

Ronald M. Winterton proposes the following substitute bill:

Signature Gathering and Verification Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Paul A. Cutler

Senate Sponsor: Ronald M. Winterton

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies requirements for petitions.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ amends, standardizes, and makes technical revisions to the signature collector verification form included in petition packets;
- ▶ specifies how an individual may be paid for collecting petition signatures;
- ▶ beginning on July 1, 2027, requires a clerk 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 signature packet if the individual who collects signatures for the petition did not complete the online training course described above;
- ▶ modifies requirements related to statewide initiative and referendum packets by:
 - removing the requirement that the county clerk deliver each packet to the lieutenant governor;
 - requiring the county clerk who verifies packets to certify certain statistical information to the lieutenant governor; and
 - directing the county clerk to retain and preserve each packet for at least 22 months;
- ▶ designates the existing initiative and referendum packet format as one packet type and creates an alternative packet type with different content and assembly requirements;
- ▶ requires an alternative packet type to provide access to the text of a proposed or referable

- 29 law through a QR code rather than a printed copy;
- 30 ▶ for an alternative packet type, requires the initiative petition and each signature sheet to
31 contain a brief, plain-language description of the principal provisions of the law
32 proposed by the initiative;
- 33 ▶ allows the sponsors of an initiative or referendum petition to circulate packets using a
34 traditional packet type, an alternative packet type, or both;
- 35 ▶ repeals provisions permitting an individual to optionally provide the individual's email
36 address when signing an initiative or referendum signature sheet;
- 37 ▶ updates the formatting and spacing requirements for initiative and referendum signature
38 sheets;
- 39 ▶ prohibits the sponsors of an initiative or referendum petition from marking or redacting a
40 signature sheet in a manner that obscures, conceals, or renders illegible a signer's date of
41 signature or other voter information used for verification;
- 42 ▶ provides that a county clerk may not certify a signature if the date of signature is later
43 than the applicable deadline for submitting an initiative or referendum packet;
- 44 ▶ on January 1, 2027, repeals provisions requiring the sponsors of an initiative petition to:
- 45 • send an informational email to each initiative petition signer who provides a legible
46 email address on a signature sheet; and
- 47 • send a list to the lieutenant governor identifying the recipients of the email described
48 above;
- 49 ▶ beginning on January 1, 2027, requires an election officer to send the email described
50 above to each eligible voter who signs an initiative petition within two business days of
51 verifying the voter's signature;
- 52 ▶ makes technical revisions to the required statements that appear on initiative and
53 referendum signature sheets;
- 54 ▶ modifies certain statements appearing on initiative and referendum packets to provide that:
- 55 • the signer of the packet had an opportunity to read and understand the proposed or
56 referable law; and
- 57 • for the signature gatherer, the signature gatherer believes that the signer had an
58 opportunity to read and understand the proposed or referable law; and
- 59 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

60 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

61 None

62 **Other Special Clauses:**

63 This bill provides a special effective date.

64 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

65 **AMENDS:**

66 **20A-1-102 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special
67 Session, Chapter 6

68 **20A-1-609 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 325

69 **20A-1-1001 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special
70 Session, Chapter 16

71 **20A-1-1002 (Effective 07/01/27)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 116

72 **20A-7-101 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special
73 Session, Chapter 16

74 **20A-7-104 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

75 **20A-7-105 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

76 **20A-7-201 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

77 **20A-7-202 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 117

78 **20A-7-202.5 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

79 **20A-7-202.7 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 107

80 **20A-7-203 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

81 **20A-7-204 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

82 **20A-7-213 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

83 **20A-7-215 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

84 **20A-7-302 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

85 **20A-7-303 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

86 **20A-7-304 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

87 **20A-7-502 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 107

88 **20A-7-503 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

89 **20A-7-504 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

90 **20A-7-514 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

91 **20A-7-602 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 107

92 **20A-7-603 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

93 **20A-7-604 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

94 **20A-8-103 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 38, 448

95 **20A-9-405 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 38

96 **20A-9-502 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special

97 Session, Chapter 2
 98 **20A-21-201 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 381,
 99 448
 100 **63I-2-220 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Forth Special
 101 Session, Chapter 2

102 ENACTS:

103 **20A-1-1004 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
 104 **20A-1-1005 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

