

**Candidate Petition Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Lisa Shepherd**

Senate Sponsor:

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**LONG TITLE****Committee Note:**

The Government Operations Interim Committee recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 6 voting for 5 voting against 6 absent

**General Description:**

This bill amends provisions related to candidate nomination petitions.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- requires a candidate who seeks the nomination for an elective office by gathering signatures of registered voters to submit the signatures to the county clerk of each registered voter's residence;
- provides that a county clerk may only certify the signature of a registered voter described above if the registered voter is a resident of the county clerk's county;
- for a signature gathering candidate who seeks the nomination for an office in a district where the officeholder is elected by the voters from more than one county, requires the county clerk of each county to which the candidate submits signatures to:
  - count the number of valid signatures submitted by the candidate; and
  - certify the number of valid signatures to the lieutenant governor;
- for an elective office described above, requires the lieutenant governor to:
  - count the total number of valid signatures received from each county clerk; and
  - if the aggregate number of valid signatures is sufficient for the candidate to qualify for placement on the ballot, certify the signatures;
- amends the candidate nomination petition forms to specify that only a registered voter residing in the county where a candidate submits signatures for verification should sign the candidate's nomination petition;
- for a candidate for elective office seeking the nomination of a qualified political party through signature-gathering, shortens the deadline for the candidate to submit signatures to an election official from 14 to 21 days before the day on which the party holds a

31 convention to nominate a candidate for the same elective office; and  
 32     ▸ makes technical and conforming changes.

33 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

34     None

35 **Other Special Clauses:**

36     This bill provides a special effective date.

37 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

38 AMENDS:

39     **20A-1-501**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 16

40     **20A-1-1002**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 116

41     **20A-3a-106**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 381, 448

42     **20A-6-301**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 39

43     **20A-6-302**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 39, 448

44     **20A-6-304**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 136

45     **20A-9-403**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 39, 448

46     **20A-9-405**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 38

47     **20A-9-406**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 13

48     **20A-9-408**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 38, 448

49     **20A-9-502**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

50     **20A-9-701**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 296

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52 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

53     Section 1. Section **20A-1-501** is amended to read:

54     **20A-1-501 . Candidate vacancies -- Procedure for filling.**

55     (1) As used in this section, "central committee" means:

56     (a) the state central committee of a political party, for a candidate for:

57         (i) United States senator, United States representative, governor, lieutenant governor,  
 58             attorney general, state treasurer, or state auditor; or

59         (ii) state legislator if the legislative district encompasses all or a portion of more than  
 60             one county; or

61     (b) the county central committee of a political party, for a party candidate seeking an  
 62         office, other than an office described in Subsection (1)(a), elected at an election held  
 63         in an even-numbered year.

64     (2) Except as provided in Subsection (6), the central committee may certify the name of

- 65 another candidate to the appropriate election officer if:
- 66 (a) for a registered political party that will have a candidate on a ballot in a primary  
67 election:
- 68 (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing  
69 through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor provides the list  
70 described in Subsection [~~20A-9-403(4)(a)~~] 20A-9-403(9)(a), only one or two  
71 candidates from that party have filed a declaration of candidacy for that office and  
72 one or both dies, resigns as a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and
- 73 (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate  
74 to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor  
75 provides the list described in Subsection [~~20A-9-403(4)(a)~~] 20A-9-403(9)(a);
- 76 (b) for a registered political party that does not have a candidate on the ballot in a  
77 primary, but will have a candidate on the ballot for a regular general election:
- 78 (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing  
79 through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor makes the  
80 certification described in Section 20A-5-409, the party's candidate dies, resigns as  
81 a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and
- 82 (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate  
83 to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor  
84 makes the certification described in Section 20A-5-409; or
- 85 (c) for a registered political party with a candidate certified as winning a primary  
86 election:
- 87 (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing  
88 through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor makes the  
89 certification described in Section 20A-5-409, the party's candidate dies, resigns as  
90 a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and
- 91 (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate  
92 to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor  
93 makes the certification described in Section 20A-5-409.
- 94 (3) If no more than two candidates from a political party have filed a declaration of  
95 candidacy for an office elected at a regular general election and one resigns to become  
96 the party candidate for another position, the central committee of that political party may  
97 certify the name of another candidate to the appropriate election officer.
- 98 (4) Each replacement candidate shall file a declaration of candidacy as required by Chapter

99 9, Part 2, Candidate Qualifications and Declarations of Candidacy.

100 (5)(a) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(a) after the  
101 deadline described in Subsection (2)(a)(ii) may not appear on the primary election  
102 ballot.

103 (b) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(b) after the deadline  
104 described in Subsection (2)(b)(ii) may not appear on the general election ballot.

105 (c) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(c) after the deadline  
106 described in Subsection (2)(c)(ii) may not appear on the general election ballot.

107 (6) A political party may not replace a candidate who is disqualified for failure to timely  
108 file a campaign disclosure financial report under Chapter 11, Campaign and Financial  
109 Reporting Requirements, or Section 17-70-403.

110 (7) This section does not apply to a candidate vacancy for a nonpartisan office.

111 Section 2. Section **20A-1-1002** is amended to read:

112 **20A-1-1002 . Verification of voter registration.**

113 (1) A clerk shall use the ~~[following]~~ procedures described in this section to determine  
114 whether a signer of a petition is a registered voter and to determine the address where  
115 the voter is registered to vote[?].

116 ~~[(a)]~~ (2) Except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-403(4)(b)(i), 20A-9-408(9)(d)(ii)(A), or  
117 20A-9-502(6)(a):

118 (a) if a signer's name and address provided by the individual with the individual's  
119 petition signature exactly match a name and address shown on the official register  
120 and the signer's signature appears substantially similar to the signature on the  
121 statewide voter registration database, the clerk shall declare the signature valid for the  
122 district or jurisdiction in which the signer is registered to vote;

123 (b) if there is no exact match of an address and a name, the clerk shall declare the  
124 signature valid for the district or jurisdiction in which the signer is registered to vote,  
125 if:

126 (i) the address provided by the individual with the individual's petition signature  
127 matches the address of an individual on the official register with a substantially  
128 similar name; and

129 (ii) the signer's signature appears substantially similar to the signature on the  
130 statewide voter registration database of the individual described in Subsection [  
131 ~~(1)(b)(i)] (2)(b)(i); or~~

132 (c) if there is no match of an address and a substantially similar name, the clerk shall

- 133 declare the signature valid for the district or jurisdiction in which the signer is  
 134 registered to vote if:
- 135 (i) the birth date or age provided by the individual with the individual's petition  
 136 signature matches the birth date or age of an individual on the official register  
 137 with a substantially similar name; and
  - 138 (ii) the signer's signature appears substantially similar to the signature on the  
 139 statewide voter registration database of the individual described in Subsection [  
 140 ~~(1)(e)(i)~~] (2)(c)(i).

141 [~~(2)~~] (3) If a signature is not declared valid under Subsection [~~(1)(a)~~] (2)(a), (b), or (c), the  
 142 clerk shall declare the signature to be invalid.

143 Section 3. Section **20A-3a-106** is amended to read:

144 **20A-3a-106 . Rulemaking authority relating to conducting an election.**

145 The director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, may make rules,  
 146 in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, establishing  
 147 requirements for:

- 148 (1) a return envelope, to ensure uniformity and security of the envelopes;
- 149 (2) complying with the signature comparison audit requirements described in Section  
 150 20A-3a-402.5;
- 151 (3) conducting and documenting the identity verification process described in Subsection  
 152 20A-3a-401(7)(b); or
- 153 (4) establishing specific requirements and procedures for an election officer to:
  - 154 (a) perform the signature comparison audits described in Subsection [~~20A-9-408(9)(e)~~]  
 155 20A-9-408(9)(h); or
  - 156 (b) fulfill the chain of custody requirements described in Section 20A-9-408.3.

