

Signature Verification Revisions

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Lisa Shepherd

Senate Sponsor:

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 an election official to post the name, voter precinct number, and date of signature of a registered voter who signs a candidate nomination petition on the lieutenant governor's website for at least 90 days after the date of an election;

▸ requires an election official to send an email notice to a registered voter described above informing the voter that:

- the voter's name and voter-related information is posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and

- the voter may request to have the voter's signature removed from the candidate nomination petition by submitting a written statement to the election official requesting removal of the signature;

▸ requires an election official to make the website posting described above regardless of whether the voter's voter registration record is classified as a private record;

▸ amends candidate nomination petition forms to include information notifying a voter of the posting and signature removal processes described above;

▸ for a candidate seeking the nomination of a qualified political party to an elective office 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 qualified political party holds a convention to nominate a candidate for the same elective office; and

▸ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

31 None

32 **Other Special Clauses:**

33 This bill provides a special effective date.

34 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

35 AMENDS:

36 **20A-1-501**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 16

37 **20A-3a-106**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 381, 448

38 **20A-6-301**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 39

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

40 **20A-6-304**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 136

41 **20A-9-403**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 39, 448

42 **20A-9-405**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 38

43 **20A-9-406**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 13

44 **20A-9-408**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 38, 448

45 **20A-9-502**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

46 **20A-9-701**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 296

47

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

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

50 **20A-1-501 . Candidate vacancies -- Procedure for filling.**

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

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

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

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

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

60 (2) Except as provided in Subsection (6), the central committee may certify the name of
61 another candidate to the appropriate election officer if:

62 (a) for a registered political party that will have a candidate on a ballot in a primary
63 election:

64 (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing

- 65 through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor provides the list
66 described in Subsection [~~20A-9-403(4)(a)~~] 20A-9-403(8)(a), only one or two
67 candidates from that party have filed a declaration of candidacy for that office and
68 one or both dies, resigns as a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and
- 69 (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate
70 to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor
71 provides the list described in Subsection [~~20A-9-403(4)(a)~~] 20A-9-403(8)(a);
- 72 (b) for a registered political party that does not have a candidate on the ballot in a
73 primary, but will have a candidate on the ballot for a regular general election:
- 74 (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing
75 through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor makes the
76 certification described in Section 20A-5-409, the party's candidate dies, resigns as
77 a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and
- 78 (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate
79 to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor
80 makes the certification described in Section 20A-5-409; or
- 81 (c) for a registered political party with a candidate certified as winning a primary
82 election:
- 83 (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing
84 through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor makes the
85 certification described in Section 20A-5-409, the party's candidate dies, resigns as
86 a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and
- 87 (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate
88 to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor
89 makes the certification described in Section 20A-5-409.
- 90 (3) If no more than two candidates from a political party have filed a declaration of
91 candidacy for an office elected at a regular general election and one resigns to become
92 the party candidate for another position, the central committee of that political party may
93 certify the name of another candidate to the appropriate election officer.
- 94 (4) Each replacement candidate shall file a declaration of candidacy as required by Chapter
95 9, Part 2, Candidate Qualifications and Declarations of Candidacy.
- 96 (5)(a) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(a) after the
97 deadline described in Subsection (2)(a)(ii) may not appear on the primary election
98 ballot.

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

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

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

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

107 Section 2. Section **20A-3a-106** is amended to read:

108 **20A-3a-106 . Rulemaking authority relating to conducting an election.**

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

112 (1) a return envelope, to ensure uniformity and security of the envelopes;

113 (2) complying with the signature comparison audit requirements described in Section
114 20A-3a-402.5;

115 (3) conducting and documenting the identity verification process described in Subsection
116 20A-3a-401(7)(b); or

117 (4) establishing specific requirements and procedures for an election officer to:

118 (a) perform the signature comparison audits described in Subsection [~~20A-9-408(9)(e)~~]
119 20A-9-408(9)(d); or

120 (b) fulfill the chain of custody requirements described in Section 20A-9-408.3.

121 Section 3. Section **20A-6-301** is amended to read:

122 **20A-6-301 . Manual ballots -- Regular general election.**

123 (1) Each election officer shall ensure that:

124 (a) all manual ballots furnished for use at the regular general election contain:

125 (i) no captions or other endorsements except as provided in this section;

126 (ii) no symbols, markings, or other descriptions of a political party or group, except
127 for a registered political party that has chosen to nominate its candidates in
128 accordance with Section 20A-9-403; and

129 (iii) no indication that a candidate for elective office has been nominated by, or has
130 been endorsed by, or is in any way affiliated with a political party or group, unless
131 the candidate has been nominated by a registered political party in accordance
132 with Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)~~] 20A-9-403(9);

- 133 (b) at the top of the ballot, the following endorsements are printed in 18 point bold type:
 134 (i) "Official Ballot for ____ County, Utah";
 135 (ii) the date of the election; and
 136 (iii) the words "certified by the Clerk of _____ County" or, as applicable, the
 137 name of a combined office that includes the duties of a county clerk;
- 138 (c) unaffiliated candidates, candidates not affiliated with a registered political party, and
 139 all other candidates for elective office who were not nominated by a registered
 140 political party in accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [
 141 ~~20A-9-403(5)~~] 20A-9-403(9), are listed with the other candidates for the same office
 142 in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110, without a party name or title;
- 143 (d) each ticket containing the lists of candidates, including the party name and device,
 144 are separated by heavy parallel lines;
- 145 (e) the offices to be filled are plainly printed immediately above the names of the
 146 candidates for those offices;
- 147 (f) the names of candidates are printed in capital letters, not less than one-eighth nor
 148 more than one-fourth of an inch high in heavy-faced type not smaller than 10 point,
 149 between lines or rules three-eighths of an inch apart; and
- 150 (g) on a ticket for a race in which a voter is authorized to cast a write-in vote and in
 151 which a write-in candidate is qualified under Section 20A-9-601:
 152 (i) the ballot includes a space for a write-in candidate immediately following the last
 153 candidate listed on that ticket; or
 154 (ii) for the offices of president and vice president and governor and lieutenant
 155 governor, the ballot includes two spaces for write-in candidates immediately
 156 following the last candidates on that ticket, one placed above the other, to enable
 157 the entry of two valid write-in candidates.
- 158 (2) An election officer shall ensure that:
- 159 (a) each individual nominated by any registered political party under Subsection
 160 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)~~] 20A-9-403(9), and no other individual, is
 161 placed on the ballot:
 162 (i) under the registered political party's name, if any; or
 163 (ii) under the title of the registered political party as designated by them in their
 164 certificates of nomination or petition, or, if none is designated, then under some
 165 suitable title;
- 166 (b) the names of all unaffiliated candidates that qualify as required in Chapter 9, Part 5,