107 Section 1. Section **20A-1-102** is amended to read:

108 **20A-1-102 (Effective 05/06/26). Definitions.**

109 As used in this title:

- 110 (1) "Active voter" means a registered voter who has not been classified as an inactive voter
 111 by the county clerk.
- 112 (2) "Automatic tabulating equipment" means apparatus that automatically examines and
 113 counts votes recorded on ballots and tabulates the results.
- 114 (3)(a) "Ballot" means the storage medium, including a paper, mechanical, or electronic
 115 storage medium, that records an individual voter's vote.
- 116 (b) "Ballot" does not include a record to tally multiple votes.
- 117 (4) "Ballot proposition" means a question, issue, or proposal that is submitted to voters on
 118 the ballot for their approval or rejection including:
- 119 (a) an opinion question specifically authorized by the Legislature;
 120 (b) a constitutional amendment;
 121 (c) an initiative;
 122 (d) a referendum;
 123 (e) a bond proposition;
 124 (f) a judicial retention question;
 125 (g) an incorporation of a city or town; or
 126 (h) any other ballot question specifically authorized by the Legislature.
- 127 (5) "Bind," "binding," or "bound" means securing more than one piece of paper together
 128 using staples, a spiral binder, or another means in at least three places across the top of
 129 the paper in the blank space reserved for securing the paper.
- 130 (6) "Board of canvassers" means the entities established by Sections 20A-4-301 and

- 131 20A-4-306 to canvass election returns.
- 132 (7) "Bond election" means an election held for the purpose of approving or rejecting the
133 proposed issuance of bonds by a government entity.
- 134 (8) "Business day" means a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday that is not
135 a holiday.
- 136 (9) "Business reply mail envelope" means an envelope that may be mailed free of charge by
137 the sender.
- 138 (10) "Calendar day" means any day, regardless of whether the day is a weekend, a holiday,
139 a business day, or any other type of day.
- 140 (11) "Canvass" means the review of election returns and the official declaration of election
141 results by the board of canvassers.
- 142 (12) "Canvassing judge" means a poll worker designated to assist in counting ballots at the
143 canvass.
- 144 (13) "Contracting election officer" means an election officer who enters into a contract or
145 interlocal agreement with a provider election officer.
- 146 (14) "Convention" means the political party convention at which party officers and
147 delegates are selected.
- 148 (15) "Counting center" means one or more locations selected by the election officer in
149 charge of the election for the automatic counting of ballots.
- 150 (16) "Counting judge" means a poll worker designated to count the ballots during election
151 day.
- 152 (17) "Counting room" means a suitable and convenient private place or room for use by the
153 poll workers and counting judges to count ballots.
- 154 (18) "County officers" means those county officers that are required by law to be elected.
- 155 (19) "Date of the election" or "election day" or "day of the election":
- 156 (a) means the day that is specified in the calendar year as the day on which the election
157 occurs; and
- 158 (b) does not include:
- 159 (i) deadlines established for voting by mail, military-overseas voting, or emergency
160 voting; or
- 161 (ii) any early voting or early voting period as provided under Chapter 3a, Part 6,
162 Early Voting.
- 163 (20) "Elected official" means:
- 164 (a) a person elected to an office under Section 20A-1-303 or Chapter 4, Part 6,