157 Section 4. Section **20A-6-301** is amended to read:

158 **20A-6-301 . Manual ballots -- Regular general election.**

- 159 (1) Each election officer shall ensure that:
  - 160 (a) all manual ballots furnished for use at the regular general election contain:
    - 161 (i) no captions or other endorsements except as provided in this section;
    - 162 (ii) no symbols, markings, or other descriptions of a political party or group, except  
 163 for a registered political party that has chosen to nominate its candidates in  
 164 accordance with Section 20A-9-403; and
    - 165 (iii) no indication that a candidate for elective office has been nominated by, or has  
 166 been endorsed by, or is in any way affiliated with a political party or group, unless

- 167 the candidate has been nominated by a registered political party in accordance  
168 with Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)~~] 20A-9-403(10);
- 169 (b) at the top of the ballot, the following endorsements are printed in 18 point bold type:
- 170 (i) "Official Ballot for \_\_\_\_ County, Utah";
- 171 (ii) the date of the election; and
- 172 (iii) the words "certified by the Clerk of \_\_\_\_\_ County" or, as applicable, the  
173 name of a combined office that includes the duties of a county clerk;
- 174 (c) unaffiliated candidates, candidates not affiliated with a registered political party, and  
175 all other candidates for elective office who were not nominated by a registered  
176 political party in accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [  
177 ~~20A-9-403(5)~~] 20A-9-403(10), are listed with the other candidates for the same office  
178 in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110, without a party name or title;
- 179 (d) each ticket containing the lists of candidates, including the party name and device,  
180 are separated by heavy parallel lines;
- 181 (e) the offices to be filled are plainly printed immediately above the names of the  
182 candidates for those offices;
- 183 (f) the names of candidates are printed in capital letters, not less than one-eighth nor  
184 more than one-fourth of an inch high in heavy-faced type not smaller than 10 point,  
185 between lines or rules three-eighths of an inch apart; and
- 186 (g) on a ticket for a race in which a voter is authorized to cast a write-in vote and in  
187 which a write-in candidate is qualified under Section 20A-9-601:
- 188 (i) the ballot includes a space for a write-in candidate immediately following the last  
189 candidate listed on that ticket; or
- 190 (ii) for the offices of president and vice president and governor and lieutenant  
191 governor, the ballot includes two spaces for write-in candidates immediately  
192 following the last candidates on that ticket, one placed above the other, to enable  
193 the entry of two valid write-in candidates.
- 194 (2) An election officer shall ensure that:
- 195 (a) each individual nominated by any registered political party under Subsection  
196 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)~~] 20A-9-403(10), and no other individual,  
197 is placed on the ballot:
- 198 (i) under the registered political party's name, if any; or
- 199 (ii) under the title of the registered political party as designated by them in their  
200 certificates of nomination or petition, or, if none is designated, then under some

- 201 suitable title;
- 202 (b) the names of all unaffiliated candidates that qualify as required in Chapter 9, Part 5,  
203 Candidates not Affiliated with a Party, are placed on the ballot;
- 204 (c) the names of the candidates for president and vice president are used on the ballot  
205 instead of the names of the presidential electors; and
- 206 (d) the ballots contain no other names.
- 207 (3) When the ballot contains a nonpartisan section, the election officer shall ensure that:
- 208 (a) the designation of the office to be filled in the election and the number of candidates  
209 to be elected are printed in type not smaller than eight point;
- 210 (b) the words designating the office are printed flush with the left-hand margin;
- 211 (c) the words, "Vote for one" or "Vote for up to \_\_\_\_ (the number of candidates for  
212 which the voter may vote)" extend to the extreme right of the column;
- 213 (d) the nonpartisan candidates are grouped according to the office for which they are  
214 candidates;
- 215 (e) the names in each group are placed in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and  
216 20A-6-110, with the surnames last; and
- 217 (f) each group is preceded by the designation of the office for which the candidates seek  
218 election, and the words, "Vote for one" or "Vote for up to \_\_\_\_ (the number of  
219 candidates for which the voter may vote)," according to the number to be elected.
- 220 (4) Each election officer shall ensure that:
- 221 (a) proposed amendments to the Utah Constitution are listed on the ballot in accordance  
222 with Section 20A-6-107;
- 223 (b) ballot propositions submitted to the voters are listed on the ballot in accordance with  
224 Section 20A-6-107;
- 225 (c) bond propositions that have qualified for the ballot are listed on the ballot under the  
226 title assigned to each bond proposition under Section 11-14-206; and
- 227 (d) the judicial retention section of the ballot includes a statement at the beginning  
228 directing voters to the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's website in  
229 accordance with Subsection 20A-12-201(4).
- 230 Section 5. Section **20A-6-302** is amended to read:
- 231 **20A-6-302 . Manual ballots -- Placement of candidates' names.**
- 232 (1) An election officer shall ensure, for manual ballots in regular general elections, that:
- 233 (a) each candidate is listed by party, if nominated by a registered political party under  
234 Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(10);

- 235 (b) candidates' surnames are listed in alphabetical order on the ballots when two or more  
236 candidates' names are required to be listed on a ticket under the title of an office; and
- 237 (c) the names of candidates are placed on the ballot in:
- 238 (i) the manner described in Section 20A-6-109; and
- 239 (ii) the order described in Section 20A-6-110.
- 240 (2)(a) When there is only one candidate for county attorney at the regular general  
241 election in counties that have three or fewer registered voters of the county who are  
242 licensed active members in good standing of the Utah State Bar, the county clerk  
243 shall cause that candidate's name and party affiliation, if any, to be placed on a  
244 separate section of the ballot with the following question: "Shall (name of candidate)  
245 be elected to the office of county attorney? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_".
- 246 (b) If the number of "Yes" votes exceeds the number of "No" votes, the candidate is  
247 elected to the office of county attorney.
- 248 (c) If the number of "No" votes exceeds the number of "Yes" votes, the candidate is not  
249 elected and may not take office, nor may the candidate continue in the office past the  
250 end of the term resulting from any prior election or appointment.
- 251 (d) When the name of only one candidate for county attorney is printed on the ballot  
252 under authority of this Subsection (2), the county clerk may not count any write-in  
253 votes received for the office of county attorney.
- 254 (e) If no qualified individual files for the office of county attorney or if the candidate is  
255 not elected by the voters, the county legislative body shall appoint the county  
256 attorney as provided in Section 20A-1-509.2.
- 257 (f) If the candidate whose name would, except for this Subsection (2)(f), be placed on  
258 the ballot under Subsection (2)(a) has been elected on a ballot under Subsection (2)(a)  
259 to the two consecutive terms immediately preceding the term for which the candidate  
260 is seeking election, Subsection (2)(a) does not apply and that candidate shall be  
261 considered to be an unopposed candidate the same as any other unopposed candidate  
262 for another office, unless a petition is filed with the county clerk before 5 p.m. no  
263 later than the day before that year's primary election that:
- 264 (i) requests the procedure set forth in Subsection (2)(a) to be followed; and
- 265 (ii) contains the signatures of registered voters in the county representing in number  
266 at least 25% of all votes cast in the county for all candidates for governor at the  
267 last election at which a governor was elected.
- 268 (3)(a) When there is only one candidate for district attorney at the regular general

