

**Lisa Shepherd** proposes the following substitute bill:

**Signature Verification Revisions**

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 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

29           ▸ makes technical and conforming changes.

30       **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 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2

44           **20A-9-408**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2

45           **20A-9-502**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2

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

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

- 607 (11) notwithstanding Subsection [~~20A-9-403(4)(a)~~] 20A-9-403(8)(a), the lieutenant  
 608 governor shall include on the list provided by the lieutenant governor to the county  
 609 clerks:
- 610 (a) the names of all candidates of the qualified political party for federal, constitutional,  
 611 multicounty, and county offices; and
- 612 (b) the names of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by  
 613 the qualified political party and instruct the county clerks to exclude such candidates  
 614 from the primary-election ballot;
- 615 (12) notwithstanding Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)(e)~~] 20A-9-403(9)(c), a candidate who is  
 616 unopposed for an elective office in the regular primary election of the qualified political  
 617 party is nominated by the party for that office without appearing on the primary ballot;  
 618 and
- 619 (13) notwithstanding the provisions of Subsections 20A-9-403(1) and (2) and Section  
 620 20A-9-405, the qualified political party is entitled to have the names of [~~its~~] the qualified  
 621 political party's candidates for elective office featured with party affiliation on the ballot  
 622 at a regular general election.
- 623 Section 9. Section **20A-9-408** is amended to read:
- 624 **20A-9-408 . Signature-gathering process to seek the nomination of a qualified**  
 625 **political party -- Removal of signature.**
- 626 (1) This section describes the requirements for a member of a qualified political party who  
 627 is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office through  
 628 the signature-gathering process described in this section.
- 629 (2) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-201(7)(a), the form of the declaration of candidacy  
 630 for a member of a qualified political party who is nominated by, or who is seeking the  
 631 nomination of, the qualified political party under this section shall be substantially as  
 632 described in Section 20A-9-408.5.
- 633 (3) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(a), and except as provided in Subsection  
 634 20A-9-202(4), a member of a qualified political party who, under this section, is seeking  
 635 the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office that is to be filled at  
 636 the next general election shall:
- 637 (a) except to the extent otherwise provided in Subsection [~~(13)(a)~~] (16)(a), during the  
 638 applicable declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5,  
 639 and before gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing officer on a  
 640 form approved by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather signatures for

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

- 675 declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, file a  
676 declaration of candidacy and submit a letter from the candidate for governor that names  
677 the lieutenant governor candidate as a joint-ticket running mate.
- 678 (6) The lieutenant governor shall ensure that the certification described in Subsection  
679 20A-9-701(1) also includes the name of each candidate nominated by a qualified  
680 political party under this section.
- 681 (7) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-701(2), the ballot shall, for each candidate who is  
682 nominated by a qualified political party under this section, designate the qualified  
683 political party that nominated the candidate.
- 684 (8) A member of a qualified political party may seek the nomination of the qualified  
685 political party for an elective office by:
- 686 (a) complying with the requirements described in this section; and
- 687 (b) collecting signatures, on a form approved by the lieutenant governor that complies  
688 with Subsection 20A-9-405(3), during the period beginning on the day on which the  
689 member files a notice of intent to gather signatures and ending at the applicable  
690 deadline described in Subsection [~~(12)~~] (15), in the following amounts:
- 691 (i) for a statewide race, 28,000 signatures of registered voters in the state who are  
692 permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's  
693 candidates in a primary election;
- 694 (ii) except as provided in Subsection [~~(13)(b)~~] (16)(b), for a congressional district  
695 race, 7,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the congressional  
696 district and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified  
697 political party's candidates in a primary election;
- 698 (iii) for a state Senate district race, 2,000 signatures of registered voters who are  
699 residents of the state Senate district and are permitted by the qualified political  
700 party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;
- 701 (iv) for a state House district race, 1,000 signatures of registered voters who are  
702 residents of the state House district and are permitted by the qualified political  
703 party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;
- 704 (v) for a State Board of Education race, the lesser of:
- 705 (A) 2,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the State Board of  
706 Education district and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for  
707 the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election; or
- 708 (B) 3% of the registered voters of the qualified political party who are residents of