- 165 Municipal Alternate Voting Methods Pilot Project;
- 166 (b) a person who is considered to be elected to a municipal office in accordance with
- 167 Subsection 20A-1-206(1)(c)(ii); or
- 168 (c) a person who is considered to be elected to a special district office in accordance
- 169 with Subsection 20A-1-206(3)(b)(ii).
- 170 (21) "Election" means a regular general election, a municipal general election, a statewide
- 171 special election, a local special election, a regular primary election, a municipal primary
- 172 election, and a special district election.
- 173 (22) "Election Assistance Commission" means the commission established by the Help
- 174 America Vote Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-252.
- 175 (23) "Election cycle" means the period beginning on the first day on which individuals are
- 176 eligible to file declarations of candidacy and ending when the canvass is completed.
- 177 (24) "Election judge" means a poll worker that is assigned to:
- 178 (a) preside over other poll workers at a polling place;
- 179 (b) act as the presiding election judge; or
- 180 (c) serve as a canvassing judge, counting judge, or receiving judge.
- 181 (25) "Election material" includes:
- 182 (a) the verification documentation described in Subsection 20A-3a-401(9)(b)(iv);
- 183 (b) the list of voters contacted to cure a ballot described in Subsection 20A-3a-401(10)(b);
- 184 (c) the record of rejected and resolved ballots described in Subsection 20A-3a-401(11)(a);
- 185 (d) any chain of custody documentation described in Section 20A-3a-401.1, including:
- 186 (i) the count of ballots described in Subsection 20A-3a-401.1(3); and
- 187 (ii) the batch log described in Subsection 20A-3a-401.1(5);
- 188 (e) the record of signature verification audits described in Subsection 20A-3a-402.5(4);
- 189 (f) the affidavit of compliance described in Subsection 20A-3a-404(2);
- 190 (g) the physical and electronic log of replicated ballots described in Subsection
- 191 20A-4-104(3);
- 192 (h) the physical or electronic log of adjudicated ballots described in Section 20A-5-802.5;
- 193 (i) the record of voter database access described in Subsection 20A-5-905(2);
- 194 (j) the reports on military and overseas voters described in Section 20A-16-202;
- 195 (k) scanned copies of return envelopes;
- 196 (l) a copy of the final election results database described in Section 20A-5-802.5; and
- 197 (m) the materials used in the programming of the automatic tabulating equipment.
- 198 (26) "Election officer" means:

- 199 (a) the lieutenant governor, for all statewide ballots and elections;
- 200 (b) the county clerk for:
- 201 (i) a county ballot and election; and
- 202 (ii) a ballot and election as a provider election officer as provided in Section
- 203 20A-5-400.1 or 20A-5-400.5;
- 204 (c) the municipal clerk for:
- 205 (i) a municipal ballot and election; and
- 206 (ii) a ballot and election as a provider election officer as provided in Section
- 207 20A-5-400.1 or 20A-5-400.5;
- 208 (d) the special district clerk or chief executive officer for:
- 209 (i) a special district ballot and election; and
- 210 (ii) a ballot and election as a provider election officer as provided in Section
- 211 20A-5-400.1 or 20A-5-400.5; or
- 212 (e) the business administrator or superintendent of a school district for:
- 213 (i) a school district ballot and election; and
- 214 (ii) a ballot and election as a provider election officer as provided in Section
- 215 20A-5-400.1 or 20A-5-400.5.
- 216 (27) "Election official" means any election officer, election judge, or poll worker.
- 217 (28) "Election results" means:
- 218 (a) for an election other than a bond election, the count of votes cast in the election and
- 219 the election returns requested by the board of canvassers; or
- 220 (b) for bond elections, the count of those votes cast for and against the bond proposition
- 221 plus any or all of the election returns that the board of canvassers may request.
- 222 (29) "Election results database" means the following information generated by voting
- 223 equipment:
- 224 (a) one or more electronic files that contains a digital interpretation of each ballot that is
- 225 counted in an election;
- 226 (b) a ballot image; and
- 227 (c) other information related to a ballot that is adjudicated under Section 20A-4-105.
- 228 (30) "Election returns" means:
- 229 (a) the pollbook;
- 230 (b) the military and overseas absentee voter registration and voting certificates;
- 231 (c) one of the tally sheets;
- 232 (d) any unprocessed ballots;