- 269 election in a prosecution district that has three or fewer registered voters of the  
 270 district who are licensed active members in good standing of the Utah State Bar, the  
 271 county clerk shall cause that candidate's name and party affiliation, if any, to be  
 272 placed on a separate section of the ballot with the following question: "Shall (name of  
 273 candidate) be elected to the office of district attorney? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_."
- 274 (b) If the number of "Yes" votes exceeds the number of "No" votes, the candidate is  
 275 elected to the office of district attorney.
- 276 (c) If the number of "No" votes exceeds the number of "Yes" votes, the candidate is not  
 277 elected and may not take office, nor may the candidate continue in the office past the  
 278 end of the term resulting from any prior election or appointment.
- 279 (d) When the name of only one candidate for district attorney is printed on the ballot  
 280 under authority of this Subsection (3), the county clerk may not count any write-in  
 281 votes received for the office of district attorney.
- 282 (e) If no qualified individual files for the office of district attorney, or if the only  
 283 candidate is not elected by the voters under this subsection, the county legislative  
 284 body shall appoint a new district attorney for a four-year term as provided in Section  
 285 20A-1-509.2.
- 286 (f) If the candidate whose name would, except for this Subsection (3)(f), be placed on  
 287 the ballot under Subsection (3)(a) has been elected on a ballot under Subsection (3)(a)  
 288 to the two consecutive terms immediately preceding the term for which the candidate  
 289 is seeking election, Subsection (3)(a) does not apply and that candidate shall be  
 290 considered to be an unopposed candidate the same as any other unopposed candidate  
 291 for another office, unless a petition is filed with the county clerk before 5 p.m. no  
 292 later than the day before that year's primary election that:
- 293 (i) requests the procedure set forth in Subsection (3)(a) to be followed; and  
 294 (ii) contains the signatures of registered voters in the county representing in number  
 295 at least 25% of all votes cast in the county for all candidates for governor at the  
 296 last election at which a governor was elected.

297 Section 6. Section **20A-6-304** is amended to read:

298 **20A-6-304 . Regular general election -- Mechanical ballots.**

- 299 (1) Each election officer shall ensure that:
- 300 (a) the format and content of a mechanical ballot is arranged in approximately the same  
 301 order as manual ballots;
- 302 (b) the titles of offices and the names of candidates are displayed in vertical columns or

- 303 in a series of separate displays;
- 304 (c) the mechanical ballot is of sufficient length to include, after the list of candidates:
- 305 (i) the names of candidates for judicial offices and any other nonpartisan offices; and
- 306 (ii) any ballot propositions submitted to the voters for their approval or rejection;
- 307 (d) the office titles are displayed above or at the side of the names of candidates so as to
- 308 indicate clearly the candidates for each office and the number to be elected;
- 309 (e) the party designation of each candidate who has been nominated by a registered
- 310 political party under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)]
- 311 20A-9-403(10) is displayed adjacent to the candidate's name; and
- 312 (f) if possible, all candidates for one office are grouped in one column or upon one
- 313 display screen.
- 314 (2) Each election officer shall ensure that:
- 315 (a) proposed amendments to the Utah Constitution are displayed in accordance with
- 316 Section 20A-6-107;
- 317 (b) ballot propositions submitted to the voters are displayed in accordance with Section
- 318 20A-6-107;
- 319 (c) bond propositions that have qualified for the ballot are displayed under the title
- 320 assigned to each bond proposition under Section 11-14-206; and
- 321 (d) the judicial retention section of the ballot includes a statement at the beginning
- 322 directing voters to the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's website in
- 323 accordance with Subsection 20A-12-201(4).

324 Section 7. Section **20A-9-403** is amended to read:

325 **20A-9-403 . Regular primary elections.**

- 326 (1)(a) Candidates for elective office that are to be filled at the next regular general
- 327 election shall be nominated in a regular primary election by direct vote of the people
- 328 in the manner prescribed in this section. The regular primary election is held on the
- 329 date specified in Section 20A-1-201.5. Nothing in this section shall affect a
- 330 candidate's ability to qualify for a regular general election's ballot as an unaffiliated
- 331 candidate under Section 20A-9-501 or to participate in a regular general election as a
- 332 write-in candidate under Section 20A-9-601.
- 333 (b) Each registered political party that chooses to have the names of the registered
- 334 political party's candidates for elective office featured with party affiliation on the
- 335 ballot at a regular general election shall comply with the requirements of this section
- 336 and shall nominate the registered political party's candidates for elective office in the

- 337 manner described in this section.
- 338 (c) A filing officer may not permit an official ballot at a regular general election to be  
339 produced or used if the ballot denotes affiliation between a registered political party  
340 or any other political group and a candidate for elective office who is not nominated  
341 in the manner prescribed in this section or in Subsection 20A-9-202(4).
- 342 (d) Unless noted otherwise, the dates in this section refer to those that occur in each  
343 even-numbered year in which a regular general election will be held.
- 344 (2)(a) Each registered political party, in a statement filed with the lieutenant governor,  
345 shall:
- 346 (i) either declare the registered political party's intent to participate in the next regular  
347 primary election or declare that the registered political party chooses not to have  
348 the names of the registered political party's candidates for elective office featured  
349 on the ballot at the next regular general election; and
- 350 (ii) if the registered political party participates in the upcoming regular primary  
351 election, identify one or more registered political parties whose members may  
352 vote for the registered political party's candidates and whether individuals  
353 identified as unaffiliated with a political party may vote for the registered political  
354 party's candidates.
- 355 (b)(i) A registered political party that is a continuing political party shall file the  
356 statement described in Subsection (2)(a) with the lieutenant governor no later than  
357 5 p.m. on November 30 of each odd-numbered year.
- 358 (ii) An organization that is seeking to become a registered political party under  
359 Section 20A-8-103 shall file the statement described in Subsection (2)(a) at the  
360 time that the registered political party files the petition described in Section  
361 20A-8-103.
- 362 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection [~~(3)(e)~~] (6), an individual who submits a  
363 declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-202 shall appear as a candidate for  
364 elective office on the regular primary ballot of the registered political party listed on  
365 the declaration of candidacy only if the individual is certified by the appropriate  
366 filing officer as having submitted a nomination petition that was:
- 367 (i) circulated and completed in accordance with Section 20A-9-405; and
- 368 (ii) signed by at least 2% of the registered political party's members who reside in the  
369 political division of the office that the individual seeks.
- 370 (b)(i) A candidate for elective office shall, in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3,

371 submit signatures for a nomination petition to the ~~[appropriate filing officer]~~  
372 county clerk of the nomination petition signer's residence for verification and  
373 certification no later than 5 p.m. on March 31.

374 (ii) A candidate may supplement the candidate's submissions at any time on or before  
375 the filing deadline.

376 (c)(i) The lieutenant governor shall determine for each elective office the total  
377 number of signatures that must be submitted under Subsection (3)(a)(ii) or  
378 20A-9-408(8) by counting the aggregate number of individuals residing in each  
379 elective office's political division who have designated a particular registered  
380 political party on the individuals' voter registration forms on or before November  
381 15 of each odd-numbered year.

382 (ii) The lieutenant governor shall publish the determination for each elective office  
383 no later than November 30 of each odd-numbered year.

384 (d) The county clerk shall:

385 (i) consider an active and inactive voter eligible to sign a nomination petition;

386 (ii) consider an individual who signs a nomination petition a member of a registered  
387 political party for purposes of Subsection (3)(a)(ii) if the individual has designated  
388 the registered political party as the individual's party membership on the  
389 individual's voter registration form;

390 (iii) except as provided in Subsection (4) or Section 20A-21-201, and in accordance  
391 with Section 20A-9-408.3, use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to  
392 verify submitted nomination petition signatures in a transparent and orderly  
393 manner, or use statistical sampling procedures to verify submitted nomination  
394 petition signatures in accordance with rules made under Subsection (7), no later  
395 than 14 calendar days after the day on which a candidate submits the signatures to  
396 the county clerk; and

397 (iv) except as provided in Subsection (5), for each qualifying candidate for elective  
398 office who submits a nomination petition to the county clerk, issue the  
399 certification described in Subsection (3)(a) no later than the deadline described in  
400 Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b).

