

North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State

NEWS

April 24, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact: George Jeter (919) 807-2155

Liz Proctor (919) 807-2154

**Elaine F. Marshall
Secretary of State**

Secretary of State Begins Accepting Electronically Notarized Lobbying Filings

RALEIGH, NC. – Lobbyists in North Carolina and the organizations that hire them no longer have to burn shoe leather or lick stamps to make their legally required filing deadlines.

This month, the North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State began accepting electronically notarized quarterly filings from lobbyists and their employers, called principals.

The Department's allowing of this form of filing means that lobbyists and principals can also submit their reports electronically without having to make special trips to the Secretary of State's Office or trust that they have mailed their paperwork in time.

"This is a win-win advancement for both the people and businesses of North Carolina," Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall said Friday. "The regulated community can now save themselves time and stress, and just as importantly, everyone who wants to read through these quarterly spending reports can now also get access to that information more quickly and efficiently."

The Department had previously allowed some filings to be made electronically, but quarterly spending reports must carry a notary public seal on them, and until now, that has meant they needed to be submitted on paper.

Secretary Marshall has been an advocate for government to use electronic notarizations where possible to save costs and to help businesses meet their governmental requirements more efficiently. Notaries must complete special coursework approved by the Secretary of State before they can use an electronic seal.

"We have wanted to move this reporting requirement into the modern age for some time," Secretary Marshall said. "But it just took a lot of hard work by the vendors who provide electronic notarization services to get the lobbying documents transferred into an acceptable, secure electronic format."

2-2-2

Secretary Marshall thanked the two vendors who now offer this service to the lobbying community, [World Wide Notary](#) and [Electronic Document Logistics](#), for their work to make it happen. She said she hopes other electronic notarization companies will soon look to add the service as well.

Participants in sending their electronically notarized reports included the law firms Rose, Rand and Wallace; Poyner and Spruill; Nelson Mullins; Parker, Poe, Adams and Bernstein; and Jordan Price Wall Gray Jones and Carlton. Also participating were First Citizens Bank and Catawba County government.

-30-