- 167 Candidates not Affiliated with a Party, are placed on the ballot;
- 168 (c) the names of the candidates for president and vice president are used on the ballot
- 169 instead of the names of the presidential electors; and
- 170 (d) the ballots contain no other names.
- 171 (3) When the ballot contains a nonpartisan section, the election officer shall ensure that:
- 172 (a) the designation of the office to be filled in the election and the number of candidates
- 173 to be elected are printed in type not smaller than eight point;
- 174 (b) the words designating the office are printed flush with the left-hand margin;
- 175 (c) the words, "Vote for one" or "Vote for up to _____ (the number of candidates for
- 176 which the voter may vote)" extend to the extreme right of the column;
- 177 (d) the nonpartisan candidates are grouped according to the office for which they are
- 178 candidates;
- 179 (e) the names in each group are placed in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and
- 180 20A-6-110, with the surnames last; and
- 181 (f) each group is preceded by the designation of the office for which the candidates seek
- 182 election, and the words, "Vote for one" or "Vote for up to _____ (the number of
- 183 candidates for which the voter may vote)," according to the number to be elected.
- 184 (4) Each election officer shall ensure that:
- 185 (a) proposed amendments to the Utah Constitution are listed on the ballot in accordance
- 186 with Section 20A-6-107;
- 187 (b) ballot propositions submitted to the voters are listed on the ballot in accordance with
- 188 Section 20A-6-107;
- 189 (c) bond propositions that have qualified for the ballot are listed on the ballot under the
- 190 title assigned to each bond proposition under Section 11-14-206; and
- 191 (d) the judicial retention section of the ballot includes a statement at the beginning
- 192 directing voters to the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's website in
- 193 accordance with Subsection 20A-12-201(4).

194 Section 4. Section **20A-6-302** is amended to read:

195 **20A-6-302 . Manual ballots -- Placement of candidates' names.**

- 196 (1) An election officer shall ensure, for manual ballots in regular general elections, that:
- 197 (a) each candidate is listed by party, if nominated by a registered political party under
- 198 Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)~~] 20A-9-403(9);
- 199 (b) candidates' surnames are listed in alphabetical order on the ballots when two or more
- 200 candidates' names are required to be listed on a ticket under the title of an office; and

- 201 (c) the names of candidates are placed on the ballot in:
- 202 (i) the manner described in Section 20A-6-109; and
- 203 (ii) the order described in Section 20A-6-110.
- 204 (2)(a) When there is only one candidate for county attorney at the regular general
- 205 election in counties that have three or fewer registered voters of the county who are
- 206 licensed active members in good standing of the Utah State Bar, the county clerk
- 207 shall cause that candidate's name and party affiliation, if any, to be placed on a
- 208 separate section of the ballot with the following question: "Shall (name of candidate)
- 209 be elected to the office of county attorney? Yes ____ No ____."
- 210 (b) If the number of "Yes" votes exceeds the number of "No" votes, the candidate is
- 211 elected to the office of county attorney.
- 212 (c) If the number of "No" votes exceeds the number of "Yes" votes, the candidate is not
- 213 elected and may not take office, nor may the candidate continue in the office past the
- 214 end of the term resulting from any prior election or appointment.
- 215 (d) When the name of only one candidate for county attorney is printed on the ballot
- 216 under authority of this Subsection (2), the county clerk may not count any write-in
- 217 votes received for the office of county attorney.
- 218 (e) If no qualified individual files for the office of county attorney or if the candidate is
- 219 not elected by the voters, the county legislative body shall appoint the county
- 220 attorney as provided in Section 20A-1-509.2.
- 221 (f) If the candidate whose name would, except for this Subsection (2)(f), be placed on
- 222 the ballot under Subsection (2)(a) has been elected on a ballot under Subsection (2)(a)
- 223 to the two consecutive terms immediately preceding the term for which the candidate
- 224 is seeking election, Subsection (2)(a) does not apply and that candidate shall be
- 225 considered to be an unopposed candidate the same as any other unopposed candidate
- 226 for another office, unless a petition is filed with the county clerk before 5 p.m. no
- 227 later than the day before that year's primary election that:
- 228 (i) requests the procedure set forth in Subsection (2)(a) to be followed; and
- 229 (ii) contains the signatures of registered voters in the county representing in number
- 230 at least 25% of all votes cast in the county for all candidates for governor at the
- 231 last election at which a governor was elected.
- 232 (3)(a) When there is only one candidate for district attorney at the regular general
- 233 election in a prosecution district that has three or fewer registered voters of the
- 234 district who are licensed active members in good standing of the Utah State Bar, the

- 235 county clerk shall cause that candidate's name and party affiliation, if any, to be
236 placed on a separate section of the ballot with the following question: "Shall (name of
237 candidate) be elected to the office of district attorney? Yes ____ No ____."
- 238 (b) If the number of "Yes" votes exceeds the number of "No" votes, the candidate is
239 elected to the office of district attorney.
- 240 (c) If the number of "No" votes exceeds the number of "Yes" votes, the candidate is not
241 elected and may not take office, nor may the candidate continue in the office past the
242 end of the term resulting from any prior election or appointment.
- 243 (d) When the name of only one candidate for district attorney is printed on the ballot
244 under authority of this Subsection (3), the county clerk may not count any write-in
245 votes received for the office of district attorney.
- 246 (e) If no qualified individual files for the office of district attorney, or if the only
247 candidate is not elected by the voters under this subsection, the county legislative
248 body shall appoint a new district attorney for a four-year term as provided in Section
249 20A-1-509.2.
- 250 (f) If the candidate whose name would, except for this Subsection (3)(f), be placed on
251 the ballot under Subsection (3)(a) has been elected on a ballot under Subsection (3)(a)
252 to the two consecutive terms immediately preceding the term for which the candidate
253 is seeking election, Subsection (3)(a) does not apply and that candidate shall be
254 considered to be an unopposed candidate the same as any other unopposed candidate
255 for another office, unless a petition is filed with the county clerk before 5 p.m. no
256 later than the day before that year's primary election that:
- 257 (i) requests the procedure set forth in Subsection (3)(a) to be followed; and
258 (ii) contains the signatures of registered voters in the county representing in number
259 at least 25% of all votes cast in the county for all candidates for governor at the
260 last election at which a governor was elected.

