

Signature Gathering and Verification Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Paul A. Cutler

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

Committee Note:

The Government Operations Interim Committee recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 11 voting for 0 voting against 6 absent

General Description:

This bill modifies requirements for petitions.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- amends and standardizes the circulator verification sheet language;
- clarifies how an individual may be paid for collecting petition signatures;
- requires an election official who verifies signatures for a petition to send an email and text message notice to the signer of the petition notifying the signer of the status of the signer's signature;
- requires the lieutenant governor to develop and maintain an online training course to educate individuals who collect signatures for a petition;
- requires an individual who collects signatures for a petition to complete the training course described above before collecting any signatures for the petition;
- requires an election official to reject a petition packet if the individual who collects signatures for the petition did not complete the online training course described above;
- modifies requirements related to initiative and referendum packets by:
 - requiring a county clerk who verifies signatures for an initiative or a referendum to certify certain statistical information to the lieutenant governor; and
 - directing the county clerk to retain and preserve each initiative or referendum packet for at least 22 months; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

31 This bill provides a special effective date.

32 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

33 AMENDS:

34 **20A-1-1001 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special
35 Session, Chapter 16

36 **20A-1-1002 (Effective 07/01/27)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 116

37 **20A-7-104 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

38 **20A-7-105 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

39 **20A-7-203 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

40 **20A-7-303 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

41 **20A-7-503 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

42 **20A-7-603 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

43 **20A-8-103 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 38, 448

44 **20A-9-405 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 38

45 **20A-9-502 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

46 **20A-21-201 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 381,
47 448

48 ENACTS:

49 **20A-1-1004 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

50 **20A-1-1005 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

51

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

53 Section 1. Section **20A-1-1001** is amended to read:

54 **20A-1-1001 (Effective 05/06/26). Definitions.**

55 As used in this part:

56 (1)(a) "Clerk" means the lieutenant governor, a county clerk, municipal clerk, town
57 clerk, city recorder, or municipal recorder.

58 (b) "Clerk" includes a board of trustees under Title 17B, Chapter 1, Provisions
59 Applicable to All Special Districts.

60 (2) "Local petition" means:

61 (a) a manual or electronic local initiative petition described in Chapter 7, Part 5, Local
62 Initiatives - Procedures; or

63 (b) a manual or electronic local referendum petition described in Chapter 7, Part 6, Local
64 Referenda - Procedures.

- 65 (3) "Petition" means one of the following written requests, signed by registered voters,
66 appealing to an authority with respect to a particular cause:
- 67 (a) a local petition;
 - 68 (b) a petition to consolidate two or more municipalities under Section 10-2-601;
 - 69 (c) a petition for disincorporation of a municipality under Section 10-2-701;
 - 70 (d) a petition to incorporate a proposed municipality under Section 10-2a-208;
 - 71 (e) a petition to consolidate adjoining counties under Section 17-61-201;
 - 72 (f) a petition to annex a portion of a county to an adjoining county under Section
73 17-61-301;
 - 74 (g) a petition for the creation of a new county under Section 17-61-401;
 - 75 (h) a petition for the removal of a county seat under Section 17-60-302;
 - 76 (i) a petition for the adoption of an optional plan under Section 17-62-303;
 - 77 (j) a petition for the repeal of an optional plan under Section 17-62-505;
 - 78 (k) a petition to create a special district under Section 17B-1-203;
 - 79 (l) a petition to withdraw an area from a special district under Section 17B-1-504;
 - 80 (m) a petition to dissolve a special district under Section 17B-1-1303;
 - 81 (n) a petition for issuance of local building authority bonds under Section 17D-2-502;
 - 82 (o) a petition to become a registered political party under Section 20A-8-103;
 - 83 (p) a nomination petition for municipal office under Section 20A-9-203;
 - 84 (q) a nomination petition for a regular primary election under Subsection
85 20A-9-403(3)(a) and Section 20A-9-405;
 - 86 (r) a petition for a political party to qualify as a municipal political party under Section
87 20A-9-404;
 - 88 (s) a petition for the nomination of a qualified political party under Section 20A-9-408;
 - 89 (t) a nomination petition for a candidate not affiliated with a political party under
90 Section 20A-9-502;
 - 91 (u) a nomination petition to become a delegate to a ratification convention under Section
92 20A-15-103;
 - 93 (v) a petition to create a new school district under Section 53G-3-301;
 - 94 (w) a petition to consolidate school districts under Section 53G-3-401;
 - 95 (x) a petition to transfer a portion of a school district to another district under Section
96 53G-3-501;
 - 97 (y) a petition to determine whether a privatization project agreement should be approved
98 under Section 73-10d-4; or

99 (z) a statewide petition.

100 (4) "Petition packet" means:

101 (a) a candidate signature packet, as defined in Section 20A-9-401.1;

102 (b) an initiative packet, as defined in Section 20A-7-101;

103 (c) a referendum packet, as defined in Section 20A-7-101; or

104 (d) any other packet of signature sheets that:

105 (i) is bound together and circulated to gather signatures for a petition; and

106 (ii) includes a cover sheet at the front of the packet and a circulator verification sheet
 107 at the end of the packet.

108 [~~4~~] (5) "Statewide petition" means:

109 (a) a manual or electronic statewide initiative petition described in Chapter 7, Part 2,
 110 Statewide Initiatives; or

111 (b) a manual or electronic statewide referendum petition described in Chapter 7, Part 3,
 112 Statewide Referenda.

113 [~~5~~] (6)(a) "Substantially similar name" means:

114 (i) the given name, the surname, or both, provided by the individual with the
 115 individual's petition signature, contain only minor spelling differences when
 116 compared to the given name and surname shown on the official register;

117 (ii) the surname provided by the individual with the individual's petition signature
 118 exactly matches the surname shown on the official register, and the given names
 119 differ only because one of the given names shown is a commonly used
 120 abbreviation or variation of the other;

121 (iii) the surname provided by the individual with the individual's petition signature
 122 exactly matches the surname shown on the official register, and the given names
 123 differ only because one of the given names shown is accompanied by a first or
 124 middle initial or a middle name which is not shown on the other record; or

125 (iv) the surname provided by the individual with the individual's petition signature
 126 exactly matches the surname shown on the official register, and the given names
 127 differ only because one of the given names shown is an alphabetically
 128 corresponding initial that has been provided in the place of a given name shown
 129 on the other record.

130 (b) "Substantially similar name" does not include a name having an initial or a middle
 131 name provided by the individual with the individual's petition signature that does not
 132 match a different initial or middle name shown on the official register.

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

134 **20A-1-1002 (Effective 07/01/27). Verification of voter registration -- Electronic**
135 **notice to petition signer.**

136 (1) A clerk shall use the following procedures to determine whether a signer of a petition is
137 a registered voter and to determine the address where the voter is registered to vote:

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

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

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

149 (ii) the signer's signature appears substantially similar to the signature on the
150 statewide voter registration database of the individual described in Subsection
151 (1)(b)(i);

152 (c) if there is no match of an address and a substantially similar name, the clerk shall
153 declare the signature valid for the district or jurisdiction in which the signer is
154 registered to vote if:

155 (i) the birth date or age provided by the individual with the individual's petition
156 signature matches the birth date or age of an individual on the official register
157 with a substantially similar name; and

158 (ii) the signer's signature appears substantially similar to the signature on the
159 statewide voter registration database of the individual described in Subsection
160 (1)(c)(i).

161 (2) If a signature is not declared valid under Subsection (1)(a), (b), or (c), the clerk shall
162 declare the signature to be invalid.

163 (3) A clerk shall, within two business days after the day on which the clerk declares a
164 signer's signature valid or invalid under this section, notify the signer of the status of the
165 signer's signature by:

166 (a) sending an email notice to the signer if the signer's information in the voter

- 167 registration database includes an email address; and
 168 (b) sending a text message notice to the signer if:
 169 (i) the signer's information in the voter registration database includes a mobile
 170 telephone number; and
 171 (ii) on the signer's voter registration form, the signer consented to receive official
 172 communications, by text, at the mobile phone number.
 173 (4) The notice described in Subsection (3) shall:
 174 (a) include the title "Notice of Signature Verification";
 175 (b) identify the name or type of petition the signer signed; and
 176 (c) inform the signer that the signer's signature was declared valid or invalid by the clerk.

177 Section 3. Section **20A-1-1004** is enacted to read:

178 **20A-1-1004 (Effective 05/06/26). Circulator verification sheet -- Rejection of**
 179 **petition packet.**

- 180 (1) The final page of each petition packet shall contain a circulator verification sheet
 181 featuring the following printed or typed statement to be completed by the individual who
 182 gathers signatures for the petition:

183 VERIFICATION OF SIGNATURE-GATHERER

184 I, _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

185 I am at least 18 years old;

186 All the names that appear in this petition packet were signed by individuals who
 187 professed to be the individuals whose names appear in it, and each of the individuals
 188 signed the individual's name on it in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a
 189 qualifying disability, I have signed this petition packet on the individual's behalf, at the
 190 direction of the individual and in the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV"
 191 as the individual's signature;

192 I certify that, for each individual whose signature is represented in this petition
 193 packet by the initials "AV":

194 I obtained the individual's voluntary direction or consent to sign the petition
 195 packet on the individual's behalf;

196 I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual lacked the mental
 197 capacity to give direction or consent;

198 I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual did not understand
 199 the purpose or nature of my signing the petition packet on the individual's behalf;

200 I did not intentionally or knowingly deceive the individual into directing me to, or

201 consenting for me to, sign the petition packet on the individual's behalf; and
 202 I did not intentionally or knowingly enter false information on the signature sheet;
 203 I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact related to this petition;
 204 I believe that each individual's name and address is written correctly, that each signer
 205 has read all the information contained in the petition, and that each signer is or will be
 206 registered to vote in Utah at the time the petition packet is submitted for verification;
 207 The correct date of signature appears next to each individual's name;
 208 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this petition
 209 packet to encourage that individual to sign it;
 210 I understand that if I have been or will be paid to gather signatures for this petition,
 211 the payment rate must be based on an hourly rate or a rate per valid signature; and
 212 I completed the signature gatherer training available on the lieutenant governor's
 213 website at www.vote.utah.gov before gathering signatures for this petition. Yes _____ No
 214 _____ (Check one)

215 _____
 216 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)

- 217 (2) A clerk shall reject a petition packet if:
- 218 (a) all or any portion of the circulator verification sheet described in this section is not
 219 completed by the individual who gathered signatures for the petition; or
 220 (b) the individual who gathered signatures for the petition checked "No" in response to
 221 the signature gatherer training statement.