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

- 743 ~~requesting that the voter's signature be removed.]~~
- 744 ~~[(ii) A statement described in Subsection (9)(d)(i) shall comply with the requirements~~
- 745 ~~described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).]~~
- 746 ~~[(iii) With the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, the election officer shall~~
- 747 ~~use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether~~
- 748 ~~to remove an individual's signature after receiving a timely, valid statement~~
- 749 ~~requesting removal of the signature.]~~
- 750 ~~[(e)] (d)(i) An election officer shall, in accordance with this Subsection ~~[(9)(e)]~~ (9)(d)~~
- 751 ~~and rules made under Section 20A-3a-106, conduct regular audits of signature~~
- 752 ~~comparisons made between signatures gathered under this section and voter~~
- 753 ~~signatures maintained by the election officer.~~
- 754 (ii) An individual who conducts an audit of signature comparisons under this section
- 755 may not audit the individual's own work.
- 756 (iii) The election officer shall:
- 757 (A) audit 1% of all signature comparisons described in Subsection ~~[(9)(e)(i)]~~
- 758 ~~(9)(d)(i)~~ to determine the accuracy of the comparisons made;
- 759 (B) record the individuals who conducted the audit;
- 760 (C) record the audit results;
- 761 (D) provide additional training or staff reassignments, as needed, based on the
- 762 results of an audit described in Subsection ~~[(9)(e)(i)]~~ ~~(9)(d)(i)~~; and
- 763 (E) record any remedial action taken.
- 764 (iv) The audit results described in Subsection ~~[(9)(e)(iii)(C)]~~ ~~(9)(d)(iii)(C)~~ are a public
- 765 record.
- 766 ~~[(f)]~~ (e) An election officer who certifies signatures under Subsection (9)(c) or
- 767 20A-9-403(3)(d) shall, after certifying enough signatures to establish that a candidate
- 768 has reached the applicable signature threshold described in Subsection (8) or
- 769 20A-9-403(3)(a), as applicable, continue to certify signatures submitted for the
- 770 candidate in excess of the number of signatures required, until the election officer
- 771 either:
- 772 (i) certifies signatures equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold; or
- 773 (ii) has reviewed all signatures submitted for the candidate before reaching an
- 774 amount equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold.
- 775 (10)(a) This Subsection (10) applies only to the electronic candidate qualification
- 776 process.

- 777 (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the  
 778 qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, the  
 779 member shall, before the deadline described in Subsection [~~(12)~~] (15), collect  
 780 signatures electronically:
- 781 (i) in accordance with Section 20A-21-201; and
  - 782 (ii) using progressive screens, in a format approved by the lieutenant governor, that  
 783 complies with Subsection 20A-9-405(4).
- 784 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and [~~(9)(b)~~] (10)(b),  
 785 the election officer shall, no later than the earlier of 14 calendar days after the day on  
 786 which the election officer receives the signatures, or [~~one day~~] seven calendar days  
 787 before the day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a  
 788 nominee for the elective office to which the signature packets relate:
- 789 (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature  
 790 to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old; and
  - 791 (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (10)(c)(i) who is not  
 792 at least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney.
- 793 (11) Subject to Subsection (13)(a)(i), and notwithstanding Section 20A-2-104, an election  
 794 officer shall, no later than one business day after the day on which the signature of an  
 795 individual who signs a petition is verified under Subsection (9)(c) or Section 20A-21-201:
- 796 (a) post the individual's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the  
 797 lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant  
 798 governor, for at least 90 calendar days after the date of the primary election; and
  - 799 (b) if the individual's voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid  
 800 email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email notice to the  
 801 individual, informing the individual that:
    - 802 (i) the individual's petition signature is verified;
    - 803 (ii) the individual's name and voter information described in Subsection (11)(a) is  
 804 posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and
    - 805 (iii) the individual has until the deadline described in Subsection (12)(a) to submit a  
 806 statement to the election officer, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(2),  
 807 requesting that the individual's signature be removed from the petition.
- 808 (12)(a) A registered voter who physically signs a petition under Subsections (8) and  
 809 (9)(b), or who electronically signs a petition under Subsections (8) and (10)(b), may  
 810 have the voter's signature removed from the petition by, no later than 5 p.m. three