261 Section 5. Section **20A-6-304** is amended to read:

262 **20A-6-304 . Regular general election -- Mechanical ballots.**

- 263 (1) Each election officer shall ensure that:
- 264 (a) the format and content of a mechanical ballot is arranged in approximately the same
265 order as manual ballots;
- 266 (b) the titles of offices and the names of candidates are displayed in vertical columns or
267 in a series of separate displays;
- 268 (c) the mechanical ballot is of sufficient length to include, after the list of candidates:

- 269 (i) the names of candidates for judicial offices and any other nonpartisan offices; and
 270 (ii) any ballot propositions submitted to the voters for their approval or rejection;
 271 (d) the office titles are displayed above or at the side of the names of candidates so as to
 272 indicate clearly the candidates for each office and the number to be elected;
 273 (e) the party designation of each candidate who has been nominated by a registered
 274 political party under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)~~]
 275 20A-9-403(9) is displayed adjacent to the candidate's name; and
 276 (f) if possible, all candidates for one office are grouped in one column or upon one
 277 display screen.

278 (2) Each election officer shall ensure that:

- 279 (a) proposed amendments to the Utah Constitution are displayed in accordance with
 280 Section 20A-6-107;
 281 (b) ballot propositions submitted to the voters are displayed in accordance with Section
 282 20A-6-107;
 283 (c) bond propositions that have qualified for the ballot are displayed under the title
 284 assigned to each bond proposition under Section 11-14-206; and
 285 (d) the judicial retention section of the ballot includes a statement at the beginning
 286 directing voters to the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's website in
 287 accordance with Subsection 20A-12-201(4).

288 Section 6. Section **20A-9-403** is amended to read:

289 **20A-9-403 . Regular primary elections.**

- 290 (1)(a) Candidates for elective office that are to be filled at the next regular general
 291 election shall be nominated in a regular primary election by direct vote of the people
 292 in the manner prescribed in this section. The regular primary election is held on the
 293 date specified in Section 20A-1-201.5. Nothing in this section shall affect a
 294 candidate's ability to qualify for a regular general election's ballot as an unaffiliated
 295 candidate under Section 20A-9-501 or to participate in a regular general election as a
 296 write-in candidate under Section 20A-9-601.
 297 (b) Each registered political party that chooses to have the names of the registered
 298 political party's candidates for elective office featured with party affiliation on the
 299 ballot at a regular general election shall comply with the requirements of this section
 300 and shall nominate the registered political party's candidates for elective office in the
 301 manner described in this section.
 302 (c) A filing officer may not permit an official ballot at a regular general election to be

303 produced or used if the ballot denotes affiliation between a registered political party
304 or any other political group and a candidate for elective office who is not nominated
305 in the manner prescribed in this section or in Subsection 20A-9-202(4).

306 (d) Unless noted otherwise, the dates in this section refer to those that occur in each
307 even-numbered year in which a regular general election will be held.

308 (2)(a) Each registered political party, in a statement filed with the lieutenant governor,
309 shall:

310 (i) either declare the registered political party's intent to participate in the next regular
311 primary election or declare that the registered political party chooses not to have
312 the names of the registered political party's candidates for elective office featured
313 on the ballot at the next regular general election; and

314 (ii) if the registered political party participates in the upcoming regular primary
315 election, identify one or more registered political parties whose members may
316 vote for the registered political party's candidates and whether individuals
317 identified as unaffiliated with a political party may vote for the registered political
318 party's candidates.

319 (b)(i) A registered political party that is a continuing political party shall file the
320 statement described in Subsection (2)(a) with the lieutenant governor no later than
321 5 p.m. on November 30 of each odd-numbered year.

322 (ii) An organization that is seeking to become a registered political party under
323 Section 20A-8-103 shall file the statement described in Subsection (2)(a) at the
324 time that the registered political party files the petition described in Section
325 20A-8-103.

326 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection [~~(3)(e)~~] (5), an individual who submits a
327 declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-202 shall appear as a candidate for
328 elective office on the regular primary ballot of the registered political party listed on
329 the declaration of candidacy only if the individual is certified by the appropriate
330 filing officer as having submitted a nomination petition that was:

331 (i) circulated and completed in accordance with Section 20A-9-405; and

332 (ii) signed by at least 2% of the registered political party's members who reside in the
333 political division of the office that the individual seeks.

334 (b)(i) A candidate for elective office shall, in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3,
335 submit signatures for a nomination petition to the appropriate filing officer for
336 verification and certification no later than 5 p.m. on March 31.

- 337 (ii) A candidate may supplement the candidate's submissions at any time on or before
 338 the filing deadline.
- 339 (c)(i) The lieutenant governor shall determine for each elective office the total
 340 number of signatures that must be submitted under Subsection (3)(a)(ii) or
 341 20A-9-408(8) by counting the aggregate number of individuals residing in each
 342 elective office's political division who have designated a particular registered
 343 political party on the individuals' voter registration forms on or before November
 344 15 of each odd-numbered year.
- 345 (ii) The lieutenant governor shall publish the determination for each elective office
 346 no later than November 30 of each odd-numbered year.
- 347 (d) The filing officer shall:
- 348 (i) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201, and in accordance with
 349 Section 20A-9-408.3, verify signatures on nomination petitions in a transparent
 350 and orderly manner, no later than 14 calendar days after the day on which a
 351 candidate submits the signatures to the filing officer;
- 352 (ii) for ~~[all qualifying candidates for elective office who submit nomination petitions~~
 353 ~~to the filing officer, issue certifications referenced]~~ each qualifying candidate for
 354 elective office who submits a nomination petition to the filing officer, issue the
 355 certification described in Subsection (3)(a) no later than the deadline described in
 356 Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b);
- 357 (iii) consider ~~[active and inactive voters eligible to sign nomination petitions]~~ an
 358 active and inactive voter eligible to sign a nomination petition;
- 359 (iv) consider an individual who signs a nomination petition a member of a registered
 360 political party for purposes of Subsection (3)(a)(ii) if the individual has designated [
 361 ~~that]~~ the registered political party as the individual's party membership on the
 362 individual's voter registration form; and
- 363 (v) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201 and with the assistance of
 364 the county clerk as applicable, use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002
 365 to verify submitted nomination petition signatures, or use statistical sampling
 366 procedures to verify submitted nomination petition signatures in accordance with
 367 rules made under Subsection ~~[(3)(f)]~~ (6).
- 368 (4) Subject to Subsection 20A-9-405(11)(a)(i), and notwithstanding Section 20A-2-104, the
 369 filing officer shall, no later than one business day after the day on which the signature of
 370 an individual who signs a nomination petition is verified under Subsection (3)(d) or

371 Section 20A-1-201:

- 372 (a) post the individual's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the
 373 lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant
 374 governor, for at least 90 calendar days after the date of the primary election; and
 375 (b) if the individual's voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid
 376 email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email notice to the
 377 individual, informing the individual that:
 378 (i) the individual's nomination petition signature is verified;
 379 (ii) the individual's name and voter information described in Subsection (4)(a) is
 380 posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and
 381 (iii) the individual has until the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-405(10)(a) to
 382 submit a statement to the filing officer, in accordance with Subsection
 383 20A-1-1003(2), requesting that the individual's signature be removed from the
 384 nomination petition.