222 Section 4. Section **20A-1-1005** is enacted to read:

223 **20A-1-1005 (Effective 05/06/26). Online training for signature gatherers.**

- 224 (1) The lieutenant governor shall develop and maintain an online training course to educate
 225 individuals who collect signatures for a petition.
- 226 (2) The training course shall:
- 227 (a) inform signature gatherers of the requirements, restrictions, and procedures that
 228 apply to the circulation of petitions and collection of signatures, including
 229 information about:
- 230 (i) collecting a signature from an individual with a disability; and
 231 (ii) electronic signature gathering;
- 232 (b) emphasize compliance with the requirements, restrictions, and procedures described
 233 in Subsection (2)(a);
- 234 (c) highlight the potential for criminal penalties for knowingly or intentionally

235 falsifying, misrepresenting, or otherwise violating applicable law in the circulation of
 236 a petition and collection of signatures; and

237 (d) recommend best practices for individuals who gather signatures for a petition.

238 (3) The lieutenant governor shall make the training course described in Subsection (2)
 239 available on the lieutenant governor's website.

240 (4) An individual may not gather signatures for a petition unless the individual has, before
 241 collecting any signatures, completed the online training course described in this section.

242 Section 5. Section **20A-7-104** is amended to read:

243 **20A-7-104 (Effective 05/06/26). Signature gatherers -- Payments -- Badges --**
 244 **Information -- Requirement to provide initiative or referendum for reading.**

245 (1) A person may not pay a person to gather signatures under this chapter [~~based on a rate~~
 246 ~~per signature, on a rate per verified signature, or on the initiative or referendum~~
 247 ~~qualifying for the ballot.~~] unless the payment is based on:

248 (a) an hourly rate; or

249 (b) a rate per signature declared valid under Section 20A-1-1002.

250 [~~(2) A person that pays a person to gather signatures under this section shall base the~~
 251 ~~payment solely on an hourly rate.]~~

252 [~~(3)] (2) A person may not accept payment made in violation of this section.~~

253 [~~(4)] (3) An individual who is paid to gather signatures for a petition described in this~~
 254 ~~chapter shall, while gathering signatures, wear a badge on the front of the individual's~~
 255 ~~torso that complies with the following, ensuring that the information on the badge is~~
 256 ~~clearly visible to the individual from whom a signature is sought:~~

257 (a) ~~the badge shall be printed in black ink on white cardstock and laminated; and~~

258 (b) ~~the information on the badge shall be in at least 24-point type and include the~~
 259 ~~following information:~~

260 (i) ~~an identification number that is unique to the individual gathering signatures,~~
 261 ~~assigned by:~~

262 (A) ~~for a statewide initiative or referendum, the lieutenant governor; or~~

263 (B) ~~for a local initiative or referendum, the local clerk;~~

264 (ii) ~~the title of the initiative or referendum;~~

265 (iii) ~~the words "Paid Signature Gatherer"; and~~

266 (iv) ~~the name of the entity paying the signature gatherer.~~

267 [~~(5)] (4) An individual who gathers signatures under this chapter shall offer a paper~~
 268 ~~document to each individual who signs the petition that:~~

269 (a) is printed in black ink on white paper, white cardstock, or a white sticker, in at least
 270 12-point type; and

271 (b)(i) for an initiative, includes the name of the initiative and the following statement:

272 "You may view the initiative, its fiscal impact, and information on removing your
 273 signature from the petition at [list a uniform resource locator that links directly to the
 274 information described in Section 20A-7-202.7 or 20A-7-502.6, as applicable]."; or

275 (ii) for a referendum, includes the name of the referendum and the following statement:

276 "You may view the referendum and information on removing your signature from the
 277 petition at [list a uniform resource locator that links directly to the information described in
 278 Section 20A-7-304.5 or 20A-7-604.5, as applicable]."

279 ~~[(6)]~~ (5) An individual who gathers signatures under this chapter shall, before collecting a
 280 signature from an individual, present to the individual a printed or digital copy of the
 281 initiative or referendum and wait for the individual to read the initiative or referendum.

282 ~~[(7)]~~ (6) A person who violates this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

283 Section 6. Section **20A-7-105** is amended to read:

284 **20A-7-105 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual petition processes -- Obtaining**
 285 **signatures -- Verification -- Submitting the petition -- Certification of signatures --**
 286 **Transfer to lieutenant governor -- Removal of signature.**

287 (1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process and the manual referendum
 288 process.

289 (2) As used in this section:

290 (a) "Local petition" means:

291 (i) a manual local initiative petition described in Part 5, Local Initiatives - Procedures;
 292 or

293 (ii) a manual local referendum petition described in Part 6, Local Referenda -
 294 Procedures.

295 (b) "Packet" means an initiative packet or referendum packet.

296 (c) "Petition" means a local petition or statewide petition.

297 (d) "Statewide petition" means:

298 (i) a manual statewide initiative petition described in Part 2, Statewide Initiatives; or

299 (ii) a manual statewide referendum petition described in Part 3, Statewide Referenda.

300 (3)(a) A Utah voter may sign a statewide petition if the voter is a legal voter.

301 (b) A Utah voter may sign a local petition if the voter:

302 (i) is a legal voter; and

- 303 (ii) resides in the local jurisdiction.
- 304 (4)(a) The sponsors shall ensure that the individual in whose presence each signature
305 sheet was signed:
- 306 (i) is at least 18 years old;
- 307 (ii) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification printed on the last
308 page of each packet; and
- 309 (iii) is informed that each signer is required to read and understand:
- 310 (A) for an initiative petition, the law proposed by the initiative; or
- 311 (B) for a referendum petition, the law that the referendum seeks to overturn.
- 312 (b) An individual may not sign the verification printed on the last page of a packet if the
313 individual signed a signature sheet in the packet.
- 314 (5)(a) The sponsors, or an agent of the sponsors, shall submit a signed and verified
315 packet to the county clerk of the county in which the packet was circulated before 5
316 p.m. no later than the earlier of:
- 317 (i) for a statewide initiative:
- 318 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
319 the first individual signs the initiative packet;
- 320 (B) the last business day that is no more than 316 calendar days after the day on
321 which the application for the initiative petition is filed; or
- 322 (C) the February 15 immediately before the next regular general election
323 immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-202;
- 324 (ii) for a statewide referendum:
- 325 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
326 the first individual signs the referendum packet; or
- 327 (B) the first business day that is at least 40 calendar days after the day on which
328 the legislative session at which the law passed ends;
- 329 (iii) for a local initiative:
- 330 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
331 the first individual signs the initiative packet;
- 332 (B) the last business day that is no more than 316 calendar days after the day on
333 which the application is filed;
- 334 (C) the April 15 immediately before the next regular general election immediately
335 after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-502, if the local initiative is a
336 county initiative; or

- 337 (D) the April 15 immediately before the next municipal general election
 338 immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-502, if the local
 339 initiative is a municipal initiative; or
- 340 (iv) for a local referendum:
- 341 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
 342 the first individual signs the referendum packet; or
- 343 (B) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which
 344 the sponsors receive the items described in Subsection 20A-7-604(3) from the
 345 local clerk.
- 346 (b) A person may not submit a packet after the applicable deadline described in
 347 Subsection (5)(a).
- 348 (c) Before delivering an initiative packet to the county clerk under this Subsection (5),
 349 the sponsors shall send an email to each individual who provides a legible, valid
 350 email address on the signature sheet that includes the following:
- 351 (i) the subject of the email shall include the following statement, "Notice Regarding
 352 Your Petition Signature"; and
- 353 (ii) the body of the email shall include the following statement in 12-point type:
 354 "You signed a petition for the following initiative:
 355 [insert title of initiative]
 356 To access a copy of the initiative petition, the initiative, the fiscal impact statement, and
 357 information on the deadline for removing your signature from the petition, please visit the
 358 following link: [insert a uniform resource locator that takes the individual directly to the page
 359 on the lieutenant governor's or county clerk's website that includes the information referred to
 360 in the email]."
- 361 (d) For a statewide initiative, the sponsors shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the day on which
 362 the sponsors submit the last initiative packet to the county clerk, submit to the
 363 lieutenant governor:
- 364 (i) a list containing:
- 365 (A) the name and email address of each individual the sponsors sent, or caused to
 366 be sent, the email described in Subsection (5)(c); and
- 367 (B) the date the email was sent;
- 368 (ii) a copy of the email described in Subsection (5)(c); and
- 369 (iii) the following written verification, completed and signed by each of the sponsors:
 370 "Verification of initiative sponsor State of Utah, County of _____I, _____,

371 of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

372 I am a sponsor of the initiative petition entitled _____; and

373 I sent, or caused to be sent, to each individual who provided a legible, valid email
374 address on a signature sheet submitted to the county clerk in relation to the initiative petition,
375 the email described in Utah Code Subsection 20A-7-105(5)(c).

