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(S.D.)-Ballot Spot In Jeopardy For State Lawmaker



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 09/19/2012 10:50 AM

Photo: South Dakota Representative Brian Gosch

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - A judge has ordered South Dakota Secretary of State Jason Gant to justify why a state lawmaker from Rapid City should stay on the November ballot.

Rep. Brian Gosch notarized some of his own nominating petitions he submitted in January to qualify for the ballot. He is running for a third full term in the House from District 32 in Rapid City. Gosch is a notary public and has said he only notarized the signature of another person who circulated petitions.

Rapid City businesswoman Stephanie Strong has sued to get Gosch off the ballot. Gant says the lawsuit is being reviewed by the state attorney general's office.

Judge Robert Mandel has told Gant to appear in court Oct. 3 on the matter.