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

389 ~~[(f)]~~ (6) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
 390 director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, may make rules that:

- 391 ~~[(f)]~~ (a) provide for the use of statistical sampling procedures that:
 392 ~~[(A)]~~ (i) filing officers are required to use to verify signatures under Subsection (3)(d);
 393 and
 394 ~~[(B)]~~ (ii) reflect a bona fide effort to determine the validity of a candidate's entire
 395 submission, using widely recognized statistical sampling techniques; and
 396 ~~[(f)]~~ (b) provide for the transparent, orderly, and timely submission, verification, and
 397 certification of nomination petition signatures.

398 ~~[(g)]~~ (7) The county clerk shall:

- 399 ~~[(f)]~~ (a) review the declarations of candidacy filed by candidates for local boards of
 400 education to determine if more than two candidates have filed for the same seat;
 401 ~~[(f)]~~ (b) place the names of all candidates who have filed a declaration of candidacy for a
 402 local board of education seat on the nonpartisan section of the ballot if more than two
 403 candidates have filed for the same seat; and
 404 ~~[(f)]~~ (c) place the local board of education candidates' names on the ballot in accordance

405 with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110.

406 [~~(4)~~] (8)(a) Before the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-409(4)(c), the lieutenant
407 governor shall provide to the county clerks:

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

412 (ii) a list of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by a
413 registered political party under Subsection (5)(c) and instruct the county clerks to
414 exclude the unopposed candidates from the primary election ballot.

415 (b) A candidate for lieutenant governor and a candidate for governor campaigning as
416 joint-ticket running mates shall appear jointly on the primary election ballot.

417 (c) After the county clerk receives the certified list from the lieutenant governor under
418 Subsection [~~(4)~~](a) (8)(a), the county clerk shall post or publish a primary election notice in
419 substantially the following form:

420 "Notice is given that a primary election will be held Tuesday, June _____,
421 _____(year), to nominate party candidates for the parties and candidates for nonpartisan
422 local school board positions listed on the primary ballot. The polling place for voting precinct
423 _____ is _____. The polls will open at 7 a.m. and continue open until 8 p.m. of the same day.
424 Attest: county clerk."

425 [~~(5)~~] (9)(a) A candidate who, at the regular primary election, receives the highest number
426 of votes cast for the office sought by the candidate is:

427 (i) nominated for that office by the candidate's registered political party; or

428 (ii) for a nonpartisan local school board position, nominated for that office.

429 (b) If two or more candidates are to be elected to the office at the regular general
430 election, those party candidates equal in number to positions to be filled who receive
431 the highest number of votes at the regular primary election are the nominees of the
432 candidates' party for those positions.

433 (c)(i) As used in this Subsection [~~(5)~~](e) (9)(c), a candidate is "unopposed" if:

434 (A) no individual other than the candidate receives a certification under
435 Subsection [~~(3)~~] (3)(a) for the regular primary election ballot of the candidate's
436 registered political party for a particular elective office; or

437 (B) for an office where more than one individual is to be elected or nominated, the
438 number of candidates who receive certification under Subsection [~~(3)~~] (3)(a) for

439 the regular primary election of the candidate's registered political party does
 440 not exceed the total number of candidates to be elected or nominated for that
 441 office.

442 (ii) A candidate who is unopposed for an elective office in the regular primary
 443 election of a registered political party is nominated by the party for that office
 444 without appearing on the primary election ballot.

445 ~~[(6)]~~ (10) The expense of providing all ballots, blanks, or other supplies to be used at any
 446 primary election provided for by this section, and all expenses necessarily incurred in
 447 the preparation for or the conduct of that primary election shall be paid out of the
 448 treasury of the county or state, in the same manner as for the regular general elections.

449 ~~[(7)]~~ (11) An individual may not file a declaration of candidacy for a registered political
 450 party of which the individual is not a member, except to the extent that the registered
 451 political party permits otherwise under the registered political party's bylaws.

452 Section 7. Section **20A-9-405** is amended to read:

453 **20A-9-405 . Nomination petitions for regular primary elections.**

- 454 (1) This section applies to the form and circulation of nomination petitions for regular
 455 primary elections described in Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(a).
- 456 (2) A candidate for elective office, and the agents of the candidate, may not circulate
 457 nomination petitions until the candidate has submitted a declaration of candidacy in
 458 accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(1).
- 459 (3) For the manual candidate qualification process, the nomination petitions shall be in
 460 substantially the following form:
- 461 (a) the petition shall be printed on paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
- 462 (b) the petition shall be ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space
 463 above that line blank for purposes of binding;
- 464 (c) the petition shall be headed by a caption stating the purpose of the petition and the
 465 name of the proposed candidate;
- 466 (d) the petition shall feature the ~~[word "Warning" followed by the]~~following statements
 467 in no less than eight-point, single leaded type:
- 468 (i) "WARNING: It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a
 469 nomination petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more
 470 than once for the same candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this
 471 state."; and
- 472 (ii) "NOTICE: Your name, voter precinct number, and date of signature may be

473 publicly disclosed on the lieutenant governor's website if you sign this petition.
474 This disclosure may occur even if your voter registration record has been
475 classified as a private record at your request. If your voter registration information
476 includes a valid email address, you will receive an email notifying you of the
477 disclosure as well as information on how to remove your name from this petition.
478 To ensure your voter registration information includes a valid email address,
479 please visit vote.utah.gov or the office of your county clerk.";

480 (e) the petition shall feature 10 lines spaced one-half inch apart and consecutively
481 numbered one through 10;

482 (f) the signature portion of the petition shall be divided into columns headed by the
483 following titles:

484 (i) Registered Voter's Printed Name;

485 (ii) Signature of Registered Voter;

486 (iii) Party Affiliation of Registered Voter;

487 (iv) Birth Date or Age (Optional);

488 (v) Street Address, City, Zip Code; and

489 (vi) Date of Signature; and

490 (g) a photograph of the candidate may appear on the nomination petition.