376 _____
377 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)"[-]

378 (e) For a local initiative, the sponsors shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the day on which the
379 sponsors submit the last initiative packet to the local clerk, submit to the local clerk
380 the items described in Subsection (5)(d).

381 (f) Signatures gathered for an initiative petition are not valid if the sponsors do not
382 comply with Subsection (5)(c), (d), or (e).

383 (6)(a) Within 21 calendar days after the day on which the county clerk receives the
384 packet, the county clerk shall:

385 (i) use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002, or 20A-7-106 if applicable,
386 to determine whether each signer is a legal voter and, as applicable, the
387 jurisdiction where the signer is registered to vote;

388 (ii) for a statewide initiative or a statewide referendum:

389 (A) certify on the petition whether each name is that of a legal voter; and

390 (B) post the name, voter identification number, and date of signature of each legal
391 voter certified under Subsection (6)(a)(ii)(A) on the lieutenant governor's
392 website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor; and

393 [~~(C) deliver the verified packet to the lieutenant governor;~~]

394 (iii) for a local initiative or a local referendum:

395 (A) certify on the petition whether each name is that of a legal voter who is
396 registered in the jurisdiction to which the initiative or referendum relates;

397 (B) post the name, voter identification number, and date of signature of each legal
398 voter certified under Subsection (6)(a)(iii)(A) on the lieutenant governor's
399 website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor; and

400 (C) deliver the verified packet to the local clerk.

401 (b)(i) For a statewide initiative or statewide referendum, the county clerk shall, no
402 later than seven calendar days after the last day the county clerk makes the posting
403 described in Subsection (6)(a)(ii)(B), certify the following information to the
404 lieutenant governor:

- 405 (A) the total number of verified packets in the county clerk's possession;
 406 (B) the total number of signatures verified by the county clerk;
 407 (C) of the number described in Subsection (6)(b)(i)(B), the number of signatures
 408 the county clerk declared valid and invalid under Section 20A-1-1002; and
 409 (D) a breakdown of the number of invalid signatures, categorized by the reason
 410 for invalidity;
- 411 (ii) After a county clerk sends the certification described in Subsection (6)(b)(i) to the
 412 lieutenant governor, the county clerk shall retain and preserve each verified packet
 413 in the manner described in Subsection 20A-4-202(2).
- 414 (c) For a local initiative or local referendum, the local clerk shall post a link in a
 415 conspicuous location on the local government's website to the posting described in
 416 Subsection (6)(a)(iii)(B):
- 417 (i) for a local initiative, during the period of time described in Subsection 20A-7-507
 418 (3)(a); or
- 419 (ii) for a local referendum, during the period of time described in Subsection
 420 20A-7-607(2)(a)(i).
- 421 (7) The county clerk may not certify a signature under Subsection (6):
- 422 (a) on a packet that is not verified in accordance with Subsection (4); or
- 423 (b) that does not have a date of signature next to the signature.
- 424 (8)(a) A voter who signs a statewide initiative petition may have the voter's signature
 425 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to
 426 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later
 427 than 5 p.m. the earlier of:
- 428 (i) for an initiative packet received by the county clerk before December 1:
- 429 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
 430 the voter signs the signature removal statement; or
- 431 (B) the first business day that is at least 90 calendar days after the day on which
 432 the lieutenant governor posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-207(2);
- 433 or
- 434 (ii) for an initiative packet received by the county clerk on or after December 1:
- 435 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
 436 the voter signs the signature removal statement; or
- 437 (B) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which
 438 the lieutenant governor posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-207(2).

- 439 (b) A voter who signs a statewide referendum petition may have the voter's signature
440 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to
441 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later
442 than 5 p.m. the earlier of:
- 443 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the
444 voter signs the statement requesting removal; or
 - 445 (ii) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the
446 lieutenant governor posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-307(2).
- 447 (c) A voter who signs a local initiative petition may have the voter's signature removed
448 from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to the
449 county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later than
450 5 p.m. the earlier of:
- 451 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the
452 voter signs the signature removal statement;
 - 453 (ii) the first business day that is at least 90 calendar days after the day on which the
454 local clerk posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-507(2);
 - 455 (iii) the last business day that is no more than 316 calendar days after the day on
456 which the application is filed; or
 - 457 (iv)(A) for a county initiative, April 15 immediately before the next regular
458 general election immediately after the application is filed under Section
459 20A-7-502; or
 - 460 (B) for a municipal initiative, April 15 immediately before the next municipal
461 general election immediately after the application is filed under Section
462 20A-7-502.
- 463 (d) A voter who signs a local referendum petition may have the voter's signature
464 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to
465 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later
466 than 5 p.m. the earlier of:
- 467 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the
468 voter signs the statement requesting removal; or
 - 469 (ii) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the
470 local clerk posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-607(2)(a).
- 471 (e) In order for the signature to be removed, the county clerk must receive the statement
472 described in this Subsection (8) before 5 p.m. no later than the applicable deadline

473 described in this Subsection (8).

474 (f) A county clerk shall analyze a signature, for purposes of removing a signature from a
475 petition, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(3).

476 (9)(a) If the county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under
477 Subsection (8) and determines that the signature should be removed from the petition
478 under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the county clerk shall:

479 (i) ensure that the voter's name, voter identification number, and date of signature are
480 not included in the posting described in Subsection (6)(a)(ii)(B) or (iii)(B); and

481 (ii) remove the voter's signature from the signature packets and signature packet
482 totals.

483 (b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection (9)(a) before the later of:

484 (i) the deadline described in Subsection (6)(a); or

485 (ii) two business days after the day on which the county clerk receives a statement
486 requesting signature removal under Subsection (8).

487 (10) A person may not retrieve a packet from a county clerk, or make any alterations or
488 corrections to a packet, after the packet is submitted to the county clerk.

489 Section 7. Section **20A-7-203** is amended to read:

490 **20A-7-203 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual initiative process -- Form of initiative**
491 **petition and signature sheets.**

492 (1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process.

493 (2)(a) Each proposed initiative petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:

494 "INITIATIVE PETITION To the Honorable ____, Lieutenant Governor:

495 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully demand that the following proposed
496 law be submitted to the legal voters/Legislature of Utah for their/its approval or rejection at the
497 regular general election/session to be held/ beginning on _____(month\day\year);

498 Each signer says:

499 I have personally signed this initiative petition or, if I am an individual with a qualifying
500 disability, I have signed this initiative petition by directing the signature gatherer to enter the
501 initials "AV" as my signature;

502 The date next to my signature correctly reflects the date that I actually signed the
503 initiative petition;

504 I have personally read the entire statement included with this packet;

505 I am registered to vote in Utah; and

506 My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name.

507 NOTICE TO SIGNERS:

508 Public hearings to discuss this initiative were held at: (list dates and locations of public
509 hearings[:])."[:]

510 (b) If the initiative proposes a tax increase, the following statement shall appear, in at least
511 14-point, bold type, immediately following the information described in Subsection (2)(a):

512 "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
513 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
514 increase in the current tax rate."[:]

515 (c) The sponsors of an initiative or an agent of the sponsors shall attach a copy of the
516 proposed law to each initiative petition.

517 (3) Each initiative signature sheet shall:

518 (a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

519 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line three-fourths inch from the top, with the space above
520 that line blank for the purpose of binding;

521 (c) include the title of the initiative printed below the horizontal line, in at least 14-point,
522 bold type;

523 (d) include a table immediately below the title of the initiative, and beginning .5 inch
524 from the left side of the paper, as follows:

525 (i) the first column shall be .5 inch wide and include three rows;

526 (ii) the first row of the first column shall be .85 inch tall and contain the words "For
527 Office Use Only" in 10-point type;

528 (iii) the second row of the first column shall be .35 inch tall;

529 (iv) the third row of the first column shall be .5 inch tall;

530 (v) the second column shall be 2.75 inches wide;

531 (vi) the first row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
532 "Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)" in 10-point
533 type;

534 (vii) the second row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;

535 (viii) the third row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
536 "Street Address, City, Zip Code" in 10-point type;

537 (ix) the fourth row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;

538 (x) the third column shall be 2.75 inches wide;

539 (xi) the first row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
540 "Signature of Registered Voter" in 10-point type;

- 541 (xii) the second row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 542 (xiii) the third row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
- 543 "Email Address (optional, to receive additional information)" in 10-point type;
- 544 (xiv) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 545 (xv) the fourth column shall be one inch wide;
- 546 (xvi) the first row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
- 547 "Date Signed" in 10-point type;
- 548 (xvii) the second row of the fourth column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 549 (xviii) the third row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
- 550 "Birth Date or Age (optional)" in 10-point type;
- 551 (xix) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall; and
- 552 (xx) the fifth row of the entire table shall be the width of the entire table, .4 inch tall,
- 553 and contain the following statement, "By signing this initiative petition, you are
- 554 stating that you have read and understand the law proposed by this initiative
- 555 petition." in 12-point type;
- 556 (e) the table described in Subsection (3)(d) shall be repeated, leaving sufficient room at
- 557 the bottom of the sheet for the information described in Subsection (3)(f); and
- 558 (f) at the bottom of the sheet, include in the following order:
- 559 (i) the words "Fiscal Impact of" followed by the title of the initiative, in at least
- 560 12-point, bold type;
- 561 (ii) except as provided in Subsection (5), the initial fiscal impact statement issued by
- 562 the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst in accordance with Subsection
- 563 20A-7-202.5(2)(a), including any update in accordance with Subsection
- 564 20A-7-204.1(5), in not less than 12-point type;
- 565 (iii) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, the following statement in 12-point, bold type:
- 566 "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
- 567 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
- 568 increase in the current tax rate."; and
- 569 (iv) the word "Warning," in 12-point, bold type, followed by the following statement in not
- 570 less than eight-point type:
- 571 "It is a class A misdemeanor for an individual to sign an initiative petition with a name
- 572 other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than
- 573 once for the same initiative petition, or to sign an initiative petition when the individual knows
- 574 that the individual is not a registered voter.