- 811 business days after the day on which the election officer makes the posting described  
812 in Subsection (11)(a), submitting to the election officer a statement requesting that  
813 the voter's signature be removed.
- 814 (b) A statement described in Subsection (12)(a) shall comply with the requirements  
815 described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
- 816 (c) With the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, the election officer shall use the  
817 procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove  
818 an individual's signature from a petition after receiving a timely, valid statement  
819 requesting removal of the signature.
- 820 (13)(a) If an election officer timely receives a statement requesting signature removal  
821 under Subsection (12)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from  
822 the petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the election officer shall:
- 823 (i) remove the voter's name from the petition;  
824 (ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the  
825 posting described in Subsection (11)(a); and  
826 (iii) update the petition signature totals.
- 827 (b) The election officer shall comply with Subsection (13)(a) no later than 5 p.m. the day  
828 before the day of the convention described in Subsection (14)(c).
- 829 [(H)] (14)(a) An individual may not gather signatures under this section until after the  
830 individual files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this  
831 section.
- 832 (b) An individual who files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy,  
833 described in Subsection (3)(a) or (4)(a), is, beginning on the day on which the  
834 individual files the notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy:
- 835 (i) required to comply with the reporting requirements that a candidate for office is  
836 required to comply with; and
- 837 (ii) subject to the same enforcement provisions, and civil and criminal penalties, that  
838 apply to a candidate for office in relation to the reporting requirements described  
839 in Subsection [(H)(b)(i)] (14)(b)(i).
- 840 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), or  
841 Subsections (8) and (10)(b), the election officer shall, no later than the day before the  
842 day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee  
843 for the elective office to which the signature packets relate, notify the qualified  
844 political party and the lieutenant governor of the name of each member of the

845 qualified political party who qualifies as a nominee of the qualified political party,  
846 under this section, for the elective office to which the convention relates.

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

851 ~~[(12)]~~ (15) The deadline before which a member of a qualified political party must collect  
852 and submit signatures to the election officer under this section is 5 p.m. on the last  
853 business day that is at least ~~[14]~~ 21 calendar days before the day on which the qualified  
854 political party's convention for the office begins.

855 ~~[(13)]~~ (16) For the 2026 election year only, an individual who desires to gather signatures to  
856 seek the nomination of a qualified political party for the office of United States  
857 representative shall:

858 (a) in accordance with Subsection (3)(a), file a notice of intent to gather signatures  
859 during the period beginning at 8 a.m. on the first business day of January and ending  
860 at 5 p.m. on March 13, 2026; and

861 (b) during the period beginning on the day on which the individual files the notice of  
862 intent to gather signatures and ending at 5 p.m. on March 13, 2026, on a form  
863 approved by the lieutenant governor that complies with Subsection 20A-9-405(3),  
864 collect 7,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the state and are  
865 permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's  
866 candidates in a primary election.

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

868 **20A-9-502 . Certificate of nomination -- Contents -- Circulation -- Verification --**  
869 **Criminal penalty -- Removal of petition signature.**

870 (1) The candidate shall:

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

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

873 I, \_\_\_\_\_, declare my intention of becoming an unaffiliated candidate for the  
874 political group designated as \_\_\_\_ for the office of \_\_\_\_\_. I do solemnly swear that I can  
875 qualify to hold that office both legally and constitutionally if selected, and that I reside at \_\_\_\_  
876 Street, in the city of \_\_\_\_\_, county of \_\_\_\_\_, state of \_\_\_\_\_, zip code \_\_\_\_\_, phone \_\_\_\_\_, and  
877 that I am providing, or have provided, the required number of holographic signatures of  
878 registered voters required by law; that as a candidate at the next election I will not knowingly