491 (4) For the electronic candidate qualification process, the lieutenant governor shall design
492 an electronic form, using progressive screens, that includes:

493 (a) the following warning:

494 [~~Warning~~] **WARNING:** It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a
495 nomination petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more than once for
496 the same candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this state."; [~~and~~]

497 (b) the following notice:

498 "NOTICE: Your name, voter precinct number, and date of signature may be
499 publicly disclosed on the lieutenant governor's website if you sign this petition. This
500 disclosure may occur even if your voter registration record has been classified as a
501 private record at your request. If your voter registration information includes a valid
502 email address, you will receive an email notifying you of the disclosure as well as
503 information on how to remove your name from this petition. To ensure your voter
504 registration information includes a valid email address, please visit vote.utah.gov or
505 the office of your county clerk."; and

506 [(b)] (c) the following information for each individual who signs the petition:

- 507 (i) name;
- 508 (ii) party affiliation;
- 509 (iii) date of birth or age, (optional);
- 510 (iv) street address, city, zip code;
- 511 (v) date of signature;
- 512 (vi) other information required under Section 20A-21-201; and
- 513 (vii) other information required by the lieutenant governor.

514 (5) For the manual candidate qualification process, if one or more nomination petitions are
515 bound together, a page shall be bound to the nomination petition(s) that features the following
516 printed verification statement to be signed and dated by the petition circulator:

517 "Verification

518 State of Utah, County of _____

519 I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:

520 I am at least 18 years old;

521 All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were, to the best of
522 my knowledge, signed by the persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear on
523 the signature sheets, and each of them signed the person's name on the signature sheets in my
524 presence;

525 I believe that each has printed and signed the person's name and written the person's
526 street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah."

527 (6) The lieutenant governor shall prepare and make public model nomination petition forms
528 and associated instructions.

529 (7) A nomination petition circulator:

530 (a) must be at least 18 years old; and

531 (b) may affiliate with any political party.

532 (8) It is unlawful for any person to:

533 (a) knowingly sign the nomination petition described in this section or Section
534 20A-9-408:

535 (i) with any name other than the person's own name;

536 (ii) more than once for the same candidate; or

537 (iii) if the person is not registered to vote in this state;

538 (b) sign the verification of a signature for a nomination petition if the person:

539 (i) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the
540 nomination petition; or

- 541 (ii) knows that a person whose signature appears on the nomination petition is not
 542 registered to vote in this state;
- 543 (c) pay compensation to any person to sign a nomination petition; or
- 544 (d) pay compensation to any person to circulate a nomination petition, if the
 545 compensation is based directly on the number of signatures submitted to a filing
 546 officer rather than on the number of signatures verified or on some other basis.
- 547 (9) Any person violating Subsection (8) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
- 548 (10)(a) A voter who signs a nomination petition may have the voter's signature removed
 549 from the petition by, no later than 5 p.m. three business days after the day on which [
 550 ~~the candidate files the petition with the appropriate filing officer~~] the filing officer
 551 makes the posting described in Subsection 20A-9-403(4)(a), submitting to the filing
 552 officer a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.
- 553 (b) A statement described in Subsection (10)(a) shall comply with the requirements
 554 described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
- 555 (c) The filing officer shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to
 556 determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a nomination petition
 557 after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.
- 558 (11)(a) If a filing officer timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under
 559 Subsection (10)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from the
 560 nomination petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the filing officer shall:
- 561 (i) remove the voter's name from the nomination petition;
- 562 (ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the
 563 posting described in Subsection 20A-9-403(4)(a); and
- 564 (iii) update the nomination petition signature totals.
- 565 (b) The filing officer shall comply with Subsection (11)(a) no later than 5 p.m. the day
 566 before the day of the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b).
- 567 Section 8. Section **20A-9-406** is amended to read:
- 568 **20A-9-406 . Qualified political party -- Requirements and exemptions.**
- 569 The following provisions apply to a qualified political party:
- 570 (1) the qualified political party shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the first Monday of October of
 571 each odd-numbered year, certify to the lieutenant governor the identity of one or more
 572 registered political parties whose members may vote for the qualified political party's
 573 candidates and whether unaffiliated voters may vote for the qualified political party's
 574 candidates;

- 575 (2) the following provisions do not apply to a nomination for the qualified political party:
576 (a) Subsections 20A-9-403(1) through (3)(b) and (3)(d) through [~~(4)(a)~~] (8)(a);
577 (b) Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)(e)~~] 20A-9-403(9)(c); and
578 (c) Section 20A-9-405;
- 579 (3) an individual may only seek the nomination of the qualified political party by using a
580 method described in Section 20A-9-407, Section 20A-9-408, or both;
- 581 (4) the qualified political party shall comply with the provisions of Sections 20A-9-407,
582 20A-9-408, and 20A-9-409;
- 583 (5) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-301(1)(a), (1)(e), or (2)(a), each election officer shall
584 ensure that a ballot described in Section 20A-6-301 includes each individual nominated
585 by a qualified political party:
586 (a) under the qualified political party's name , if any; or
587 (b) under the title of the qualified registered political party as designated by the qualified
588 political party in the certification described in Subsection (1), or, if none is
589 designated, then under some suitable title;
- 590 (6) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-302(1)(a), each election officer shall ensure, for
591 ballots in regular general elections, that each candidate who is nominated by the
592 qualified political party is listed by party;
- 593 (7) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-304(1)(e), each election officer shall ensure that the
594 party designation of each candidate who is nominated by the qualified political party is
595 displayed adjacent to the candidate's name on a mechanical ballot;
- 596 (8) "candidates for elective office," defined in Subsection 20A-9-101(1)(a), also includes an
597 individual who files a declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-407 or 20A-9-408
598 to run in a regular general election for a federal office, constitutional office, multicounty
599 office, or county office;
- 600 (9) an individual who is nominated by, or seeking the nomination of, the qualified political
601 party is not required to comply with Subsection 20A-9-201(1)(c);
- 602 (10) notwithstanding [~~Subsection 20A-9-403(3)~~] Subsections 20A-9-403(3) through (7), the
603 qualified political party is entitled to have each of the qualified political party's
604 candidates for elective office appear on the primary ballot of the qualified political party
605 with an indication that each candidate is a candidate for the qualified political party;
- 606 (11) notwithstanding Subsection [~~20A-9-403(4)(a)~~] 20A-9-403(8)(a), the lieutenant
607 governor shall include on the list provided by the lieutenant governor to the county
608 clerks:

- 609 (a) the names of all candidates of the qualified political party for federal, constitutional,
610 multicounty, and county offices; and
- 611 (b) the names of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by
612 the qualified political party and instruct the county clerks to exclude such candidates
613 from the primary-election ballot;
- 614 (12) notwithstanding Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)(e)~~] 20A-9-403(9)(c), a candidate who is
615 unopposed for an elective office in the regular primary election of the qualified political
616 party is nominated by the party for that office without appearing on the primary ballot;
617 and
- 618 (13) notwithstanding the provisions of Subsections 20A-9-403(1) and (2) and Section
619 20A-9-405, the qualified political party is entitled to have the names of its candidates for
620 elective office featured with party affiliation on the ballot at a regular general election.
621 Section 9. Section **20A-9-408** is amended to read:
- 622 **20A-9-408 . Signature-gathering process to seek the nomination of a qualified**
623 **political party -- Removal of signature.**
- 624 (1) This section describes the requirements for a member of a qualified political party who
625 is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office through
626 the signature-gathering process described in this section.
- 627 (2) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-201(7)(a), the form of the declaration of candidacy
628 for a member of a qualified political party who is nominated by, or who is seeking the
629 nomination of, the qualified political party under this section shall be substantially as
630 described in Section 20A-9-408.5.
- 631 (3) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(a), and except as provided in Subsection
632 20A-9-202(4), a member of a qualified political party who, under this section, is seeking
633 the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office that is to be filled at
634 the next general election shall:
- 635 (a) during the declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5,
636 and before gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing officer on a
637 form approved by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather signatures for
638 candidacy that includes:
- 639 (i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a registered
640 political party under this section;
- 641 (ii) the name of the registered political party for which the member is seeking
642 nomination;

- 643 (iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;
- 644 (iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and
- 645 (v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;
- 646 (b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in
- 647 person, with the filing officer during the declaration of candidacy filing period
- 648 described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and
- 649 (c) pay the filing fee.
- 650 (4) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(2)(a), a member of a qualified political party
- 651 who, under this section, is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for the
- 652 office of district attorney within a multicounty prosecution district that is to be filled at
- 653 the next general election shall:
- 654 (a) during the declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5,
- 655 and before gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing officer on a
- 656 form approved by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather signatures for
- 657 candidacy that includes:
- 658 (i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a registered
- 659 political party under this section;
- 660 (ii) the name of the registered political party for which the member is seeking
- 661 nomination;
- 662 (iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;
- 663 (iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and
- 664 (v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;
- 665 (b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in
- 666 person, with the filing officer during the declaration of candidacy filing period
- 667 described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and
- 668 (c) pay the filing fee.
- 669 (5) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(3)(a)(iii), a lieutenant governor candidate who
- 670 files as the joint-ticket running mate of an individual who is nominated by a qualified
- 671 political party, under this section, for the office of governor shall, during the declaration
- 672 of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, file a declaration of
- 673 candidacy and submit a letter from the candidate for governor that names the lieutenant
- 674 governor candidate as a joint-ticket running mate.
- 675 (6) The lieutenant governor shall ensure that the certification described in Subsection
- 676 20A-9-701(1) also includes the name of each candidate nominated by a qualified

677 political party under this section.

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

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

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

684 (b) collecting signatures, on a form approved by the lieutenant governor that complies
685 with Subsection 20A-9-405(3), during the period beginning on the day on which the
686 member files a notice of intent to gather signatures and ending at the deadline
687 described in Subsection [~~12~~] (15), in the following amounts:

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

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

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

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

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

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

704 (B) 3% of the registered voters of the qualified political party who are residents of
705 the applicable State Board of Education district; and

706 (vi) for a county office race, signatures of 3% of the registered voters who are
707 residents of the area permitted to vote for the county office and are permitted by
708 the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in
709 a primary election.

710 (9)(a) This Subsection (9) applies only to the manual candidate qualification process.

- 711 (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the
 712 qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, using
 713 the manual candidate qualification process, the member shall:
- 714 (i) collect the signatures on a form approved by the lieutenant governor, using the
 715 same circulation and verification requirements described in Sections 20A-7-105
 716 and 20A-7-204; and
- 717 (ii) in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, submit the signatures to the election
 718 officer before the deadline described in Subsection [(12)] (15).
- 719 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), and in
 720 accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, the election officer shall, no later than the
 721 earlier of 14 calendar days after the day on which the election officer receives the
 722 signatures, or ~~one day~~ seven calendar days before the day on which the qualified
 723 political party holds the convention to select a nominee for the elective office to
 724 which the signature packets relate:
- 725 (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature
 726 packet to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old;
- 727 (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (9)(c)(i) who is not at
 728 least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney;
- 729 (iii) with the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, determine whether each
 730 signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the petition, using the same
 731 method, described in Section 20A-1-1002, used to verify a signature on a petition;
 732 and
- 733 (iv) certify whether each name is that of a registered voter who is qualified to sign the
 734 signature packet.
- 735 ~~[(d)(i) A registered voter who physically signs a form under Subsections (8) and~~
 736 ~~(9)(b) may have the voter's signature removed from the form by, no later than 5~~
 737 ~~p.m. three business days after the day on which the member submits the signature~~
 738 ~~form to the election officer, submitting to the election officer a statement~~
 739 ~~requesting that the voter's signature be removed.]~~
- 740 ~~[(ii) A statement described in Subsection (9)(d)(i) shall comply with the requirements~~
 741 ~~described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).]~~
- 742 ~~[(iii) With the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, the election officer shall~~
 743 ~~use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether~~
 744 ~~to remove an individual's signature after receiving a timely, valid statement~~

- 745 requesting removal of the signature.]
- 746 [(e)] (d)(i) An election officer shall, in accordance with this Subsection [(9)(e)] (9)(d)
- 747 and rules made under Section 20A-3a-106, conduct regular audits of signature
- 748 comparisons made between signatures gathered under this section and voter
- 749 signatures maintained by the election officer.
- 750 (ii) An individual who conducts an audit of signature comparisons under this section
- 751 may not audit the individual's own work.
- 752 (iii) The election officer shall:
- 753 (A) audit 1% of all signature comparisons described in Subsection [(9)(e)(i)]
- 754 (9)(d)(i) to determine the accuracy of the comparisons made;
- 755 (B) record the individuals who conducted the audit;
- 756 (C) record the audit results;
- 757 (D) provide additional training or staff reassignments, as needed, based on the
- 758 results of an audit described in Subsection [(9)(e)(i)] (9)(d)(i); and
- 759 (E) record any remedial action taken.
- 760 (iv) The audit results described in Subsection [(9)(e)(iii)(C)] (9)(d)(iii)(C) are a public
- 761 record.
- 762 [(f)] (e) An election officer who certifies signatures under Subsection (9)(c) or
- 763 20A-9-403(3)(d) shall, after certifying enough signatures to establish that a candidate
- 764 has reached the applicable signature threshold described in Subsection (8) or
- 765 20A-9-403(3)(a), as applicable, continue to certify signatures submitted for the
- 766 candidate in excess of the number of signatures required, until the election officer
- 767 either:
- 768 (i) certifies signatures equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold; or
- 769 (ii) has reviewed all signatures submitted for the candidate before reaching an
- 770 amount equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold.
- 771 (10)(a) This Subsection (10) applies only to the electronic candidate qualification
- 772 process.
- 773 (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the
- 774 qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, the
- 775 member shall, before the deadline described in Subsection [(12)] (15), collect
- 776 signatures electronically:
- 777 (i) in accordance with Section 20A-21-201; and
- 778 (ii) using progressive screens, in a format approved by the lieutenant governor, that