575 Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity
 576 with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be
 577 verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified
 578 or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records."

579 [(4) The final page of each initiative packet shall contain the following printed or typed
 580 statement:

581 Verification of signature collector

582 State of Utah, County of _____

583 I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

584 I am at least 18 years old;

585 All the names that appear in this initiative packet were signed by individuals who
 586 professed to be the individuals whose names appear in it, and each of the individuals signed
 587 the individual's name on it in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a qualifying
 588 disability, I have signed this initiative petition on the individual's behalf, at the direction of the
 589 individual and in the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV" as the individual's
 590 signature;

591 _____ I certify that, for each individual whose signature is represented in this initiative
 592 packet by the initials "AV":

593 _____ I obtained the individual's voluntary direction or consent to sign the initiative
 594 petition on the individual's behalf;

595 _____ I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual lacked the
 596 mental capacity to give direction or consent;

597 _____ I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual did not
 598 understand the purpose or nature of my signing the initiative petition on the individual's behalf;

599 _____ I did not intentionally or knowingly deceive the individual into directing me to,
 600 or consenting for me to, sign the initiative petition on the individual's behalf; and

601 _____ I did not intentionally or knowingly enter false information on the signature
 602 sheet;

603 I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law proposed by
 604 the initiative;

605 I believe that each individual's name, post office address, and residence is written
 606 correctly, that each signer has read the law proposed by the initiative, and that each signer is
 607 registered to vote in Utah;

608 The correct date of signature appears next to each individual's name; and

609 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this initiative
 610 packet to encourage that individual to sign it.

611 _____
 612 _____
 612 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)]

613 [(5)] (4) The final page of each initiative packet shall contain the circulator verification
 614 sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

615 (5) If the initial fiscal impact statement described in Subsection (3)(f)(ii), as updated in
 616 accordance with Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5), exceeds 200 words, the Office of the
 617 Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall prepare a shorter summary statement, for the purpose of
 618 inclusion on an initiative signature sheet, that does not exceed 200 words.

619 (6) If the forms described in this section are substantially followed, the initiative petitions
 620 are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

621 Section 8. Section **20A-7-303** is amended to read:

622 **20A-7-303 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual referendum process -- Form of**
 623 **referendum petition and signature sheets.**

624 (1) This section applies only to the manual referendum process.

625 (2)(a) Each proposed referendum petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:

626 "REFERENDUM PETITION To the Honorable ____, Lieutenant Governor:

627 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully order that Senate (or House) Bill No.
 628 ____, entitled (title of act, and, if the petition is against less than the whole act, set forth here
 629 the part or parts on which the referendum is sought), passed by the Legislature of the state of
 630 Utah during the ____ Session, be referred to the people of Utah for their approval or rejection
 631 at a regular general election or a statewide special election;

632 Each signer says:

633 I have personally signed this referendum petition or, if I am an individual with a
 634 qualifying disability, I have signed this referendum petition by directing the signature gatherer
 635 to enter the initials "AV" as my signature;

636 The date next to my signature correctly reflects the date that I actually signed the
 637 referendum petition;

638 I have personally read the entire statement included with this referendum packet;

639 I am registered to vote in Utah; and

640 My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name."[-]

641 (b) The sponsors of a referendum or an agent of the sponsors shall attach a copy of the
 642 law that is the subject of the referendum to each referendum petition.

- 643 (3) Each referendum signature sheet shall:
- 644 (a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
- 645 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line three-fourths inch from the top, with the space above
- 646 that line blank for the purpose of binding;
- 647 (c) include the title of the referendum printed below the horizontal line, in at least
- 648 14-point, bold type;
- 649 (d) include a table immediately below the title of the referendum, and beginning .5 inch
- 650 from the left side of the paper, as follows:
- 651 (i) the first column shall be .5 inch wide and include three rows;
- 652 (ii) the first row of the first column shall be .85 inch tall and contain the words "For
- 653 Office Use Only" in 10-point type;
- 654 (iii) the second row of the first column shall be .35 inch tall;
- 655 (iv) the third row of the first column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 656 (v) the second column shall be 2.75 inches wide;
- 657 (vi) the first row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
- 658 "Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)" in 10-point
- 659 type;
- 660 (vii) the second row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 661 (viii) the third row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
- 662 "Street Address, City, Zip Code" in 10-point type;
- 663 (ix) the fourth row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 664 (x) the third column shall be 2.75 inches wide;
- 665 (xi) the first row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
- 666 "Signature of Registered Voter" in 10-point type;
- 667 (xii) the second row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 668 (xiii) the third row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
- 669 "Email Address (optional, to receive additional information)" in 10-point type;
- 670 (xiv) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 671 (xv) the fourth column shall be one inch wide;
- 672 (xvi) the first row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
- 673 "Date Signed" in 10-point type;
- 674 (xvii) the second row of the fourth column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 675 (xviii) the third row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
- 676 "Birth Date or Age (optional)" in 10-point type;

677 (xix) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall; and
 678 (xx) the fifth row of the entire table shall be the width of the entire table, .4 inch tall,
 679 and contain the following words "By signing this referendum petition, you are
 680 stating that you have read and understand the law that this referendum petition
 681 seeks to overturn." in 12-point type;

682 (e) the table described in Subsection (3)(d) shall be repeated, leaving sufficient room at
 683 the bottom of the sheet for the information described in Subsection (3)(f); and

684 (f) at the bottom of the sheet, include the word "Warning," in 12-point, bold type, followed by
 685 the following statement in not less than eight-point type:

686 "It is a class A misdemeanor for an individual to sign a referendum petition with a name
 687 other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than
 688 once for the same referendum petition, or to sign a referendum petition when the individual
 689 knows that the individual is not a registered voter.

690 Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity
 691 with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be
 692 verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified
 693 or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records."

694 [~~(4)~~] The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the following printed or typed
 695 statement:

696 ~~Verification of signature collector~~

697 ~~State of Utah, County of _____~~

698 ~~I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:~~

699 ~~I am at least 18 years old;~~

700 ~~All the names that appear in this referendum packet were signed by individuals who~~
 701 ~~professed to be the individuals whose names appear in it, and each of the individuals signed~~
 702 ~~the individual's name on it in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a qualifying~~
 703 ~~disability, I have signed this referendum petition on the individual's behalf, at the direction of~~
 704 ~~the individual and in the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV" as the individual's~~
 705 ~~signature;~~

706 ~~_____ I certify that, for each individual whose signature is represented in this referendum~~
 707 ~~packet by the initials "AV":~~

708 ~~_____ I obtained the individual's voluntary direction or consent to sign the~~
 709 ~~referendum petition on the individual's behalf;~~

710 ~~_____ I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual lacked the~~

711 mental capacity to give direction or consent;

712 ~~———— I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual did not~~
713 ~~understand the purpose or nature of my signing the referendum petition on the individual's~~
714 ~~behalf;~~

715 ~~———— I did not intentionally or knowingly deceive the individual into directing me to,~~
716 ~~or consenting for me to, sign the referendum petition on the individual's behalf; and~~

717 ~~———— I did not intentionally or knowingly enter false information on the signature~~
718 ~~sheet;~~

719 ~~I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law this petition~~
720 ~~seeks to overturn;~~

721 ~~I believe that each individual's name, post office address, and residence is written~~
722 ~~correctly, that each signer has read the law that the referendum seeks to overturn, and that each~~
723 ~~signer is registered to vote in Utah;~~

724 ~~The correct date of signature appears next to each individual's name; and~~

725 ~~I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this referendum~~
726 ~~packet to encourage that individual to sign it.~~

727

728

729 ~~_____~~
~~(Name) _____ (Residence Address) _____ (Date):]~~

730 ~~[(5)] (4) The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the circulator verification~~
731 ~~sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).~~

732 ~~(5) If the forms described in this section are substantially followed, the referendum~~
733 ~~petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.~~

734 Section 9. Section **20A-7-503** is amended to read:

735 **20A-7-503 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual initiative process -- Form of initiative**
736 **petition and signature sheet.**

737 (1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process.

738 (2)(a) Each proposed initiative petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:

739 "INITIATIVE PETITION To the Honorable _____, County Clerk/City Recorder/Town
740 Clerk:

741 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully demand that the following proposed
742 law be submitted to: the legislative body for its approval or rejection at its next meeting; and
743 the legal voters of the county/city/town, if the legislative body rejects the proposed law or
744 takes no action on it.

745 Each signer says:

746 I have personally signed this initiative petition or, if I am an individual with a qualifying
747 disability, I have signed this initiative petition by directing the signature gatherer to enter the
748 initials "AV" as my signature;

749 The date next to my signature correctly reflects the date that I actually signed the
750 petition;

751 I have personally read the entire statement included with this packet;

752 I am registered to vote in Utah; and

753 My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name."

754 (b) If the initiative proposes a tax increase, the following statement shall appear, in at least
755 14-point, bold type, immediately following the information described in Subsection (2)(a):

756 "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
757 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
758 increase in the current tax rate."

759 (c) The sponsors of an initiative or an agent of the sponsors shall attach a copy of the
760 proposed law to each initiative petition.