- 233 (e) all counted ballots;
- 234 (f) all excess ballots;
- 235 (g) all unused ballots;
- 236 (h) all spoiled ballots;
- 237 (i) all ballot disposition forms, including any provisional ballot disposition forms;
- 238 (j) the final election results database described in Section 20A-5-802.5;
- 239 (k) all return envelopes;
- 240 (l) any provisional ballot envelopes; and
- 241 (m) the total votes cast form.
- 242 (31) "Electronic signature" means an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or
- 243 logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to
- 244 sign the record.
- 245 (32) "Holiday" means a legal holiday described in Subsections 63G-1-301(1) and (2).
- 246 (33) "Inactive voter" means a registered voter who is listed as inactive by a county clerk
- 247 under Subsection 20A-2-505(4)(c)(i) or (ii).
- 248 (34) "Judicial office" means the office filled by any judicial officer.
- 249 (35) "Judicial officer" means any justice or judge of a court of record or any county court
- 250 judge.
- 251 (36) "Local election" means a regular county election, a regular municipal election, a
- 252 municipal primary election, a local special election, a special district election, and a
- 253 bond election.
- 254 (37) "Local political subdivision" means a county, a municipality, a special district, or a
- 255 local school district.
- 256 (38) "Local special election" means a special election called by the governing body of a
- 257 local political subdivision in which all registered voters of the local political subdivision
- 258 may vote.
- 259 (39) "Manual ballot" means a paper document produced by an election officer on which an
- 260 individual records an individual's vote by directly placing a mark on the paper document
- 261 using a pen or other marking instrument.
- 262 (40) "Mechanical ballot" means a record, including a paper record, electronic record, or
- 263 mechanical record, that:
- 264 (a) is created via electronic or mechanical means; and
- 265 (b) records an individual voter's vote cast via a method other than an individual directly
- 266 placing a mark, using a pen or other marking instrument, to record an individual

- 267 voter's vote.
- 268 (41) "Municipal executive" means:
- 269 (a) the mayor in the council-mayor form of government defined in Section 10-3b-102; or
- 270 (b) the mayor in the council-manager form of government defined in Subsection
- 271 10-3b-103(6).
- 272 (42) "Municipal general election" means the election held in municipalities and, as
- 273 applicable, special districts on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of
- 274 each odd-numbered year for the purposes established in Section 20A-1-202.
- 275 (43) "Municipal legislative body" means the council of the city or town in any form of
- 276 municipal government.
- 277 (44) "Municipal office" means an elective office in a municipality.
- 278 (45) "Municipal officers" means those municipal officers that are required by law to be
- 279 elected.
- 280 (46) "Municipal primary election" means an election held to nominate candidates for
- 281 municipal office.
- 282 (47) "Municipality" means a city or town.
- 283 (48) "Official ballot" means the ballots distributed by the election officer for voters to
- 284 record their votes.
- 285 (49) "Official endorsement" means the information on the ballot that identifies:
- 286 (a) the ballot as an official ballot;
- 287 (b) the date of the election; and
- 288 (c)(i) for a ballot prepared by an election officer other than a county clerk, the
- 289 facsimile signature required by Subsection 20A-6-401(1)(a)(iii); or
- 290 (ii) for a ballot prepared by a county clerk, the words required by Subsection
- 291 20A-6-301(1)(b)(iii).
- 292 (50) "Official register" means the official record furnished to election officials by the
- 293 election officer that contains the information required by Section 20A-5-401.
- 294 (51) "Political party" means an organization of registered voters that has qualified to
- 295 participate in an election by meeting the requirements of Chapter 8, Political Party
- 296 Formation and Procedures.
- 297 (52)(a) "Poll worker" means a person assigned by an election official to assist with an
- 298 election, voting, or counting votes.
- 299 (b) "Poll worker" includes election judges.
- 300 (c) "Poll worker" does not include a watcher.

- 301 (53) "Pollbook" means a record of the names of voters in the order that the voters appear to
302 cast votes.
- 303 (54) "Polling place" means a building where voting is conducted.
- 304 (55) "Position" means a square, circle, rectangle, or other geometric shape on a ballot in
305 which the voter marks the voter's choice.
- 306 (56) "Presidential Primary Election" means the election established in Chapter 9, Part 8,
307 Presidential Primary Election.
- 308 (57) "Primary convention" means the political party conventions held during the year of the
309 regular general election.
- 310 (58) "Protective counter" means a separate counter, which cannot be reset, that:
311 (a) is built into a voting machine; and
312 (b) records the total number of movements of the operating lever.
- 313 (59) "Provider election officer" means an election officer who enters into a contract or
314 interlocal agreement with a contracting election officer to conduct an election for the
315 contracting election officer's local political subdivision in accordance with Section
316 20A-5-400.1.
- 317 (60) "Provisional ballot" means a ballot voted provisionally by a person:
318 (a) whose name is not listed on the official register at the polling place;
319 (b) whose legal right to vote is challenged as provided in this title; or
320 (c) whose identity was not sufficiently established by a poll worker.
- 321 (61) "Provisional ballot envelope" means an envelope printed in the form required by
322 Section 20A-6-105 that is used to identify provisional ballots and to provide information
323 to verify a person's legal right to vote.
- 324 (62)(a) "Public figure" means an individual who, due to the individual being considered
325 for, holding, or having held a position of prominence in a public or private capacity,
326 or due to the individual's celebrity status, has an increased risk to the individual's
327 safety.
- 328 (b) "Public figure" does not include an individual:
329 (i) elected to public office; or
330 (ii) appointed to fill a vacancy in an elected public office.
- 331 (63) "Qualify" or "qualified" means to take the oath of office and begin performing the
332 duties of the position for which the individual was elected.
- 333 (64) "Receiving judge" means the poll worker that checks the voter's name in the official
334 register at a polling place and provides the voter with a ballot.