- 779 complies with Subsection 20A-9-405(4).
- 780 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and ~~[(9)(b)]~~ (10)(b),
781 the election officer shall, no later than the earlier of 14 calendar days after the day on
782 which the election officer receives the signatures, or ~~[one day]~~ seven calendar days
783 before the day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a
784 nominee for the elective office to which the signature packets relate:
- 785 (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature
786 to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old; and
- 787 (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (10)(c)(i) who is not
788 at least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney.
- 789 (11) Subject to Subsection (13)(a)(i), and notwithstanding Section 20A-2-104, an election
790 officer shall, no later than one business day after the day on which the signature of an
791 individual who signs a petition is verified under Subsection (9)(c) or Section 20A-21-201:
- 792 (a) post the individual's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the
793 lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant
794 governor, for at least 90 calendar days after the date of the primary election; and
- 795 (b) if the individual's voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid
796 email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email notice to the
797 individual, informing the individual that:
- 798 (i) the individual's petition signature is verified;
- 799 (ii) the individual's name and voter information described in Subsection (11)(a) is
800 posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and
- 801 (iii) the individual has until the deadline described in Subsection (12)(a) to submit a
802 statement to the election officer, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(2),
803 requesting that the individual's signature be removed from the petition.
- 804 (12)(a) A registered voter who physically signs a petition under Subsections (8) and
805 (9)(b), or who electronically signs a petition under Subsections (8) and (10)(b), may
806 have the voter's signature removed from the petition by, no later than 5 p.m. three
807 business days after the day on which the election officer makes the posting described
808 in Subsection (11)(a), submitting to the election officer a statement requesting that
809 the voter's signature be removed.
- 810 (b) A statement described in Subsection (12)(a) shall comply with the requirements
811 described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
- 812 (c) With the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, the election officer shall use the

813 procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove
814 an individual's signature from a petition after receiving a timely, valid statement
815 requesting removal of the signature.

816 (13)(a) If an election officer timely receives a statement requesting signature removal
817 under Subsection (12)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from
818 the petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the election officer shall:

819 (i) remove the voter's name from the petition;

820 (ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the
821 posting described in Subsection (11)(a); and

822 (iii) update the petition signature totals.

823 (b) The election officer shall comply with Subsection (13)(a) no later than 5 p.m. the day
824 before the day of the convention described in Subsection (14)(c).

825 [(H)] (14)(a) An individual may not gather signatures under this section until after the
826 individual files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this
827 section.

828 (b) An individual who files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy,
829 described in Subsection (3)(a) or (4)(a), is, beginning on the day on which the
830 individual files the notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy:

831 (i) required to comply with the reporting requirements that a candidate for office is
832 required to comply with; and

833 (ii) subject to the same enforcement provisions, and civil and criminal penalties, that
834 apply to a candidate for office in relation to the reporting requirements described
835 in Subsection [(H)(b)(i)] (14)(b)(i).

836 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), or
837 Subsections (8) and (10)(b), the election officer shall, no later than the day before the
838 day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee
839 for the elective office to which the signature packets relate, notify the qualified
840 political party and the lieutenant governor of the name of each member of the
841 qualified political party who qualifies as a nominee of the qualified political party,
842 under this section, for the elective office to which the convention relates.

843 (d) Upon receipt of a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this
844 section, the lieutenant governor shall post the notice of intent to gather signatures for
845 candidacy on the lieutenant governor's website in the same location that the
846 lieutenant governor posts a declaration of candidacy.

847 [(12)] (15) The deadline before which a member of a qualified political party must collect
 848 and submit signatures to the election officer under this section is 5 p.m. on the last
 849 business day that is at least [14] 21 calendar days before the day on which the qualified
 850 political party's convention for the office begins.

851 Section 10. Section **20A-9-502** is amended to read:

852 **20A-9-502 . Certificate of nomination -- Contents -- Circulation -- Verification --**
 853 **Criminal penalty -- Removal of petition signature.**

854 (1) The candidate shall:

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

856 "State of Utah, County of _____

857 I, _____, declare my intention of becoming an unaffiliated candidate for the
 858 political group designated as ____ for the office of _____. I do solemnly swear that I can
 859 qualify to hold that office both legally and constitutionally if selected, and that I reside at ____
 860 Street, in the city of _____, county of _____, state of _____, zip code _____, phone _____, and
 861 that I am providing, or have provided, the required number of holographic signatures of
 862 registered voters required by law; that as a candidate at the next election I will not knowingly
 863 violate any election or campaign law; that, if filing via a designated agent for an office other
 864 than president of the United States, I will be out of the state of Utah during the entire candidate
 865 filing period; I will file all campaign financial disclosure reports as required by law; and I
 866 understand that failure to do so will result in my disqualification as a candidate for this office
 867 and removal of my name from the ballot.

868

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

870

871 _____
 Notary Public (or other officer

872 _____
 qualified to administer oaths)";

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

875 (i) are printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

- 876 (ii) are ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space above that
877 line blank for the purpose of binding;
- 878 (iii) contain the name of the proposed candidate and the words "Unaffiliated
879 Candidate Certificate of Nomination Petition" printed directly below the
880 horizontal line;
- 881 (iv) contain the word "Warning" printed directly under the words described in
882 Subsection (1)(b)(iii);
- 883 (v) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed in not less than
884 eight-point, single leaded type:
885 "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a certificate of nomination
886 signature sheet with any name other than the person's own name or more than once for the
887 same candidate or if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
888 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the signatures.";
- 889 (vi) contain the word "Notice" printed directly beneath the words described in
890 Subsection (1)(b)(v);
- 891 (vii) contain, to the right of the word "Notice," the following statement printed in not
892 less than eight-point, single leaded type:
893 "Your name, voter precinct number, and date of signature may be publicly
894 disclosed on the lieutenant governor's website if you sign this petition. This
895 disclosure may occur even if your voter registration record has been classified as a
896 private record at your request. If your voter registration information includes a
897 valid email address, you will receive an email notifying you of the disclosure as
898 well as information on how to remove your name from this petition. To ensure
899 your voter registration information contains a valid email address, please visit
900 vote.utah.gov or the office of your county clerk.";
- 901 [(vi)] (viii) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in
902 Subsection [(1)(b)(v)] (1)(v)(vii):
903 "Each signer says:
904 I have personally signed this petition with a holographic signature;
905 I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the
906 county clerk certifies my signature; and
907 My street address is written correctly after my name.";
- 908 [(vii)] (ix) contain horizontally ruled lines, 3/8 inch apart under the statement
909 described in Subsection [(1)(b)(vi)] (1)(b)(viii); and