761 (3) Each initiative signature sheet shall:

762 (a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

763 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line three-fourths inch from the top, with the space above
764 that line blank for the purpose of binding;

765 (c) include the title of the initiative printed below the horizontal line, in at least 14-point,
766 bold type;

767 (d) include a table immediately below the title of the initiative, and beginning .5 inch
768 from the left side of the paper, as follows:

769 (i) the first column shall be .5 inch wide and include three rows;

770 (ii) the first row of the first column shall be .85 inch tall and contain the words "For
771 Office Use Only" in 10-point type;

772 (iii) the second row of the first column shall be .35 inch tall;

773 (iv) the third row of the first column shall be .5 inch tall;

774 (v) the second column shall be 2.75 inches wide;

775 (vi) the first row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
776 "Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)" in 10-point
777 type;

778 (vii) the second row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;

- 779 (viii) the third row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
780 "Street Address, City, Zip Code" in 10-point type;
- 781 (ix) the fourth row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 782 (x) the third column shall be 2.75 inches wide;
- 783 (xi) the first row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
784 "Signature of Registered Voter" in 10-point type;
- 785 (xii) the second row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 786 (xiii) the third row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
787 "Email Address (optional, to receive additional information)" in 10-point type;
- 788 (xiv) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 789 (xv) the fourth column shall be one inch wide;
- 790 (xvi) the first row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
791 "Date Signed" in 10-point type;
- 792 (xvii) the second row of the fourth column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 793 (xviii) the third row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
794 "Birth Date or Age (optional)" in 10-point type;
- 795 (xix) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall; and
- 796 (xx) the fifth row of the entire table shall be the width of the entire table, .4 inch tall,
797 and contain the following words "By signing this initiative petition, you are
798 stating that you have read and understand the law proposed by this initiative
799 petition." in 12-point type;
- 800 (e) the table described in Subsection (3)(d) shall be repeated, leaving sufficient room at
801 the bottom of the sheet for the information described in Subsection (3)(f); and
- 802 (f) at the bottom of the sheet, include in the following order:
- 803 (i) the words "Fiscal and legal impact of" followed by the title of the initiative, in at
804 least 12-point, bold type;
- 805 (ii) the summary statement in the initial fiscal impact and legal statement issued by
806 the budget officer in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-502.5(2)(b) and the cost
807 estimate for printing and distributing information related to the initiative petition
808 in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-502.5(3), in not less than 12-point, bold
809 type;
- 810 (iii) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, the following statement in 12-point, bold type:
811 "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
812 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent

813 increase in the current tax rate."; and

814 (iv) the word "Warning," in 12-point, bold type, followed by the following statement in not
815 less than eight-point type:

816 "It is a class A misdemeanor for an individual to sign an initiative petition with a name
817 other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than
818 once for the same initiative petition, or to sign an initiative petition when the individual knows
819 that the individual is not a registered voter.

820 Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity
821 with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be
822 verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified
823 or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records."

824 [(4) The final page of each initiative packet shall contain the following printed or typed
825 statement:

826 "Verification of signature collector

827 State of Utah, County of _____

828 I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

829 I am at least 18 years old;

830 All the names that appear in this packet were signed by individuals who professed to be
831 the individuals whose names appear in it, and each of the individuals signed the individual's
832 name on it in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a qualifying disability, I have
833 signed this initiative petition on the individual's behalf, at the direction of the individual and in
834 the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV" as the individual's signature;

835 _____ I certify that, for each individual whose signature is represented in this initiative
836 packet by the initials "AV":

837 _____ I obtained the individual's voluntary direction or consent to sign the initiative
838 petition on the individual's behalf;

839 _____ I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual lacked the
840 mental capacity to give direction or consent;

841 _____ I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual did not
842 understand the purpose or nature of my signing the initiative petition on the individual's behalf;

843 _____ I did not intentionally or knowingly deceive the individual into directing me to,
844 or consenting for me to, sign the initiative petition on the individual's behalf; and

845 _____ I did not intentionally or knowingly enter false information on the signature
846 sheet;

847 I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law proposed by
848 the initiative; and

849 I believe that each individual's name, post office address, and residence is written
850 correctly, that each signer has read the law proposed by the initiative, and that each signer is
851 registered to vote in Utah.

852 _____

853
854 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)

855 The correct date of signature appears next to each individual's name.

856 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this petition to
857 encourage that individual to sign it.

858 _____

859 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)"]

860 [(5)] (4) The final page of each initiative packet shall contain the circulator verification
861 sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

862 (5) If the forms described in this section are substantially followed, the initiative petitions
863 are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

864 Section 10. Section **20A-7-603** is amended to read:

865 **20A-7-603 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual referendum process -- Form of**
866 **referendum petition and signature sheet.**

867 (1) This section applies only to the manual referendum process.

868 (2)(a) Each proposed referendum petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:

869 "REFERENDUM PETITION To the Honorable ____, County Clerk/City
870 Recorder/Town Clerk:

871 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully order that (description of local law or
872 portion of local law being challenged), passed by the ____ be referred to the voters for their
873 approval or rejection at the regular/municipal general election to be held on
874 _____(month\day\year);

875 Each signer says:

876 I have personally signed this referendum petition or, if I am an individual with a
877 qualifying disability, I have signed this referendum petition by directing the signature gatherer
878 to enter the initials "AV" as my signature;

879 The date next to my signature correctly reflects the date that I actually signed the
880 petition;

- 881 I have personally read the entire statement included with this packet;
882 I am registered to vote in Utah; and
883 My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name."
- 884 (b) The sponsors of a referendum or an agent of the sponsors shall attach a copy of the
885 law that is the subject of the referendum to each referendum petition.
- 886 (3) Each referendum signature sheet shall:
- 887 (a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
888 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line three-fourths inch from the top, with the space above
889 that line blank for the purpose of binding;
890 (c) include the title of the referendum printed below the horizontal line, in at least
891 14-point type;
892 (d) include a table immediately below the title of the referendum, and beginning .5 inch
893 from the left side of the paper, as follows:
- 894 (i) the first column shall be .5 inch wide and include three rows;
895 (ii) the first row of the first column shall be .85 inch tall and contain the words "For
896 Office Use Only" in 10-point type;
897 (iii) the second row of the first column shall be .35 inch tall;
898 (iv) the third row of the first column shall be .5 inch tall;
899 (v) the second column shall be 2.75 inches wide;
900 (vi) the first row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
901 "Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)" in 10-point
902 type;
903 (vii) the second row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;
904 (viii) the third row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
905 "Street Address, City, Zip Code" in 10-point type;
906 (ix) the fourth row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;
907 (x) the third column shall be 2.75 inches wide;
908 (xi) the first row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
909 "Signature of Registered Voter" in 10-point type;
910 (xii) the second row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;
911 (xiii) the third row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
912 "Email Address (optional, to receive additional information)" in 10-point type;
913 (xiv) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;
914 (xv) the fourth column shall be one inch wide;

- 915 (xvi) the first row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
 916 "Date Signed" in 10-point type;
 917 (xvii) the second row of the fourth column shall be .5 inch tall;
 918 (xviii) the third row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
 919 "Birth Date or Age (optional)" in 10-point type;
 920 (xix) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall; and
 921 (xx) the fifth row of the entire table shall be the width of the entire table, .4 inch tall,
 922 and contain the following words, "By signing this referendum petition, you are
 923 stating that you have read and understand the law that this referendum petition
 924 seeks to overturn." in 12-point type;

925 (e) the table described in Subsection (3)(d) shall be repeated, leaving sufficient room at
 926 the bottom of the sheet or the information described in Subsection (3)(f); and

927 (f) at the bottom of the sheet, include the word "Warning," in 12-point, bold type, followed by
 928 the following statement in not less than eight-point type:

929 "It is a class A misdemeanor for an individual to sign a referendum petition with a name
 930 other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than
 931 once for the same referendum petition, or to sign a referendum petition when the individual
 932 knows that the individual is not a registered voter.

933 Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity
 934 with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be
 935 verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified
 936 or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records."

937 ~~[(4) The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the following printed or typed~~
 938 ~~statement:~~

939 ~~"Verification of signature collector~~

940 ~~State of Utah, County of _____~~

941 ~~I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:~~

942 ~~I am at least 18 years old;~~

943 ~~All the names that appear in this packet were signed by individuals who professed to be~~
 944 ~~the individuals whose names appear in it, and each of the individuals signed the individual's~~
 945 ~~name on it in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a qualifying disability, I have~~
 946 ~~signed this referendum petition on the individual's behalf, at the direction of the individual and~~
 947 ~~in the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV" as the individual's signature;~~

948 ~~_____ I certify that, for each individual whose signature is represented in this referendum~~

949 packet by the initials "AV":

950 ~~———— I obtained the individual's voluntary direction or consent to sign the~~
951 ~~referendum petition on the individual's behalf;~~

952 ~~———— I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual lacked the~~
953 ~~mental capacity to give direction or consent;~~

954 ~~———— I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual did not~~
955 ~~understand the purpose or nature of my signing the referendum petition on the individual's~~
956 ~~benefit;~~

957 ~~———— I did not intentionally or knowingly deceive the individual into directing me to,~~
958 ~~or consenting for me to, sign the referendum petition on the individual's behalf; and~~

959 ~~———— I did not intentionally or knowingly enter false information on the signature~~
960 ~~sheet;~~

961 ~~I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law this petition~~
962 ~~seeks to overturn; and~~

963 ~~I believe that each individual's name, post office address, and residence is written~~
964 ~~correctly, that each signer has read the law that the referendum seeks to overturn, and that each~~
965 ~~signer is registered to vote in Utah.~~

966
967 ~~_____~~
~~_____~~

968
969 ~~(Name) (Residence Address) (Date)~~

970 ~~The correct date of signature appears next to each individual's name.~~

971 ~~I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this referendum~~
972 ~~packet to encourage that individual to sign it.~~

973
974 ~~(Name) (Residence Address) (Date)"]~~

975 ~~[(5)] (4) The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the circulator verification~~
976 ~~sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).~~

977 ~~(5) If the forms described in this section are substantially followed, the referendum~~
978 ~~petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.~~

979 Section 11. Section **20A-8-103** is amended to read:

980 **20A-8-103 (Effective 05/06/26). Petition procedures -- Criminal penalty --**
981 **Removal of signature.**

982 (1) As used in this section, the proposed name or emblem of a registered political party is

983 "distinguishable" if a reasonable person of average intelligence will be able to perceive a
984 difference between the proposed name or emblem and any name or emblem currently
985 being used by another registered political party.