401 ~~[(d) The filing officer shall:]~~

402 ~~[(i) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201, and in accordance with~~  
403 ~~Section 20A-9-408.3, verify signatures on nomination petitions in a transparent~~  
404 ~~and orderly manner, no later than 14 calendar days after the day on which a~~

- 405 candidate submits the signatures to the filing officer;]
- 406 [(ii) for all qualifying candidates for elective office who submit nomination petitions
- 407 to the filing officer, issue certifications referenced in Subsection (3)(a) no later
- 408 than the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b);]
- 409 [(iii) consider active and inactive voters eligible to sign nomination petitions;]
- 410 [(iv) consider an individual who signs a nomination petition a member of a registered
- 411 political party for purposes of Subsection (3)(a)(ii) if the individual has designated
- 412 that registered political party as the individual's party membership on the
- 413 individual's voter registration form; and]
- 414 [(v) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201 and with the assistance of
- 415 the county clerk as applicable, use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002
- 416 to verify submitted nomination petition signatures, or use statistical sampling
- 417 procedures to verify submitted nomination petition signatures in accordance with
- 418 rules made under Subsection (3)(f).]

- 419 (4)(a) In reviewing a candidate signature packet, the county clerk shall count only an
- 420 individual who signed with a holographic signature:
- 421 (i) who is a registered voter residing within the county clerk's county and the political
- 422 division that the candidate seeks to represent; and
- 423 (ii) who did not sign any other nomination petition for that office.
- 424 (b) If, in verifying signatures under Section 20A-1-1002, the county clerk determines
- 425 that a registered voter who signed a nomination petition is not a resident of the
- 426 county clerk's county, the county clerk:
- 427 (i) shall declare the signature invalid under Subsection 20A-1-1002(3); and
- 428 (ii) may not certify the signature.

- 429 (5)(a) In an election for federal office, constitutional office, or multicounty office, the
- 430 county clerk shall, instead of taking the action described in Subsection (3)(d)(iv):
- 431 (i) count the number of valid nomination petition signatures submitted by the
- 432 candidate; and
- 433 (ii) no later than seven calendar days before the day of the deadline described in
- 434 Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b), certify the number of valid signatures to the
- 435 lieutenant governor.
- 436 (b) The lieutenant governor shall, upon receiving the certification described in
- 437 Subsection (5)(a)(ii) from the county clerk of each county where the candidate
- 438 submits nomination petition signatures for verification:

439 (i) add together the total number of signatures declared valid by each county clerk;  
 440 and

441 (ii) if the aggregate number of valid signatures is equal to or more than the total  
 442 number of signatures required for the candidate to qualify for placement on the  
 443 regular primary ballot, issue the certification described in Subsection (3)(a) no  
 444 later than the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b).

445 ~~(6)~~~~(e)~~ Notwithstanding any other provision in ~~[this Subsection (3)]~~ Subsection (3), (4),  
 446 (5), (7), or (8), a candidate for lieutenant governor may appear on the regular primary  
 447 ballot of a registered political party without submitting nomination petitions if the  
 448 candidate files a declaration of candidacy and complies with Subsection 20A-9-202  
 449 (3).

450 ~~[(f)]~~ (7) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
 451 director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, may make rules that:

452 ~~[(f)]~~ (a) provide for the use of statistical sampling procedures that:

453 ~~[(A)]~~ (i) filing officers are required to use to verify signatures under Subsection (3)(d);  
 454 and

455 ~~[(B)]~~ (ii) reflect a bona fide effort to determine the validity of a candidate's entire  
 456 submission, using widely recognized statistical sampling techniques; and

457 ~~[(f)]~~ (b) provide for the transparent, orderly, and timely submission, verification, and  
 458 certification of nomination petition signatures.

459 ~~[(g)]~~ (8) The county clerk shall:

460 ~~[(f)]~~ (a) review the declarations of candidacy filed by candidates for local boards of  
 461 education to determine if more than two candidates have filed for the same seat;

462 ~~[(f)]~~ (b) place the names of all candidates who have filed a declaration of candidacy for a  
 463 local board of education seat on the nonpartisan section of the ballot if more than two  
 464 candidates have filed for the same seat; and

465 ~~[(f)]~~ (c) place the local board of education candidates' names on the ballot in accordance  
 466 with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110.

467 ~~[(4)]~~ (9)(a) Before the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-409(4)(c), the lieutenant  
 468 governor shall provide to the county clerks:

469 (i) a list of the names of all candidates for federal, constitutional, multi-county, single  
 470 county, and county offices who have received certifications under Subsection (3)  
 471 (a), along with instructions on how those names shall appear on the primary  
 472 election ballot in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110; and

- 473 (ii) a list of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by a  
 474 registered political party under Subsection [~~(5)(e)~~] (10)(c) and instruct the county  
 475 clerks to exclude the unopposed candidates from the primary election ballot.
- 476 (b) A candidate for lieutenant governor and a candidate for governor campaigning as  
 477 joint-ticket running mates shall appear jointly on the primary election ballot.
- 478 (c) After the county clerk receives the certified list from the lieutenant governor under  
 479 Subsection [~~(4)(a)~~] (9)(a), the county clerk shall post or publish a primary election notice in  
 480 substantially the following form:
- 481 "Notice is given that a primary election will be held Tuesday, June \_\_\_\_\_,  
 482 \_\_\_\_\_(year), to nominate party candidates for the parties and candidates for nonpartisan  
 483 local school board positions listed on the primary ballot. The polling place for voting precinct  
 484 \_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_. The polls will open at 7 a.m. and continue open until 8 p.m. of the same day.  
 485 Attest: county clerk."
- 486 [~~(5)~~] (10)(a) A candidate who, at the regular primary election, receives the highest  
 487 number of votes cast for the office sought by the candidate is:
- 488 (i) nominated for that office by the candidate's registered political party; or  
 489 (ii) for a nonpartisan local school board position, nominated for that office.
- 490 (b) If two or more candidates are to be elected to the office at the regular general  
 491 election, those party candidates equal in number to positions to be filled who receive  
 492 the highest number of votes at the regular primary election are the nominees of the  
 493 candidates' party for those positions.
- 494 (c)(i) As used in this Subsection [~~(5)(e)~~] (10)(c), a candidate is "unopposed" if:
- 495 (A) no individual other than the candidate receives a certification under  
 496 Subsection (3)(a) for the regular primary election ballot of the candidate's  
 497 registered political party for a particular elective office; or  
 498 (B) for an office where more than one individual is to be elected or nominated, the  
 499 number of candidates who receive certification under Subsection (3)(a) for the  
 500 regular primary election of the candidate's registered political party does not  
 501 exceed the total number of candidates to be elected or nominated for that office.
- 502 (ii) A candidate who is unopposed for an elective office in the regular primary  
 503 election of a registered political party is nominated by the party for that office  
 504 without appearing on the primary election ballot.
- 505 [~~(6)~~] (11) The expense of providing all ballots, blanks, or other supplies to be used at any  
 506 primary election provided for by this section, and all expenses necessarily incurred in

507 the preparation for or the conduct of that primary election shall be paid out of the  
508 treasury of the county or state, in the same manner as for the regular general elections.  
509 ~~[(7)]~~ (12) An individual may not file a declaration of candidacy for a registered political  
510 party of which the individual is not a member, except to the extent that the registered  
511 political party permits otherwise under the registered political party's bylaws.

