if a county has additional requirements, those will need to be met before a certificate of appointment is issued.*
  
- **Do you have to be a VDR to hand out blank voter registration application forms and encourage people to register to vote?**
  - *No. Anyone can hand out blank application forms to voters as long as they do not accept completed applications. In this case, the voter should complete and mail to their county Voter Registrar.*
  
- **Can a person get paid to act as a VDR?**
  - *Yes, but it is a Class A misdemeanor if:*
    1. *A person compensates another person based on the number of applications,*
    2. *a person presents a quota as a condition of payment, or*

3. engages in a practice that causes another person's compensation from or employment status with the person to be dependent on the number of applications,
  4. accepts compensation under 1, 2 or 3.
- Can a VDR accept an application from a person that is already registered, and wants to update their information?
    - *Yes. We recommend that VDRs ask the voter if they have moved or need to update their information. The voter will need to check the "change" box on the VR application. If the person has moved to a new county, he or she will need to register in the new county.*
  - If the VDR realizes that the voter did not complete the application after the voter is no longer present, can the VDR contact the voter?
    - *No. The VDR should turn in the application, and the Voter Registrar should send a Notice of Incomplete, if possible. All applications should be reviewed by the VDR while the voter is still present.*
  - What if the county listed on the application is not the county in which the VDR is deputized? Should the VDR refuse to accept that application?
    - *Yes. The VDR should carefully review applications before accepting them. VDRs can only accept applications for a county that they are deputized in.*
  - Can a VDR photocopy a person's registration application?
    - *No. Per 13.004 of the Texas Election Code, some information on the application is confidential.*
  - Can a VDR photocopy the receipt/stub?
    - *Yes.*
  - Can a VDR copy relevant information, in writing, from the application?
    - *Yes, but just the public information, i.e. name, address (unless the voter has applied to the confidentiality program).*

- **Can the VDR input public information into a database?**
  - *Yes. However, we believe that the limitation in 18.066 applies- a person may not use the material in connection with advertising or promoting commercial products or services.*
  
- **May a volunteer deputy registrar bundle completed applications and submit them to the voter registrar by mail?**
  - *No. There are two methods for a VDR to submit applications to the county voter registrar. First, the applications may be submitted by personal delivery by the VDR. Second, the VDR may give his or her applications to another VDR for personal delivery to the county voter registrar. Only a VDR can submit complete applications.*
  
- **How often does a VDR need to do training?**
  - *Certificates of appointment expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of even-numbered years. VDRs will need to be reappointed after that time by completing the training.*
  
- **What are the grounds for terminating a VDRs appointment?**
  - *Under 13.036 of the Texas Election Code, a VDRs appointment may be terminated:*
    1. **at the expiration of a VDRs term.**
    2. **after final conviction for an offense for receiving improper compensation or failing to deliver applications.**
    3. **after a determination that a VDR failed to properly review an application for completeness.**
    4. **after a determination that a VDR intentionally destroyed or physically altered a registration application.**
    5. **if the VDR engaged in any other activity that conflicts with the responsibilities of a VDR.**