910 [(viii)] (x) be vertically divided into columns as follows:

911 (A) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be 5/8 inch wide,
912 be headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical
913 line down the middle;

914 (B) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's
915 Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)";

916 (C) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Holographic Signature of
917 Registered Voter";

918 (D) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age
919 (Optional)";

920 (E) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip
921 Code"; and

922 (F) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age
923 information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with
924 voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may
925 not be certified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition
926 signatures are certified or if the information you provide does not match your
927 voter registration records."; and

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

930 "Verification

931 State of Utah, County of _____

932 I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:

933 I am at least 18 years old;

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

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

940 _____
941 (Signature) (Residence Address) (Date) ["."]

942 (2) An agent designated to file a certificate of nomination under Subsection
943 20A-9-503(2)(b) or (4)(b) may not sign the form described in Subsection (1)(a).

- 944 (3)(a) The candidate shall circulate the nomination petition and ensure that the person in
945 whose presence each signature sheet is signed:
- 946 (i) is at least 18 years old; and
 - 947 (ii) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification bound to one or more
948 signature sheets that are bound together.
- 949 (b) A person may not sign the circulator verification if the person signed a signature
950 sheet bound to the verification.
- 951 (4)(a) It is unlawful for any person to:
- 952 (i) knowingly sign a certificate of nomination signature sheet:
 - 953 (A) with any name other than the person's own name;
 - 954 (B) more than once for the same candidate; or
 - 955 (C) if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
956 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the
957 signatures; or
 - 958 (ii) sign the verification of a certificate of nomination signature sheet if the person:
 - 959 (A) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the
960 certificate of nomination signature sheet; or
 - 961 (B) knows that a person whose signature appears on the certificate of nomination
962 signature sheet is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
963 become registered to vote in this state.
- 964 (b) Any person violating this Subsection (4) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
- 965 (5)(a) To qualify for placement on the general election ballot, the candidate shall, no
966 earlier than the start of the declaration of candidacy period described in Section
967 20A-9-201.5 and no later than 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in which the election
968 will be held:
- 969 (i) comply with Subsection 20A-9-503(1); and
 - 970 (ii) submit each signature packet to the county clerk where the majority of the
971 signatures in the packet were collected, with signatures totaling:
 - 972 (A) at least 1,000 registered voters residing within the state when the nomination
973 is for an office to be filled by the voters of the entire state; or
 - 974 (B) at least 300 registered voters residing within a political division or at least 5%
975 of the registered voters residing within a political division, whichever is less,
976 when the nomination is for an office to be filled by the voters of any political
977 division smaller than the state.

- 978 (b) A candidate has not complied with Subsection (5)(a)(ii), unless the county clerks
979 verify that each required signature is a valid signature of a registered voter who is
980 eligible to sign the signature packet and has not signed a signature packet to nominate
981 another candidate for the same office.
- 982 (c) In reviewing the signature packets, the county clerk shall count and certify only those
983 persons who signed with a holographic signature, who:
984 (i) are registered voters within the political division that the candidate seeks to
985 represent; and
986 (ii) did not sign any other certificate of nomination for that office.
- 987 (d) The county clerk shall count and certify the number of registered voters who validly
988 signed a signature packet, no later than 30 calendar days after the day on which the
989 candidate submits the signature packet.
- 990 (e) The candidate may supplement the signatures or amend the certificate of nomination
991 or declaration of candidacy at any time on or before 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in
992 which the election will be held.
- 993 (f) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to
994 determine whether a signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature
995 packet.
- 996 (6) Subject to Subsection (8)(a)(i), and notwithstanding Section 20A-2-104, the county
997 clerk shall, no later than one business day after the day on which the signature of a voter
998 who signs a signature packet is verified under Subsection (5)(b):
- 999 (a) post the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the lieutenant
1000 governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor,
1001 for at least 90 calendar days after the date of the general election; and
- 1002 (b) if the voter's voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid
1003 email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email notice to the
1004 voter, informing the voter that:
- 1005 (i) the voter's nomination petition signature is verified;
1006 (ii) the voter's name and voter information described in Subsection (6)(a) is posted on
1007 the lieutenant governor's website; and
- 1008 (iii) the voter has until the deadline described in Subsection (7)(a) to submit a
1009 statement to the county clerk, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(2),
1010 requesting that the voter's signature be removed from the petition.
- 1011 [~~6~~] (7)(a) A voter who signs a signature packet under this section may have the voter's

1012 signature removed from the signature packet by, no later than 5 p.m. three business
 1013 days after the day on which ~~[the candidate submits the signature packet to the county~~
 1014 ~~clerk]~~ the county clerk makes the posting described in Subsection (6)(a), submitting to
 1015 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

1016 (b) A statement described in Subsection ~~[(6)(a)]~~ (7)(a) shall comply with the
 1017 requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

1018 (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to
 1019 determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a signature packet after
 1020 receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

1021 (8)(a) If a county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under
 1022 Subsection (7)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from the
 1023 nomination petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the county clerk shall:

1024 (i) remove the voter's name from the nomination petition;

1025 (ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the
 1026 posting described in Subsection (7)(a); and

1027 (iii) update the nomination petition signature totals.

1028 (b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection (8)(a) no later than five business days
 1029 after the day on which the county clerk receives a statement requesting signature
 1030 removal under Subsection (7)(a).

1031 Section 11. Section **20A-9-701** is amended to read:

1032 **20A-9-701 . Certification of party candidates to county clerks -- Display on ballot.**

1033 (1) No later than August 31 of each regular general election year, the lieutenant governor
 1034 shall certify to each county clerk, for offices to be voted upon at the regular general
 1035 election in that county clerk's county:

1036 (a) the names of each candidate nominated under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or
 1037 Subsection ~~[20A-9-403(5)]~~ 20A-9-403(9); and

1038 (b) the names of the candidates for president and vice president that are certified by the
 1039 registered political party as the party's nominees.

1040 (2) The names shall be certified by the lieutenant governor and shall be displayed on the
 1041 ballot as they are provided on the candidate's declaration of candidacy. No other names
 1042 may appear on the ballot as affiliated with, endorsed by, or nominated by any other
 1043 registered political party, political party, or other political group.

1044 Section 12. **Effective Date.**

1045 This bill takes effect on January 1, 2027.