512 Section 8. Section **20A-9-405** is amended to read:

513 **20A-9-405 . Nomination petitions for regular primary elections.**

- 514 (1) This section applies to the form and circulation of nomination petitions for regular  
515 primary elections described in Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(a).
- 516 (2) A candidate for elective office, ~~[and the agents]~~ or an agent of the candidate, may not  
517 circulate nomination petitions until the candidate has submitted a declaration of  
518 candidacy in accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(1).
- 519 (3) For the manual candidate qualification process, the nomination petitions shall be in  
520 substantially the following form:
- 521 (a) the petition shall be printed on paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
- 522 (b) the petition shall be ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space  
523 above that line blank for purposes of binding;
- 524 (c) the petition shall be headed by a caption stating the purpose of the petition~~[-and the~~  
525 ~~name of the proposed candidate]~~ , the name of the proposed candidate, and the county  
526 to which the signatures will be submitted for verification;
- 527 (d) the petition shall feature the ~~[word "Warning" followed by the ]~~following statements  
528 in no less than eight-point, single leaded type:
- 529 (i) "WARNING: It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a  
530 nomination petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more  
531 than once for the same candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this  
532 state."; and
- 533 (ii) "NOTICE: Only a registered voter who is a resident of [insert name of county]  
534 County should sign this nomination petition.";
- 535 (e) the petition shall feature 10 lines spaced one-half inch apart and consecutively  
536 numbered one through 10;
- 537 (f) the signature portion of the petition shall be divided into columns headed by the  
538 following titles:
- 539 (i) Registered Voter's Printed Name;
- 540 (ii) Signature of Registered Voter;

- 541 (iii) Party Affiliation of Registered Voter;
- 542 (iv) Birth Date or Age (Optional);
- 543 (v) Street Address, City, Zip Code; [~~and~~]
- 544 (vi) County of Residence; and
- 545 [~~(vi)~~] (vii) Date of Signature; and
- 546 (g) a photograph of the candidate may appear on the nomination petition.
- 547 (4) For the electronic candidate qualification process, the lieutenant governor shall design
- 548 an electronic form, using progressive screens, that includes:
- 549 (a) the following warning:
- 550 "Warning: It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a nomination
- 551 petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more than once for the same
- 552 candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this state."; and
- 553 (b) the following information for each individual who signs the petition:
- 554 (i) name;
- 555 (ii) party affiliation;
- 556 (iii) date of birth or age, (optional);
- 557 (iv) street address, city, zip code;
- 558 (v) date of signature;
- 559 (vi) other information required under Section 20A-21-201; and
- 560 (vii) other information required by the lieutenant governor.
- 561 (5) For the manual candidate qualification process, if one or more nomination petitions are
- 562 bound together, a page shall be bound to the nomination petition(s) that features the following
- 563 printed verification statement to be signed and dated by the petition circulator:
- 564 "Verification
- 565 State of Utah, County of \_\_\_\_\_
- 566 I, \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby state that:
- 567 I am at least 18 years old;
- 568 All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were, to the best of
- 569 my knowledge, signed by the persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear on
- 570 the signature sheets, and each of them signed the person's name on the signature sheets in my
- 571 presence;
- 572 I believe that each has printed and signed the person's name and written the person's
- 573 street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah."
- 574 (6) The lieutenant governor shall prepare and make public model nomination petition forms

- 575 and associated instructions.
- 576 (7) A nomination petition circulator:
- 577 (a) must be at least 18 years old; and
- 578 (b) may affiliate with any political party.
- 579 (8) It is unlawful for any person to:
- 580 (a) knowingly sign the nomination petition described in this section or Section
- 581 20A-9-408:
- 582 (i) with any name other than the person's own name;
- 583 (ii) more than once for the same candidate; or
- 584 (iii) if the person is not registered to vote in this state;
- 585 (b) sign the verification of a signature for a nomination petition if the person:
- 586 (i) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the
- 587 nomination petition; or
- 588 (ii) knows that a person whose signature appears on the nomination petition is not
- 589 registered to vote in this state;
- 590 (c) pay compensation to any person to sign a nomination petition; or
- 591 (d) pay compensation to any person to circulate a nomination petition, if the
- 592 compensation is based directly on the number of signatures submitted to a [~~filing~~
- 593 ~~officer~~] county clerk rather than on the number of signatures verified or on some other
- 594 basis.
- 595 (9) Any person violating Subsection (8) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
- 596 (10)(a) A voter who signs a nomination petition may have the voter's signature removed
- 597 from the petition by, no later than three business days after the day on which the
- 598 candidate files the petition with the [~~appropriate filing officer~~] county clerk,
- 599 submitting to the [~~filing officer~~] county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's
- 600 signature be removed.
- 601 (b) A statement described in Subsection (10)(a) shall comply with the requirements
- 602 described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
- 603 (c) The [~~filing officer~~] county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection
- 604 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a
- 605 nomination petition after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of
- 606 the signature.
- 607 Section 9. Section **20A-9-406** is amended to read:
- 608 **20A-9-406 . Qualified political party -- Requirements and exemptions.**

- 609 The following provisions apply to a qualified political party:
- 610 (1) the qualified political party shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the first Monday of October of  
611 each odd-numbered year, certify to the lieutenant governor the identity of one or more  
612 registered political parties whose members may vote for the qualified political party's  
613 candidates and whether unaffiliated voters may vote for the qualified political party's  
614 candidates;
- 615 (2) the following provisions do not apply to a nomination for the qualified political party:
- 616 (a) Subsections 20A-9-403(1) through (3)(b) and (3)(d) through [~~(4)(a)~~] (9)(a);
- 617 (b) Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)(e)~~] 20A-9-403(10)(c); and
- 618 (c) Section 20A-9-405;
- 619 (3) an individual may only seek the nomination of the qualified political party by using a  
620 method described in Section 20A-9-407, Section 20A-9-408, or both;
- 621 (4) the qualified political party shall comply with the provisions of Sections 20A-9-407,  
622 20A-9-408, and 20A-9-409;
- 623 (5) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-301(1)(a), (1)(e), or (2)(a), each election officer shall  
624 ensure that a ballot described in Section 20A-6-301 includes each individual nominated  
625 by a qualified political party:
- 626 (a) under the qualified political party's name[-], if any; or
- 627 (b) under the title of the qualified registered political party as designated by the qualified  
628 political party in the certification described in Subsection (1), or, if none is  
629 designated, then under some suitable title;
- 630 (6) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-302(1)(a), each election officer shall ensure, for  
631 ballots in regular general elections, that each candidate who is nominated by the  
632 qualified political party is listed by party;
- 633 (7) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-304(1)(e), each election officer shall ensure that the  
634 party designation of each candidate who is nominated by the qualified political party is  
635 displayed adjacent to the candidate's name on a mechanical ballot;
- 636 (8) "candidates for elective office," defined in Subsection 20A-9-101(1)(a), also includes an  
637 individual who files a declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-407 or 20A-9-408  
638 to run in a regular general election for a federal office, constitutional office, multicounty  
639 office, or county office;
- 640 (9) an individual who is nominated by, or seeking the nomination of, the qualified political  
641 party is not required to comply with Subsection 20A-9-201(1)(c);
- 642 (10) notwithstanding [~~Subsection 20A-9-403(3)~~] Subsections 20A-9-403(3) through (8), the

643 qualified political party is entitled to have each of the qualified political party's  
644 candidates for elective office appear on the primary ballot of the qualified political party  
645 with an indication that each candidate is a candidate for the qualified political party;  
646 (11) notwithstanding Subsection [~~20A-9-403(4)(a)~~] 20A-9-403(9)(a), the lieutenant  
647 governor shall include on the list provided by the lieutenant governor to the county  
648 clerks:

649 (a) the names of all candidates of the qualified political party for federal, constitutional,  
650 multicounty, and county offices; and

651 (b) the names of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by  
652 the qualified political party and instruct the county clerks to exclude such candidates  
653 from the primary-election ballot;

654 (12) notwithstanding Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)(e)~~] 20A-9-403(10)(c), a candidate who is  
655 unopposed for an elective office in the regular primary election of the qualified political  
656 party is nominated by the party for that office without appearing on the primary ballot;  
657 and

658 (13) notwithstanding the provisions of Subsections 20A-9-403(1) and (2) and Section  
659 20A-9-405, the qualified political party is entitled to have the names of its candidates for  
660 elective office featured with party affiliation on the ballot at a regular general election.