- 335 (65) "Registration form" means a form by which an individual may register to vote under
336 this title.
- 337 (66) "Regular ballot" means a ballot that is not a provisional ballot.
- 338 (67) "Regular general election" means the election held throughout the state on the first
339 Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year for the
340 purposes established in Section 20A-1-201.
- 341 (68) "Regular primary election" means the election, held on the date specified in Section
342 20A-1-201.5, to nominate candidates of political parties and candidates for nonpartisan
343 local school board positions to advance to the regular general election.
- 344 (69) "Resident" means a person who resides within a specific voting precinct in Utah.
- 345 (70) "Return envelope" means the envelope, described in Subsection 20A-3a-202(4),
346 provided to a voter with a manual ballot:
- 347 (a) into which the voter places the manual ballot after the voter has voted the manual
348 ballot in order to preserve the secrecy of the voter's vote; and
- 349 (b) that includes the voter affidavit and a place for the voter's signature.
- 350 (71) "Sample ballot" means a mock ballot similar in form to the official ballot, published as
351 provided in Section 20A-5-405.
- 352 (72) "Special district" means a local government entity under Title 17B, Limited Purpose
353 Local Government Entities - Special Districts, and includes a special service district
354 under Title 17D, Chapter 1, Special Service District Act.
- 355 (73) "Special district officers" means those special district board members who are required
356 by law to be elected.
- 357 (74) "Special election" means an election held as authorized by Section 20A-1-203.
- 358 (75) "Spoiled ballot" means each ballot that:
- 359 (a) is spoiled by the voter;
- 360 (b) is unable to be voted because it was spoiled by the printer or a poll worker; or
- 361 (c) lacks the official endorsement.
- 362 (76) "Statewide special election" means a special election called by the governor or the
363 Legislature in which all registered voters in Utah may vote.
- 364 (77) "Tabulation system" means a device or system designed for the sole purpose of
365 tabulating votes cast by voters at an election.
- 366 (78) "Ticket" means a list of:
- 367 (a) political parties;
- 368 (b) candidates for an office; or

- 369 (c) ballot propositions.
- 370 (79) "Transfer case" means the sealed box used to transport voted ballots to the counting
371 center.
- 372 (80) "Vacancy" means:
- 373 (a) except as provided in Subsection (80)(b), the absence of an individual to serve in a
374 position created by state constitution or state statute, whether that absence occurs
375 because of death, disability, disqualification, resignation, or other cause; or
- 376 (b) in relation to a candidate for a position created by state constitution or state statute,
377 the removal of a candidate due to the candidate's death, resignation, or
378 disqualification.
- 379 (81) "Valid voter identification" means:
- 380 (a) a form of identification that bears the name and photograph of the voter which may
381 include:
- 382 (i) a currently valid Utah driver license;
- 383 (ii) a currently valid identification card issued under Title 53, Chapter 3, Part 8,
384 Identification Card Act;
- 385 (iii) a currently valid identification card that is issued by:
- 386 (A) the state; or
- 387 (B) a branch, department, or agency of the United States;
- 388 (iv) a currently valid Utah permit to carry a concealed weapon;
- 389 (v) a currently valid United States passport; or
- 390 (vi) a currently valid United States military identification card;
- 391 (b) one of the following identification cards, regardless of whether the card includes a
392 photograph of the voter:
- 393 (i) a valid tribal identification card;
- 394 (ii) a Bureau of Indian Affairs card; or
- 395 (iii) a tribal treaty card; or
- 396 (c) two forms of identification not listed under Subsection (81)(a) or (b) but that bear the
397 name of the voter and provide evidence that the voter resides in the voting precinct,
398 which may include:
- 399 (i) before January 1, 2029, an original or copy of a current utility bill, dated no more
400 than 90 calendar days before the date of the election;
- 401 (ii) before January 1, 2029, an original or copy of a bank or other financial account
402 statement, dated no more than 90 calendar days before the date of the election;