986 (2) To become a registered political party, an organization of registered voters that is not a
987 continuing political party shall:

988 (a) circulate a petition seeking registered political party status beginning no earlier than
989 the date of the statewide canvass held after the last regular general election and
990 ending before 5 p.m. no later than November 30 of the year before the year in which
991 the next regular general election will be held;

992 (b) file a petition with the lieutenant governor that is signed, with a holographic
993 signature, by at least 2,000 registered voters before 5 p.m. no later than November 30
994 of the year in which a regular general election will be held; and

995 (c) file, with the petition described in Subsection (2)(b), a document certifying:

996 (i) the identity of one or more registered political parties whose members may vote
997 for the organization's candidates;

998 (ii) whether unaffiliated voters may vote for the organization's candidates; and

999 (iii) whether, for the next election, the organization intends to nominate the
1000 organization's candidates in accordance with the provisions of Section 20A-9-406.

1001 (3) The petition shall:

1002 (a) be on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

1003 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space above that line
1004 blank for the purpose of binding;

1005 (c) contain the name of the political party and the words "Political Party Registration
1006 Petition" printed directly below the horizontal line;

1007 (d) contain the word "Warning" printed directly under the words described in Subsection
1008 (3)(c);

1009 (e) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed in not less than
1010 eight-point, single leaded type:

1011 "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a political party registration
1012 petition signature sheet with any name other than the individual's own name or more than once
1013 for the same party or if the individual is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend
1014 to become registered to vote in this state before the petition is submitted to the lieutenant
1015 governor.";

1016 (f) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in Subsection (3)(e):

1017 "POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION PETITION To the Honorable _____,
 1018 Lieutenant Governor:

1019 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, seek registered political party status for _____
 1020 (name);

1021 Each signer says:

1022 I have personally signed this petition with a holographic signature;

1023 I am registered to vote in Utah or will register to vote in Utah before the petition is
 1024 submitted to the lieutenant governor;

1025 I am or desire to become a member of the political party; and

1026 My street address is written correctly after my name.";

1027 (g) be vertically divided into columns as follows:

1028 (i) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be 5/8 inch wide, be
 1029 headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical line
 1030 down the middle;

1031 (ii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed
 1032 Name (must be legible to be counted)";

1033 (iii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Holographic Signature of
 1034 Registered Voter";

1035 (iv) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age (Optional)";

1036 (v) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip
 1037 Code"; and

1038 (vi) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age
 1039 information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with voter
 1040 registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be
 1041 certified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures
 1042 are certified or if the information you provide does not match your voter
 1043 registration records.";

1044 ~~[(h) have a final page bound to one or more signature sheets that are bound together that~~
 1045 ~~contains the following printed statement:~~

1046 "Verification

1047 State of Utah, County of _____

1048 I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:

1049 I am at least 18 years old;

1050 All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were signed by

1051 individuals who professed to be the individuals whose names appear on the signature sheets;
 1052 and each individual signed the individual's name on the signature sheets in my presence;

1053 I believe that each individual has printed and signed the individual's name and written
 1054 the individual's street address correctly, and that each individual is registered to vote in Utah or
 1055 will register to vote in Utah before the petition is submitted to the lieutenant governor.

1056

1057 ~~(Signature)~~ ~~(Residence Address)~~ ~~(Date)"; and]~~

1058 ~~[(†)]~~ (h) have a final page bound to one or more signature sheets that contains the
 1059 circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1); and

1060 (i) be bound to a cover sheet that:

1061 (i) identifies the political party's name, which may not exceed four words, and the
 1062 emblem of the party;

1063 (ii) states the process that the organization will follow to organize and adopt a
 1064 constitution and bylaws; and

1065 (iii) is signed by a filing officer, who agrees to receive communications on behalf of
 1066 the organization.

1067 (4) The filing officer described in Subsection (3)(i)(iii) shall ensure that the individual in
 1068 whose presence each signature sheet is signed:

1069 (a) is at least 18 years old; and

1070 (b) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification bound to one or more
 1071 signature sheets that are bound together.

1072 (5) An individual may not sign the verification if the individual signed a signature sheet
 1073 bound to the verification.

1074 (6) The lieutenant governor shall:

1075 (a) use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to determine whether a signer is
 1076 a registered voter;

1077 (b) review the proposed name and emblem to determine if they are "distinguishable"
 1078 from the names and emblems of other registered political parties; and

1079 (c) certify the lieutenant governor's findings to the filing officer described in Subsection
 1080 (3)(i)(iii) within 30 calendar days after the day on which the organization files the
 1081 petition described in Subsection (2)(b).

1082 (7)(a) If the lieutenant governor determines that the petition meets the requirements of
 1083 this section, and that the proposed name and emblem are distinguishable, the

1084 lieutenant governor shall authorize the filing officer described in Subsection (3)(i)(iii)

1085 to organize the prospective political party.

1086 (b) If the lieutenant governor finds that the name, emblem, or both are not
1087 distinguishable from the names and emblems of other registered political parties, the
1088 lieutenant governor shall notify the filing officer that the filing officer has seven
1089 calendar days to electronically submit a new name or emblem to the lieutenant
1090 governor.

1091 (8) A registered political party may not change its name or emblem during the regular
1092 general election cycle.

1093 (9)(a) It is unlawful for an individual to:

1094 (i) knowingly sign a political party registration petition:

1095 (A) with any name other than the individual's own name;

1096 (B) more than once for the same political party; or

1097 (C) if the individual is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
1098 become registered to vote in this state before the petition is submitted to the
1099 lieutenant governor; or

1100 (ii) sign the verification of a political party registration petition signature sheet if the
1101 individual:

1102 (A) has not witnessed the signing by those individuals whose names appear on the
1103 political party registration petition signature sheet; or

1104 (B) knows that an individual whose signature appears on the political party
1105 registration petition signature sheet is not registered to vote in this state and
1106 does not intend to become registered to vote in this state.

1107 (b) An individual who violates this Subsection (9) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

1108 (10)(a) A voter who signs a petition under this section may have the voter's signature
1109 removed from the petition by, no later than three business days after the day on
1110 which the petition is filed with the lieutenant governor, submitting to the lieutenant
1111 governor a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

1112 (b) A statement described in Subsection (10)(a) shall comply with the requirements
1113 described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

1114 (c) The lieutenant governor shall use the procedures described in Subsection
1115 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a
1116 petition after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

1117 Section 12. Section **20A-9-405** is amended to read:

1118 **20A-9-405 (Effective 05/06/26). Nomination petitions for regular primary**

1119 **elections.**

- 1120 (1) This section applies to the form and circulation of nomination petitions for regular
1121 primary elections described in Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(a).
- 1122 (2) A candidate for elective office, and the agents of the candidate, may not circulate
1123 nomination petitions until the candidate has submitted a declaration of candidacy in
1124 accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(1).
- 1125 (3) For the manual candidate qualification process, the nomination petitions shall be in
1126 substantially the following form:
- 1127 (a) the petition shall be printed on paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
- 1128 (b) the petition shall be ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space
1129 above that line blank for purposes of binding;
- 1130 (c) the petition shall be headed by a caption stating the purpose of the petition and the
1131 name of the proposed candidate;
- 1132 (d) the petition shall feature the word "Warning" followed by the following statement in
1133 no less than eight-point, single leaded type: "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone
1134 to knowingly sign a nomination petition with any name other than the person's own
1135 name, or more than once for the same candidate, or if the person is not registered to
1136 vote in this state.";
- 1137 (e) the petition shall feature 10 lines spaced one-half inch apart and consecutively
1138 numbered one through 10;
- 1139 (f) the signature portion of the petition shall be divided into columns headed by the
1140 following titles:
- 1141 (i) Registered Voter's Printed Name;
- 1142 (ii) Signature of Registered Voter;
- 1143 (iii) Party Affiliation of Registered Voter;
- 1144 (iv) Birth Date or Age (Optional);
- 1145 (v) Street Address, City, Zip Code; and
- 1146 (vi) Date of Signature; and
- 1147 (g) a photograph of the candidate may appear on the nomination petition.
- 1148 (4) For the electronic candidate qualification process, the lieutenant governor shall design
1149 an electronic form, using progressive screens, that includes:
- 1150 (a) the following warning:
- 1151 "Warning: It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a nomination
1152 petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more than once for the same

- 1153 candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this state."; and
- 1154 (b) the following information for each individual who signs the petition:
- 1155 (i) name;
- 1156 (ii) party affiliation;
- 1157 (iii) date of birth or age, (optional);
- 1158 (iv) street address, city, zip code;
- 1159 (v) date of signature;
- 1160 (vi) other information required under Section 20A-21-201; and
- 1161 (vii) other information required by the lieutenant governor.