661 Section 10. Section **20A-9-408** is amended to read:

662 **20A-9-408 . Signature-gathering process to seek the nomination of a qualified**  
663 **political party -- Removal of signature.**

664 (1) This section describes the requirements for a member of a qualified political party who  
665 is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office through  
666 the signature-gathering process described in this section.

667 (2) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-201(7)(a), the form of the declaration of candidacy  
668 for a member of a qualified political party who is nominated by, or who is seeking the  
669 nomination of, the qualified political party under this section shall be substantially as  
670 described in Section 20A-9-408.5.

671 (3) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(a), and except as provided in Subsection  
672 20A-9-202(4), a member of a qualified political party who, under this section, is seeking  
673 the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office that is to be filled at  
674 the next general election shall:

675 (a) during the declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5,  
676 and before gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing officer on a

- 677 form approved by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather signatures for  
678 candidacy that includes:
- 679 (i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a [registered]  
680 qualified political party under this section;
  - 681 (ii) the name of the [registered] qualified political party for which the member is  
682 seeking nomination;
  - 683 (iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;
  - 684 (iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and
  - 685 (v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;
- 686 (b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in  
687 person, with the filing officer during the declaration of candidacy filing period  
688 described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and
- 689 (c) pay the filing fee.
- 690 (4) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(2)(a), a member of a qualified political party  
691 who, under this section, is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for the  
692 office of district attorney within a multicounty prosecution district that is to be filled at  
693 the next general election shall:
- 694 (a) during the declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5,  
695 and before gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing officer on a  
696 form approved by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather signatures for  
697 candidacy that includes:
    - 698 (i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a registered  
699 political party under this section;
    - 700 (ii) the name of the registered political party for which the member is seeking  
701 nomination;
    - 702 (iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;
    - 703 (iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and
    - 704 (v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;
  - 705 (b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in  
706 person, with the filing officer during the declaration of candidacy filing period  
707 described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and
  - 708 (c) pay the filing fee.
- 709 (5) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(3)(a)(iii), a lieutenant governor candidate who  
710 files as the joint-ticket running mate of an individual who is nominated by a qualified

711 political party, under this section, for the office of governor shall, during the declaration  
712 of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, file a declaration of  
713 candidacy and submit a letter from the candidate for governor that names the lieutenant  
714 governor candidate as a joint-ticket running mate.

715 (6) The lieutenant governor shall ensure that the certification described in Subsection  
716 20A-9-701(1) also includes the name of each candidate nominated by a qualified  
717 political party under this section.

718 (7) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-701(2), the ballot shall, for each candidate who is  
719 nominated by a qualified political party under this section, designate the qualified  
720 political party that nominated the candidate.

721 (8) A member of a qualified political party may seek the nomination of the qualified  
722 political party for an elective office by:

723 (a) complying with the requirements described in this section; and

724 (b) collecting signatures, on a form approved by the lieutenant governor that complies  
725 with Subsection 20A-9-405(3), during the period beginning on the day on which the  
726 member files a notice of intent to gather signatures and ending at the deadline  
727 described in Subsection (12), in the following amounts:

728 (i) for a statewide race, 28,000 signatures of registered voters in the state who are  
729 permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's  
730 candidates in a primary election;

731 (ii) for a congressional district race, 7,000 signatures of registered voters who are  
732 residents of the congressional district and are permitted by the qualified political  
733 party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;

734 (iii) for a state Senate district race, 2,000 signatures of registered voters who are  
735 residents of the state Senate district and are permitted by the qualified political  
736 party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;

737 (iv) for a state House district race, 1,000 signatures of registered voters who are  
738 residents of the state House district and are permitted by the qualified political  
739 party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;

740 (v) for a State Board of Education race, the lesser of:

741 (A) 2,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the State Board of  
742 Education district and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for  
743 the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election; or

744 (B) 3% of the registered voters of the qualified political party who are residents of

- 745 the applicable State Board of Education district; and
- 746 (vi) for a county office race, signatures of 3% of the registered voters who are
- 747 residents of the area permitted to vote for the county office and are permitted by
- 748 the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in
- 749 a primary election.
- 750 (9)(a) This Subsection (9) applies only to the manual candidate qualification process.
- 751 (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the
- 752 qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, using
- 753 the manual candidate qualification process, the member shall:
- 754 (i) collect the signatures on a form approved by the lieutenant governor, using the
- 755 same circulation and verification requirements described in Sections 20A-7-105
- 756 and 20A-7-204; and
- 757 (ii) in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, submit the signatures to the ~~[election~~
- 758 ~~officer]~~ county clerk of the petition signers' residence before the deadline described
- 759 in Subsection (12).
- 760 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), and in
- 761 accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, the ~~[election officer]~~ county clerk shall, no
- 762 later than the earlier of 14 calendar days after the day on which the ~~[election officer]~~
- 763 county clerk receives the signatures, or ~~[one day]~~ seven calendar days before the day
- 764 on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee for the
- 765 elective office to which the signature packets relate:
- 766 (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature
- 767 packet to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old;
- 768 (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (9)(c)(i) who is not at
- 769 least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney;
- 770 (iii) ~~[with the assistance of the county clerk as applicable,]~~ except as provided in
- 771 Subsection (9)(d), determine whether each signer is a registered voter who is
- 772 qualified to sign the petition, using the same method, described in Section
- 773 20A-1-1002, used to verify a signature on a petition; and
- 774 (iv) except as provided in Subsection (9)(e), certify whether each name is that of a
- 775 registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature packet.
- 776 (d)(i) In reviewing a candidate signature packet, the county clerk shall count only an
- 777 individual who signed with a holographic signature:
- 778 (A) who is a registered voter residing within the county clerk's county and the

- 779 political division that the candidate seeks to represent; and  
 780 (B) who did not sign any other petition for that office.
- 781 (ii) If, in verifying signatures under Section 20A-1-1002, a county clerk determines  
 782 that a registered voter who signed a petition is not a resident of the county clerk's  
 783 county, the county clerk:
- 784 (A) shall declare the signature invalid under Subsection 20A-1-1002(3); and  
 785 (B) may not certify the signature.
- 786 (e) In an election for federal office, constitutional office, or multicounty office, the  
 787 county clerk shall, instead of taking the action described in Subsection (9)(c)(iv):
- 788 (i) count the number of valid petition signatures submitted by the candidate; and  
 789 (ii) no later than seven calendar days before the day of the convention described in  
 790 Subsection (11)(c), certify the number of valid signatures to the lieutenant  
 791 governor.
- 792 (f) The lieutenant governor shall, upon receiving the certification described in  
 793 Subsection (9)(e)(ii) from the county clerk of each county where the candidate  
 794 submits petition signatures for verification:
- 795 (i) add together the total number of signatures declared valid by each county clerk;  
 796 and
- 797 (ii) if the aggregate number of valid signatures is equal to or more than the total  
 798 number of signatures required for the candidate to qualify for placement on the  
 799 regular primary ballot, certify the signatures no later than the day before the day  
 800 of the convention described in Subsection (11)(c).
- 801 ~~[(d)]~~ (g)(i) A registered voter who physically signs a form under Subsections (8) and  
 802 (9)(b) may have the voter's signature removed from the form by, no later than 5  
 803 p.m. three business days after the day on which the member submits the signature  
 804 form to the ~~[election-officer]~~ county clerk, submitting to the ~~[election-officer]~~  
 805 county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.
- 806 (ii) A statement described in Subsection ~~[(9)(d)(i)]~~ (9)(g)(i) shall comply with the  
 807 requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
- 808 (iii) ~~[With the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, the election-officer]~~ The  
 809 county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to  
 810 determine whether to remove an individual's signature after receiving a timely,  
 811 valid statement requesting removal of the signature.
- 812 ~~[(e)]~~ (h)(i) ~~[An election-officer]~~ A county clerk shall, in accordance with this