879 violate any election or campaign law; that, if filing via a designated agent for an office other  
 880 than president of the United States, I will be out of the state of Utah during the entire candidate  
 881 filing period; I will file all campaign financial disclosure reports as required by law; and I  
 882 understand that failure to do so will result in my disqualification as a candidate for this office  
 883 and removal of my name from the ballot.  
 884

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

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887 Notary Public (or other officer  
 888 qualified to administer oaths)";

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

- 891 (i) are printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
- 892 (ii) are ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space above that  
 893 line blank for the purpose of binding;
- 894 (iii) contain the name of the proposed candidate and the words "Unaffiliated  
 895 Candidate Certificate of Nomination Petition" printed directly below the  
 896 horizontal line;
- 897 (iv) contain the word "Warning" printed directly under the words described in  
 898 Subsection (1)(b)(iii);

899 (v) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed in not less than  
 900 eight-point, single leaded type:

901 "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a certificate of nomination  
 902 signature sheet with any name other than the person's own name or more than once for the  
 903 same candidate or if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to  
 904 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the signatures.";

905 (vi) contain the word "Notice" printed directly beneath the words described in  
 906 Subsection (1)(b)(v);

907 (vii) contain, to the right of the word "Notice," the following statement printed in not

908 less than eight-point, single leaded type:  
 909 "Your name, voter precinct number, and date of signature may be publicly  
 910 disclosed on the lieutenant governor's website if you sign this petition. This  
 911 disclosure may occur even if your voter registration record has been classified as a  
 912 private record at your request. If your voter registration information includes a  
 913 valid email address, you will receive an email notifying you of the disclosure as  
 914 well as information on how to remove your name from this petition. To ensure  
 915 your voter registration information contains a valid email address, please visit  
 916 vote.utah.gov or the office of your county clerk.";

917 [(vi)] (viii) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in

918 Subsection [(1)(b)(v)] (1)(b)(vii):

919 "Each signer says:

920 I have personally signed this petition with a holographic signature;

921 I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the  
 922 county clerk certifies my signature; and

923 My street address is written correctly after my name.";

924 [(vii)] (ix) contain horizontally ruled lines, 3/8 inch apart under the statement  
 925 described in Subsection [(1)(b)(vi)] (1)(b)(viii); and

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

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

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

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

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

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

938 (F) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age  
 939 information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with  
 940 voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may  
 941 not be certified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition

942 signatures are certified or if the information you provide does not match your  
 943 voter registration records."; and

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

946 "Verification

947 State of Utah, County of \_\_\_\_\_

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

949 I am at least 18 years old;

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

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

956

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957 (Signature) (Residence Address) (Date) ["/".]

958 (2) An agent designated to file a certificate of nomination under Subsection  
 959 20A-9-503(2)(b) or (4)(b) may not sign the form described in Subsection (1)(a).

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

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

963 (ii) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification bound to one or more  
 964 signature sheets that are bound together.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

