RULE 12. Digital Petition Application – Pilot system for the circulation and submission of certain digital petitions. (Adopted 1/08/15)

12.1 Purpose and Application of Rule. This rule provides a framework for those persons seeking to submit municipal petitions of nomination of candidates, initiatives, referendum, or recall to circulate and submit digital versions of petitions, previously approved as to form by the clerk and recorder, through an internet based system for tablets. The digital petition application is intended to provide an alternative circulation choice, increased accessibility to the ballot, enhanced voter accessibility options, and improved voter validation. The clerk and recorder will establish an alternative, “opt-in” method that allows the collection of digital signatures of registered electors and submit completed petitions for determination of sufficiency. The digital petition application is an electronic version of the hardcopy paper petition.

12.1.1 Description. The digital petition application will:

A. Maintain compliance with applicable provisions in the Denver Charter, Revised Municipal Code, and state statutes concerning the circulation and determination of sufficiency of petitions for petitions of nomination of municipal candidates, initiatives, referendum, and recall;

B. Serve as alternative method for the collection of signatures from registered electors for petitions of nomination of candidates, initiatives, referendum, and recall and will not supplant existing method of collecting signatures with hardcopy petitions;

C. Apply only to the collection of signatures for petitions approved as to form by the Clerk and Recorder pursuant to Rule 4 (Candidate Petitions), Rule 5 (Initiated Ordinance Petitions), Rule 6 (Referendum Petitions), or Rule 7 (Recall Petitions);

D. Maintain applicable provisions in the Denver Charter, Revised Municipal Code, and state statutes protecting against fraud and mistake in the circulation and submission of petitions;

E. Preserve the integrity and security of the signature gathering process to ensure that petitions are circulated in person and signed only by registered electors of the City and County of Denver, and for candidate petitions, electors registered within the candidate’s district, if applicable, at the time the petition was signed;

F. Provide protection against tampering, fraudulent use, and illegal manipulation of approved petitions by secure access to the digital petition application with an authorization code provided by the clerk and recorder;

G. Capture only digitized, manual signatures, as set forth in Rule 12.1.1.G.i below, utilizing a stylus or other specialized marking device.
i. For purposes of these rules, a digitized, manual signature means a graphical image created by the elector in affixing his or her handwritten signature to the digital petition.

ii. Except as permitted in Rule 12.1.1.G. no other form of digital or electronic signatures will be allowed on or in the digital petition application.

H. Transmit all information contained in the digital petition application over a secure network.

12.2 Additional Procedures. The clerk and recorder has authority to adopt and implement additional procedures as necessary to implement this rule including without limitation requirements for submission of user security agreements.