- 813 Subsection ~~[(9)(e)]~~ (9)(h) and rules made under Section 20A-3a-106, conduct  
 814 regular audits of signature comparisons made between signatures gathered under  
 815 this section and voter signatures maintained by the ~~[election officer]~~ county clerk.
- 816 (ii) An individual who conducts an audit of signature comparisons under this section  
 817 may not audit the individual's own work.
- 818 (iii) The ~~[election officer]~~ county clerk shall:
- 819 (A) audit 1% of all signature comparisons described in Subsection ~~[(9)(e)(i)]~~  
 820 (9)(h)(i) to determine the accuracy of the comparisons made;
- 821 (B) record the individuals who conducted the audit;
- 822 (C) record the audit results;
- 823 (D) provide additional training or staff reassignments, as needed, based on the  
 824 results of an audit described in Subsection ~~[(9)(e)(i)]~~ (9)(h)(i); and
- 825 (E) record any remedial action taken.
- 826 (iv) The audit results described in Subsection ~~[(9)(e)(iii)(C)]~~ (9)(h)(iii)(C) are a public  
 827 record.
- 828 ~~[(f)] (i) [An election officer who certifies signatures under Subsection (9)(c) or~~  
 829 20A-9-403(3)(d)] A county clerk who verifies signatures under Subsection (9)(c),  
 830 Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(d), or Subsection 20A-9-502(5)(b) shall, after [certifying  
 831 enough signatures] declaring valid enough signatures to establish that a candidate has  
 832 reached the applicable signature threshold described in Subsection [(8) or  
 833 20A-9-403(3)(a)] (8), Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(a), or Subsection 20A-9-502(5)(a), as  
 834 applicable, continue to [eertify] verify signatures submitted for the candidate in excess  
 835 of the number of signatures required, until the [election officer] county clerk either:  
 836 (i) in a race for federal office, constitutional office, or multicounty office, declares  
 837 valid signatures equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold;  
 838 (ii) in a race other than a race described in Subsection (9)(i)(i), certifies signatures  
 839 equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold; or  
 840 [(ii)] (iii) has reviewed all signatures submitted for the candidate before reaching an  
 841 amount equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold.
- 842 (10)(a) This Subsection (10) applies only to the electronic candidate qualification  
 843 process.
- 844 (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the  
 845 qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, the  
 846 member shall, before the deadline described in Subsection (12), collect signatures

- 847 electronically:
- 848 (i) in accordance with Section 20A-21-201; and
- 849 (ii) using progressive screens, in a format approved by the lieutenant governor, that
- 850 complies with Subsection 20A-9-405(4).
- 851 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and [~~(9)(b)~~] (10)(b),
- 852 the election officer shall, no later than the earlier of 14 calendar days after the day on
- 853 which the election officer receives the signatures, or [~~one day~~] seven calendar days
- 854 before the day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a
- 855 nominee for the elective office to which the signature packets relate:
- 856 (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature
- 857 to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old; and
- 858 (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (10)(c)(i) who is not
- 859 at least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney.
- 860 (11)(a) An individual may not gather signatures under this section until after the
- 861 individual files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this
- 862 section.
- 863 (b) An individual who files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy,
- 864 described in Subsection (3)(a) or (4)(a), is, beginning on the day on which the
- 865 individual files the notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy:
- 866 (i) required to comply with the reporting requirements that a candidate for office is
- 867 required to comply with; and
- 868 (ii) subject to the same enforcement provisions, and civil and criminal penalties, that
- 869 apply to a candidate for office in relation to the reporting requirements described
- 870 in Subsection (11)(b)(i).
- 871 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), or
- 872 Subsections (8) and (10)(b), the election officer shall, no later than the day before the
- 873 day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee
- 874 for the elective office to which the signature packets relate, notify the qualified
- 875 political party and the lieutenant governor of the name of each member of the
- 876 qualified political party who qualifies as a nominee of the qualified political party,
- 877 under this section, for the elective office to which the convention relates.
- 878 (d) Upon receipt of a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this
- 879 section, the lieutenant governor shall post the notice of intent to gather signatures for
- 880 candidacy on the lieutenant governor's website in the same location that the

881 lieutenant governor posts a declaration of candidacy.

882 (12) The deadline before which a member of a qualified political party must collect and  
883 submit signatures to the election officer under this section is 5 p.m. on the last business  
884 day that is at least [14] 21 calendar days before the day on which the qualified political  
885 party's convention for the office begins.

886 Section 11. Section 20A-9-502 is amended to read:

887 **20A-9-502 . Certificate of nomination -- Contents -- Circulation -- Verification --**  
888 **Criminal penalty -- Removal of petition signature.**

889 (1) The candidate shall:

890 (a) prepare a certificate of nomination in substantially the following form:

891 "State of Utah, County of \_\_\_\_\_

892 I, \_\_\_\_\_, declare my intention of becoming an unaffiliated candidate for the  
893 political group designated as \_\_\_\_ for the office of \_\_\_\_\_. I do solemnly swear that I can  
894 qualify to hold that office both legally and constitutionally if selected, and that I reside at \_\_\_\_\_  
895 Street, in the city of \_\_\_\_\_, county of \_\_\_\_\_, state of \_\_\_\_\_, zip code \_\_\_\_\_, phone \_\_\_\_\_, and  
896 that I am providing, or have provided, the required number of holographic signatures of  
897 registered voters required by law; that as a candidate at the next election I will not knowingly  
898 violate any election or campaign law; that, if filing via a designated agent for an office other  
899 than president of the United States, I will be out of the state of Utah during the entire candidate  
900 filing period; I will file all campaign financial disclosure reports as required by law; and I  
901 understand that failure to do so will result in my disqualification as a candidate for this office  
902 and removal of my name from the ballot.

903

904

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_(month\day\year).

905

906

Notary Public (or other officer

907

qualified to administer oaths)";

908 (b) for each signature packet, bind signature sheets to a copy of the certificate of  
909 nomination and the circulator verification, that:

- 910 (i) are printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
- 911 (ii) are ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space above that
- 912 line blank for the purpose of binding;
- 913 (iii) contain the name of the proposed candidate and the words "Unaffiliated
- 914 Candidate Certificate of Nomination Petition" printed directly below the
- 915 horizontal line;
- 916 (iv) contain the word "Warning" printed directly under the words described in
- 917 Subsection (1)(b)(iii);
- 918 (v) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed in not less than
- 919 eight-point, single leaded type:
- 920 "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a certificate of nomination
- 921 signature sheet with any name other than the person's own name or more than once for the
- 922 same candidate or if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
- 923 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the signatures.";
- 924 (vi) contain the word "Notice" printed directly beneath the words described in
- 925 Subsection (1)(b)(v);
- 926 (vii) contain, to the right of the word "Notice," the following statement printed in not
- 927 less than eight-point, single leaded type:
- 928 "Only a registered voter who is a resident of [insert name of county] County
- 929 should sign this nomination petition.";
- 930 [~~(vi)~~] (viii) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in
- 931 Subsection [~~(1)(b)(v)~~] (1)(b)(vii):
- 932 "Each signer says:
- 933 I have personally signed this petition with a holographic signature;
- 934 I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the
- 935 county clerk certifies my signature; and
- 936 My street address is written correctly after my name.";
- 937 [~~(vii)~~] (ix) contain horizontally ruled lines, 3/8 inch apart under the statement
- 938 described in Subsection [~~(1)(b)(vi)~~] (1)(b)(viii); and
- 939 [~~(viii)~~] (x) be vertically divided into columns as follows:
- 940 (A) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be 5/8 inch wide,
- 941 be headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical
- 942 line down the middle;
- 943 (B) the next column shall be [~~2-1/2~~] 2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's