975 (A) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the

- 976 certificate of nomination signature sheet; or
- 977 (B) knows that a person whose signature appears on the certificate of nomination  
978 signature sheet is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to  
979 become registered to vote in this state.
- 980 (b) Any person violating this Subsection (4) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
- 981 (5)(a) To qualify for placement on the general election ballot, the candidate shall, no  
982 earlier than the start of the applicable declaration of candidacy period described in  
983 Section 20A-9-201.5 and no later than 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in which the  
984 election will be held:
- 985 (i) comply with Subsection 20A-9-503(1); and
- 986 (ii) submit each signature packet to the county clerk where the majority of the  
987 signatures in the packet were collected, with signatures totaling:
- 988 (A) at least 1,000 registered voters residing within the state when the nomination  
989 is for an office to be filled by the voters of the entire state; or
- 990 (B) at least 300 registered voters residing within a political division or at least 5%  
991 of the registered voters residing within a political division, whichever is less,  
992 when the nomination is for an office to be filled by the voters of any political  
993 division smaller than the state.
- 994 (b) A candidate has not complied with Subsection (5)(a)(ii), unless the county clerks  
995 verify that each required signature is a valid signature of a registered voter who is  
996 eligible to sign the signature packet and has not signed a signature packet to nominate  
997 another candidate for the same office.
- 998 (c) In reviewing the signature packets, the county clerk shall count and certify only those  
999 persons who signed with a holographic signature, who:
- 1000 (i) are registered voters within the political division that the candidate seeks to  
1001 represent; and
- 1002 (ii) did not sign any other certificate of nomination for that office.
- 1003 (d) The county clerk shall count and certify the number of registered voters who validly  
1004 signed a signature packet, no later than 30 calendar days after the day on which the  
1005 candidate submits the signature packet.
- 1006 (e) The candidate may supplement the signatures or amend the certificate of nomination  
1007 or declaration of candidacy at any time on or before 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in  
1008 which the election will be held.
- 1009 (f) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to

1010 determine whether a signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature  
1011 packet.

1012 (6) Subject to Subsection (8)(a)(i), and notwithstanding Section 20A-2-104, the county  
1013 clerk shall, no later than one business day after the day on which the signature of a voter  
1014 who signs a signature packet is verified under Subsection (5)(b):

1015 (a) post the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the lieutenant  
1016 governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor,  
1017 for at least 90 calendar days after the date of the general election; and

1018 (b) if the voter's voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid  
1019 email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email notice to the  
1020 voter, informing the voter that:

1021 (i) the voter's nomination petition signature is verified;

1022 (ii) the voter's name and voter information described in Subsection (6)(a) is posted on  
1023 the lieutenant governor's website; and

1024 (iii) the voter has until the deadline described in Subsection (7)(a) to submit a  
1025 statement to the county clerk, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(2),  
1026 requesting that the voter's signature be removed from the petition.

1027 [~~(6)~~] (7)(a) A voter who signs a signature packet under this section may have the voter's  
1028 signature removed from the signature packet by, no later than 5 p.m. three business  
1029 days after the day on which [the candidate submits the signature packet to the county  
1030 clerk] the county clerk makes the posting described in Subsection (6)(a), submitting to  
1031 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

1032 (b) A statement described in Subsection [~~(6)(a)~~] (7)(a) shall comply with the  
1033 requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

1034 (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to  
1035 determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a signature packet after  
1036 receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

1037 (8)(a) If a county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under  
1038 Subsection (7)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from the  
1039 nomination petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the county clerk shall:

1040 (i) remove the voter's name from the nomination petition;

1041 (ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the  
1042 posting described in Subsection (6)(a); and

1043 (iii) update the nomination petition signature totals.

1044 (b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection (8)(a) no later than five business days  
1045 after the day on which the county clerk receives a statement requesting signature  
1046 removal under Subsection (7)(a).

1047 Section 11. Section **20A-9-701** is amended to read:

1048 **20A-9-701 . Certification of party candidates to county clerks -- Display on ballot.**

1049 (1) No later than August 31 of each regular general election year, the lieutenant governor  
1050 shall certify to each county clerk, for offices to be voted upon at the regular general  
1051 election in that county clerk's county:

1052 (a) the names of each candidate nominated under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or  
1053 Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)~~] 20A-9-403(9); and

1054 (b) the names of the candidates for president and vice president that are certified by the  
1055 registered political party as the party's nominees.

1056 (2) The names shall be certified by the lieutenant governor and shall be displayed on the  
1057 ballot as they are provided on the candidate's declaration of candidacy. No other names  
1058 may appear on the ballot as affiliated with, endorsed by, or nominated by any other  
1059 registered political party, political party, or other political group.

1060 Section 12. **Effective Date.**

1061 This bill takes effect on January 1, 2027.