1162 [~~(5) For the manual candidate qualification process, if one or more nomination petitions are~~

1163 ~~bound together, a page shall be bound to the nomination petition(s) that features the following~~

1164 ~~printed verification statement to be signed and dated by the petition circulator:~~

1165 ~~"Verification~~

1166 ~~State of Utah, County of _____~~

1167 ~~I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:~~

1168 ~~I am at least 18 years old;~~

1169 ~~All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were, to the best of~~

1170 ~~my knowledge, signed by the persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear on~~

1171 ~~the signature sheets, and each of them signed the person's name on the signature sheets in my~~

1172 ~~presence;~~

1173 ~~I believe that each has printed and signed the person's name and written the person's~~

1174 ~~street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah."]~~

1175 [~~(6)~~ (5) For the manual candidate qualification process, if one or more nomination petitions

1176 are bound together, a final page shall be bound to the nomination petition(s) that

1177 contains the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

1178 (6) The lieutenant governor shall prepare and make public model nomination petition forms

1179 and associated instructions.

1180 (7) A nomination petition circulator:

1181 (a) must be at least 18 years old; and

1182 (b) may affiliate with any political party.

1183 (8) It is unlawful for any person to:

1184 (a) knowingly sign the nomination petition described in this section or Section

1185 20A-9-408:

1186 (i) with any name other than the person's own name;

- 1187 (ii) more than once for the same candidate; or
 1188 (iii) if the person is not registered to vote in this state;
 1189 (b) sign the verification of a signature for a nomination petition if the person:
 1190 (i) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the
 1191 nomination petition; or
 1192 (ii) knows that a person whose signature appears on the nomination petition is not
 1193 registered to vote in this state;
 1194 (c) pay compensation to any person to sign a nomination petition; or
 1195 (d) pay compensation to any person to circulate a nomination petition~~[, if the~~
 1196 ~~compensation is based directly on the number of signatures submitted to a filing~~
 1197 ~~officer rather than on the number of signatures verified or on some other basis.]~~
 1198 unless the compensation is based on:
 1199 (i) an hourly rate; or
 1200 (ii) a rate per signature declared valid under Section 20A-1-1002.

1201 (9) Any person violating Subsection (8) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

1202 (10)(a) A voter who signs a nomination petition may have the voter's signature removed
 1203 from the petition by, no later than three business days after the day on which the
 1204 candidate files the petition with the appropriate filing officer, submitting to the filing
 1205 officer a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

1206 (b) A statement described in Subsection (10)(a) shall comply with the requirements
 1207 described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

1208 (c) The filing officer shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to
 1209 determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a nomination petition
 1210 after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

1211 Section 13. Section **20A-9-502** is amended to read:

1212 **20A-9-502 (Effective 05/06/26). Certificate of nomination -- Contents --**

1213 **Circulation -- Verification -- Criminal penalty -- Removal of petition signature.**

1214 (1) The candidate shall:

1215 (a) prepare a certificate of nomination in substantially the following form:

1216 "State of Utah, County of _____

1217 I, _____, declare my intention of becoming an unaffiliated candidate for the
 1218 political group designated as ____ for the office of _____. I do solemnly swear that I can
 1219 qualify to hold that office both legally and constitutionally if selected, and that I reside at ____
 1220 Street, in the city of _____, county of _____, state of _____, zip code _____, phone _____, and

1221 that I am providing, or have provided, the required number of holographic signatures of
 1222 registered voters required by law; that as a candidate at the next election I will not knowingly
 1223 violate any election or campaign law; that, if filing via a designated agent for an office other
 1224 than president of the United States, I will be out of the state of Utah during the entire candidate
 1225 filing period; I will file all campaign financial disclosure reports as required by law; and I
 1226 understand that failure to do so will result in my disqualification as a candidate for this office
 1227 and removal of my name from the ballot.
 1228

1229

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

1230

1231

Notary Public (or other officer

1232

qualified to administer oaths)";

1233

(b) for each signature packet, bind signature sheets to a copy of the certificate of
 1234 nomination and the circulator verification, that:

1234

1235

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

1236

(ii) are ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space above that
 1237 line blank for the purpose of binding;

1238

(iii) contain the name of the proposed candidate and the words "Unaffiliated
 1239 Candidate Certificate of Nomination Petition" printed directly below the
 1240 horizontal line;

1241

(iv) contain the word "Warning" printed directly under the words described in
 1242 Subsection (1)(b)(iii);

1243

(v) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed in not less than
 1244 eight-point, single leaded type:

1245

"It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a certificate of nomination
 1246 signature sheet with any name other than the person's own name or more than once for the
 1247 same candidate or if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
 1248 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the signatures.";

1249

(vi) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in Subsection

- 1250 (1)(b)(v):
- 1251 "Each signer says:
- 1252 I have personally signed this petition with a holographic signature;
- 1253 I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the
- 1254 county clerk certifies my signature; and
- 1255 My street address is written correctly after my name.";
- 1256 (vii) contain horizontally ruled lines, 3/8 inch apart under the statement described in
- 1257 Subsection (1)(b)(vi); and
- 1258 (viii) be vertically divided into columns as follows:
- 1259 (A) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be 5/8 inch wide,
- 1260 be headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical
- 1261 line down the middle;
- 1262 (B) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's
- 1263 Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)";
- 1264 (C) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Holographic Signature of
- 1265 Registered Voter";
- 1266 (D) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age
- 1267 (Optional)";
- 1268 (E) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip
- 1269 Code"; and
- 1270 (F) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age
- 1271 information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with
- 1272 voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may
- 1273 not be certified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition
- 1274 signatures are certified or if the information you provide does not match your
- 1275 voter registration records."; and
- 1276 (c) bind a final page to one or more signature sheets that contains the circulator
- 1277 verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).
- 1278 ~~[(e) bind a final page to one or more signature sheets that are bound together that contains,~~
- 1279 ~~except as provided by Subsection (3), the following printed statement:~~
- 1280 "Verification
- 1281 State of Utah, County of _____
- 1282 I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:
- 1283 I am at least 18 years old;

1284 ~~All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were signed by~~
 1285 ~~persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear on the signature sheets, and each~~
 1286 ~~of them signed the person's name on the signature sheets in my presence;~~

1287 ~~I believe that each has printed and signed the person's name and written the person's~~
 1288 ~~street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah or will register to~~
 1289 ~~vote in Utah before the county clerk certifies the signatures on the signature sheet.~~

1290

1291 ~~(Signature) (Residence Address) (Date)].~~

1292 (2) An agent designated to file a certificate of nomination under Subsection 20A-9-503

1293 (2)(b) or (4)(b) may not sign the form described in Subsection (1)(a).

1294 (3)(a) The candidate shall circulate the nomination petition and ensure that the person in
 1295 whose presence each signature sheet is signed:

1296 (i) is at least 18 years old; and

1297 (ii) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification bound to one or more
 1298 signature sheets that are bound together.

1299 (b) A person may not sign the circulator verification if the person signed a signature
 1300 sheet bound to the verification.

1301 (4)(a) It is unlawful for any person to:

1302 (i) knowingly sign a certificate of nomination signature sheet:

1303 (A) with any name other than the person's own name;

1304 (B) more than once for the same candidate; or

1305 (C) if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
 1306 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the
 1307 signatures; or

1308 (ii) sign the verification of a certificate of nomination signature sheet if the person:

1309 (A) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the
 1310 certificate of nomination signature sheet; or

1311 (B) knows that a person whose signature appears on the certificate of nomination
 1312 signature sheet is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
 1313 become registered to vote in this state.

1314 (b) Any person violating this Subsection (4) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

1315 (5)(a) To qualify for placement on the general election ballot, the candidate shall, no
 1316 earlier than the start of the declaration of candidacy period described in Section
 1317 20A-9-201.5 and no later than 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in which the election

- 1318 will be held:
- 1319 (i) comply with Subsection 20A-9-503(1); and
- 1320 (ii) submit each signature packet to the county clerk where the majority of the
- 1321 signatures in the packet were collected, with signatures totaling:
- 1322 (A) at least 1,000 registered voters residing within the state when the nomination
- 1323 is for an office to be filled by the voters of the entire state; or
- 1324 (B) at least 300 registered voters residing within a political division or at least 5%
- 1325 of the registered voters residing within a political division, whichever is less,
- 1326 when the nomination is for an office to be filled by the voters of any political
- 1327 division smaller than the state.
- 1328 (b) A candidate has not complied with Subsection (5)(a)(ii), unless the county clerks
- 1329 verify that each required signature is a valid signature of a registered voter who is
- 1330 eligible to sign the signature packet and has not signed a signature packet to nominate
- 1331 another candidate for the same office.
- 1332 (c) In reviewing the signature packets, the county clerk shall count and certify only those
- 1333 persons who signed with a holographic signature, who:
- 1334 (i) are registered voters within the political division that the candidate seeks to
- 1335 represent; and
- 1336 (ii) did not sign any other certificate of nomination for that office.
- 1337 (d) The county clerk shall count and certify the number of registered voters who validly
- 1338 signed a signature packet, no later than 30 calendar days after the day on which the
- 1339 candidate submits the signature packet.
- 1340 (e) The candidate may supplement the signatures or amend the certificate of nomination
- 1341 or declaration of candidacy at any time on or before 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in
- 1342 which the election will be held.
- 1343 (f) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to
- 1344 determine whether a signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature
- 1345 packet.
- 1346 (6)(a) A voter who signs a signature packet under this section may have the voter's
- 1347 signature removed from the signature packet by, no later than 5 p.m. three business
- 1348 days after the day on which the candidate submits the signature packet to the county
- 1349 clerk, submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature
- 1350 be removed.
- 1351 (b) A statement described in Subsection (6)(a) shall comply with the requirements

1352 described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

1353 (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to
1354 determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a signature packet after
1355 receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

1356 Section 14. Section **20A-21-201** is amended to read:

1357 **20A-21-201 (Effective 05/06/26). Electronic signature gathering for an initiative,**
1358 **a referendum, or candidate qualification.**

1359 (1) After filing a petition for a statewide initiative or a statewide referendum, and before
1360 gathering signatures, the sponsors shall, after consulting with the Office of the
1361 Lieutenant Governor, sign a form provided by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor
1362 indicating whether the sponsors will gather signatures manually, electronically, or both.