- 944 Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)";
- 945 (C) the next column shall be [~~2-1/2~~] 2 inches wide, headed "Holographic Signature
- 946 of Registered Voter";
- 947 (D) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age
- 948 (Optional)";
- 949 (E) the [~~final~~] next column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address,
- 950 City, Zip Code"; [~~and~~]
- 951 (F) the final column shall be one inch wide, headed "County of Residence"; and
- 952 [~~(F)~~] (G) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or
- 953 age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with
- 954 voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may
- 955 not be certified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition
- 956 signatures are certified or if the information you provide does not match your
- 957 voter registration records."; and

958 (c) bind a final page to one or more signature sheets that are bound together that contains,  
 959 except as provided by Subsection (3), the following printed statement:

960 "Verification

961 State of Utah, County of \_\_\_\_\_

962 I, \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby state that:

963 I am at least 18 years old;

964 All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were signed by  
 965 persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear on the signature sheets, and each  
 966 of them signed the person's name on the signature sheets in my presence;

967 I believe that each has printed and signed the person's name and written the person's  
 968 street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah or will register to  
 969 vote in Utah before the county clerk certifies the signatures on the signature sheet.

970 \_\_\_\_\_  
 971 (Signature) (Residence Address) (Date)."[.]

972 (2) An agent designated to file a certificate of nomination under Subsection 20A-9-503  
 973 (2)(b) or (4)(b) may not sign the form described in Subsection (1)(a).

974 (3)(a) The candidate shall circulate the nomination petition and ensure that the person in  
 975 whose presence each signature sheet is signed:

976 (i) is at least 18 years old; and

977 (ii) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification bound to one or more

978 signature sheets that are bound together.

979 (b) A person may not sign the circulator verification if the person signed a signature  
980 sheet bound to the verification.

981 (4)(a) It is unlawful for any person to:

982 (i) knowingly sign a certificate of nomination signature sheet:

983 (A) with any name other than the person's own name;

984 (B) more than once for the same candidate; or

985 (C) if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to  
986 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the  
987 signatures; or

988 (ii) sign the verification of a certificate of nomination signature sheet if the person:

989 (A) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the  
990 certificate of nomination signature sheet; or

991 (B) knows that a person whose signature appears on the certificate of nomination  
992 signature sheet is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to  
993 become registered to vote in this state.

994 (b) Any person violating this Subsection (4) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

995 (5)(a) To qualify for placement on the general election ballot, the candidate shall, no  
996 earlier than the start of the declaration of candidacy period described in Section  
997 20A-9-201.5 and no later than 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in which the election  
998 will be held:

999 (i) comply with Subsection 20A-9-503(1); ~~and~~

1000 (ii) ~~[submit each signature packet to the county clerk where the majority of the~~  
1001 ~~signatures in the packet were collected, with signatures totaling] collect signatures~~  
1002 ~~in an amount totaling:~~

1003 (A) at least 1,000 registered voters residing within the state when the nomination  
1004 is for an office to be filled by the voters of the entire state; or

1005 (B) at least 300 registered voters residing within a political division or at least 5%  
1006 of the registered voters residing within a political division, whichever is less,  
1007 when the nomination is for an office to be filled by the voters of any political  
1008 division smaller than the state~~[-]~~ ; and

1009 (iii) submit the signatures to the county clerk of the registered voter's residence.

1010 (b) A candidate has not complied with Subsection (5)(a)(ii), unless the county clerks  
1011 verify that each required signature is a valid signature of a registered voter who is

1012 eligible to sign the signature packet and has not signed a signature packet to nominate  
1013 another candidate for the same office.

1014 (c) Except as provided in Subsection (6), the county clerk shall use the procedures  
1015 described in Section 20A-1-1002 to determine whether a signer is a registered voter  
1016 who is qualified to sign the signature packet.

1017 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) In reviewing ~~[the signature packets, the county clerk shall count and certify only~~  
1018 ~~those persons]~~ a signature packet, the county clerk shall count only an individual who  
1019 signed with a holographic signature~~[, who]:~~

1020 (i) ~~[are registered voters within the political division that the candidate seeks to~~  
1021 ~~represent]~~ who is a registered voter residing within the county clerk's county and  
1022 the political division that the candidate seeks to represent; and

1023 (ii) who did not sign any other certificate of nomination for that office.

1024 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) ~~[The]~~ Except as provided in Subsection (7), the county clerk shall ~~[count and]~~  
1025 certify the number of registered voters who validly signed a signature packet~~[-]~~ no  
1026 later than 30 calendar days after the day on which the candidate submits the signature  
1027 packet.

1028 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) The candidate may supplement the signatures or amend the certificate of  
1029 nomination or declaration of candidacy at any time on or before 5 p.m. on June 15 of  
1030 the year in which the election will be held.

1031 ~~[(f) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to~~  
1032 ~~determine whether a signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature~~  
1033 ~~packet.]~~

1034 (6) If, in verifying signatures under Section 20A-1-1002, the county clerk determines that a  
1035 registered voter who signed a signature packet is not a resident of the county clerk's  
1036 county, the county clerk:

1037 (a) shall declare the signature invalid under Subsection 20A-1-1002(3); and

1038 (b) may not certify the signature.

1039 (7)(a) In an election for federal office, constitutional office, or multicounty office, the  
1040 county clerk shall, instead of taking the action described in Subsection (5)(e):

1041 (i) count the number of valid nomination petition submitted by the candidate; and

1042 (ii) no later than the day of the deadline described in Subsection (5)(f), certify the  
1043 number of valid signatures to the lieutenant governor.

1044 (b) The lieutenant governor shall, upon receiving the certification described in  
1045 Subsection (7)(a)(ii) from the county clerk of each county where the candidate

1046 submits signatures for verification:

1047 (i) add together the total number of signatures declared valid by each county clerk;

1048 and

1049 (ii) if the aggregate number of valid signatures is equal to or more than the total  
 1050 number of signatures required for the candidate to qualify for placement on the  
 1051 general election ballot, certify the signatures no later than August 1 of the year on  
 1052 which the election will be held.

1053 [(6)] (8)(a) A voter who signs a signature packet under this section may have the voter's  
 1054 signature removed from the signature packet by, no later than 5 p.m. three business  
 1055 days after the day on which the candidate submits the signature packet to the county  
 1056 clerk, submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature  
 1057 be removed.

1058 (b) A statement described in Subsection [(6)(a)] (8)(a) shall comply with the  
 1059 requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

1060 (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to  
 1061 determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a signature packet after  
 1062 receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

1063 Section 12. Section **20A-9-701** is amended to read:

1064 **20A-9-701 . Certification of party candidates to county clerks -- Display on ballot.**

1065 (1) No later than August 31 of each regular general election year, the lieutenant governor  
 1066 shall certify to each county clerk, for offices to be voted upon at the regular general  
 1067 election in that county clerk's county:

1068 (a) the names of each candidate nominated under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or  
 1069 Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(10); and

1070 (b) the names of the candidates for president and vice president that are certified by the  
 1071 registered political party as the party's nominees.

1072 (2) The names shall be certified by the lieutenant governor and shall be displayed on the  
 1073 ballot as they are provided on the candidate's declaration of candidacy. No other names  
 1074 may appear on the ballot as affiliated with, endorsed by, or nominated by any other  
 1075 registered political party, political party, or other political group.

1076 Section 13. **Effective Date.**

1077 This bill takes effect on January 1, 2027.