1363 (2) After filing a petition for a local initiative or a local referendum, and before gathering
1364 signatures, the sponsors shall, after consulting with the local clerk's office, sign a form
1365 provided by the local clerk's office indicating whether the sponsors will gather
1366 signatures manually, electronically, or both.

1367 (3) After a candidate files a notice of intent to gather signatures to qualify for a ballot, and
1368 before gathering signatures, the candidate shall, after consulting with the election
1369 officer, sign a form provided by the election officer indicating whether the candidate
1370 will gather signatures manually, electronically, or both.

1371 (4) To gather a signature electronically, a signature-gatherer shall:

1372 (a) use a device provided by the signature-gatherer or a sponsor of the petition that:

1373 (i) is approved by the lieutenant governor;

1374 (ii) except as provided in Subsection (4)(a)(iii), does not store a signature or any
1375 other information relating to an individual signing the petition in any location
1376 other than the location used by the website to store the information;

1377 (iii) does not, on the device, store a signature or any other information relating to an
1378 individual signing the petition except for the minimum time necessary to upload
1379 information to the website;

1380 (iv) does not contain any applications, software, or data other than those approved by
1381 the lieutenant governor; and

1382 (v) complies with cyber-security and other security protocols required by the
1383 lieutenant governor;

1384 (b) use the approved device to securely access a website designated by the lieutenant
1385 governor, directly, or via an application designated by the lieutenant governor; and

- 1386 (c) while connected to the website, present the approved device to an individual
1387 considering signing the petition and, while the signature-gatherer is in the physical
1388 presence of the individual:
- 1389 (i) wait for the individual to reach each screen presented to the individual on the
1390 approved device; and
- 1391 (ii) wait for the individual to advance to each subsequent screen by clicking on the
1392 acknowledgement at the bottom of the screen.
- 1393 (5) Each screen shown on an approved device as part of the signature-gathering process
1394 shall appear as a continuous electronic document that, if the entire document does not
1395 appear on the screen at once, requires the individual viewing the screen to, before
1396 advancing to the next screen, scroll through the document until the individual reaches
1397 the end of the document.
- 1398 (6) After advancing through each screen required for the petition, the signature process
1399 shall proceed as follows:
- 1400 (a) except as provided in Subsection (6)(b):
- 1401 (i) the individual desiring to sign the petition shall present the individual's driver
1402 license or state identification card to the signature-gatherer;
- 1403 (ii) the signature-gatherer shall verify that the individual pictured on the driver
1404 license or state identification card is the individual signing the petition;
- 1405 (iii) the signature-gatherer shall scan or enter the driver license number or state
1406 identification card number through the approved device; and
- 1407 (iv) immediately after the signature-gatherer complies with Subsection (6)(a)(iii), the
1408 website shall determine whether the individual desiring to sign the petition is
1409 eligible to sign the petition;
- 1410 (b) if the individual desiring to sign the petition is unable to provide a driver license or
1411 state identification card to the signature gatherer:
- 1412 (i) the individual may present other valid voter identification;
- 1413 (ii) if the valid voter identification contains a picture of the individual, the
1414 signature-gatherer shall verify that the individual pictured is the individual signing
1415 the petition;
- 1416 (iii) if the valid voter identification does not contain a picture of the individual, the
1417 signature-gatherer shall, to the extent reasonably practicable, use the individual's
1418 address or other available means to determine whether the identification relates to
1419 the individual presenting the identification;

- 1420 (iv) the signature-gatherer shall scan an image of the valid voter identification and
1421 immediately upload the image to the website; and
- 1422 (v) the individual:
- 1423 (A) shall enter the individual's address; and
- 1424 (B) may, at the discretion of the individual, enter the individual's date of birth or
1425 age after the individual clicks on the screen acknowledging that they have read
1426 and understand the following statement, "Birth date or age information is not
1427 required, but may be used to verify your identity with voter registration
1428 records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be verified as a
1429 valid signature if you change your address before your signature is verified or
1430 if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records.";
1431 and
- 1432 (c) after completing the process described in Subsection (6)(a) or (b), the screen shall:
- 1433 (i) except for a petition to qualify a candidate for the ballot, give the individual
1434 signing the petition the opportunity to enter the individual's email address after the
1435 individual reads the following statement, "If you provide your email address, you
1436 may receive an email with additional information relating to the petition you are
1437 signing."; and
- 1438 (ii)(A) if the website determines, under Subsection (6)(a)(iv), that the individual is
1439 eligible to sign the petition, permit the individual to enter the individual's name
1440 as the individual's electronic signature and, immediately after the
1441 signature-gatherer timely complies with Subsection (10), certify the signature; or
- 1442 (B) if the individual provides valid voter identification under Subsection (6)(b),
1443 permit the individual to enter the individual's name as the individual's
1444 electronic signature.
- 1445 (7) If an individual provides valid voter identification under Subsection (6)(b), the county
1446 clerk shall, within seven calendar days after the day on which the individual submits the
1447 valid voter identification, certify the signature if:
- 1448 (a) the individual is eligible to sign the petition;
- 1449 (b) the identification provided matches the information on file; and
- 1450 (c) the signature-gatherer timely complies with Subsection (10).
- 1451 (8) For each signature submitted under this section, the website shall record:
- 1452 (a) the information identifying the individual who signs;
- 1453 (b) the date the signature was collected; and

1454 (c) the name of the signature-gatherer.

1455 (9) An individual who is a signature-gatherer may not sign a petition unless another
1456 individual acts as the signature-gatherer when the individual signs the petition.

1457 [~~(10) Except for a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political party,
1458 each individual who gathers a signature under this section shall, within one business day after
1459 the day on which the individual gathers a signature, electronically sign and submit the
1460 following statement to the website:~~

1461 ~~"VERIFICATION OF SIGNATURE-GATHERER~~

1462 ~~State of Utah, County of _____~~

1463 ~~I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:~~

1464 ~~I am at least 18 years old;~~

1465 ~~All the signatures that I collected on [Date signatures were gathered] were signed by
1466 individuals who professed to be the individuals whose signatures I gathered, and each of the
1467 individuals signed the petition in my presence;~~

1468 ~~I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law or proposed
1469 law to which the petition relates;~~

1470 ~~I believe that each individual has signed the individual's name and written the
1471 individual's residence correctly, that each signer has read and understands the law to which the
1472 petition relates, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah;~~

1473 ~~Each signature correctly reflects the date on which the individual signed the petition;
1474 and~~

1475 ~~I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this petition to
1476 encourage that individual to sign it."]~~

1477 [~~(10) Except for a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered
1478 political party, each individual who gathers a signature under this section shall, within
1479 one business day after the day on which the individual gathers a signature, electronically
1480 sign and submit the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1)
1481 to the website.~~

1482 (11) Except for a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political
1483 party:

1484 (a) the county clerk may not certify a signature that is not timely verified in accordance
1485 with Subsection (10); and

1486 (b) if a signature certified by a county clerk under Subsection (6)(c)(ii)(A) is not timely
1487 verified in accordance with Subsection (10), the county clerk shall:

- 1488 (i) revoke the certification;
- 1489 (ii) remove the signature from the posting described in Subsection 20A-7-217(4),
- 1490 20A-7-315(4), 20A-7-516(4), or 20A-7-616(4); and
- 1491 (iii) update the totals described in Subsections 20A-7-217(5)(a)(ii), 20A-7-315
- 1492 (5)(a)(ii), 20A-7-516(5)(a)(ii), and 20A-7-616(5)(a)(ii).

1493 ~~[(12) For a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political party, each~~

1494 ~~individual who gathers a signature under this section shall, within one business day after the~~

1495 ~~day on which the individual gathers a signature, electronically sign and submit the following~~

1496 ~~statement to the lieutenant governor in the manner specified by the lieutenant governor:~~

1497 ~~"VERIFICATION OF SIGNATURE-GATHERER~~

1498 ~~State of Utah, County of _____~~

1499 ~~I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:~~

1500 ~~I am at least 18 years old;~~

1501 ~~All the signatures that I collected on [Date signatures were gathered] were signed by~~

1502 ~~individuals who professed to be the individuals whose signatures I gathered, and each of the~~

1503 ~~individuals signed the petition in my presence;~~

1504 ~~I believe that each individual has signed the individual's name and written the~~

1505 ~~individual's residence correctly and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah; and~~

1506 ~~Each signature correctly reflects the date on which the individual signed the petition."]~~

1507 (12) For a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political party,

1508 each individual who gathers a signature under this section shall, within one business day

1509 after the day on which the individual gathers a signature, electronically sign and submit

1510 the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1) to the lieutenant

1511 governor in the manner specified by the lieutenant governor.

1512 (13) For a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political party, the

1513 election officer may not certify a signature that is not timely verified in accordance with

1514 Subsection (12).

1515 **Section 15. Effective Date.**

1516 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), this bill takes effect May 6, 2026.

1517 (2) The actions affecting Section 20A-1-1002 (Effective 07/01/27) take effect on July 1,

1518 2027.