- 403 (iii) a certified birth certificate;
- 404 (iv) a valid social security card;
- 405 (v) an original or copy of a check issued by the state or the federal government, dated
- 406 no more than 90 calendar days before the date of the election;
- 407 (vi) an original or copy of a paycheck from the voter's employer, dated no more than
- 408 90 calendar days before the date of the election;
- 409 (vii) a currently valid Utah hunting or fishing license;
- 410 (viii) certified naturalization documentation;
- 411 (ix) a currently valid license issued by an authorized agency of the United States;
- 412 (x) a certified copy of court records showing the voter's adoption or name change;
- 413 (xi) a valid Medicaid card, Medicare card, or Electronic Benefits Transfer [~~Card~~] card;
- 414 (xii) a currently valid identification card issued by:
- 415 (A) a local government within the state;
- 416 (B) an employer for an employee; or
- 417 (C) a college, university, technical school, or professional school located within
- 418 the state; or
- 419 (xiii) a current Utah vehicle registration.
- 420 (82) "Valid write-in candidate" means a candidate who has qualified as a write-in candidate
- 421 by following the procedures and requirements of this title.
- 422 (83) "Vote by mail" means to vote, using a manual ballot that is mailed to the voter, by:
- 423 (a) mailing the ballot to the location designated in the mailing; or
- 424 (b) depositing the ballot in a ballot drop box designated by the election officer.
- 425 (84) "Voter" means an individual who:
- 426 (a) meets the requirements for voting in an election;
- 427 (b) meets the requirements of election registration;
- 428 (c) is registered to vote; and
- 429 (d) is listed in the official register.
- 430 (85) "Voter registration deadline" means the registration deadline provided in Section
- 431 20A-2-102.5.
- 432 (86) "Voting area" means the area within six feet of the voting booths, voting machines,
- 433 and ballot box.
- 434 (87) "Voting booth" means:
- 435 (a) the space or compartment within a polling place that is provided for the preparation
- 436 of ballots, including the voting enclosure or curtain; or

437 (b) a voting device that is free standing.
 438 (88) "Voting device" means any device provided by an election officer for a voter to vote a
 439 mechanical ballot.

440 (89) "Voting precinct" means the smallest geographical voting unit, established under
 441 Chapter 5, Part 3, Duties of the County and Municipal Legislative Bodies.

442 (90) "Watcher" means an individual who complies with the requirements described in
 443 Section 20A-3a-801 to become a watcher for an election.

444 (91) "Write-in ballot" means a ballot containing any write-in votes.

445 (92) "Write-in vote" means a vote cast for an individual, whose name is not printed on the
 446 ballot, in accordance with the procedures established in this title.

447 Section 2. Section **20A-1-609** is amended to read:

448 **20A-1-609 (Effective 05/06/26). Omnibus penalties.**

449 (1)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(b), a person who violates any provision of
 450 this title is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

451 (b) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply to a provision of this title for which another penalty
 452 is expressly stated.

453 (c) An individual is not guilty of a crime for, by signing a petition for an initiative or
 454 referendum, falsely making the statement described in Subsection [
 455 ~~20A-7-203(3)(d)(xx), 20A-7-303(3)(d)(xx), 20A-7-503(3)(d)(xx), or~~
 456 ~~20A-7-603(3)(d)(xx)] 20A-7-203(3)(f)(ii), 20A-7-303(3)(f)(ii), 20A-7-503(3)(f)(ii),
 457 or 20A-7-603(3)(f)(ii).~~

458 (2) Except as provided by Section 20A-2-101.3 or 20A-2-101.5, an individual convicted of
 459 any offense under this title may not:

460 (a) file a declaration of candidacy for any office or appear on the ballot as a candidate
 461 for any office during the election cycle in which the violation occurred;

462 (b) take or hold the office to which the individual was elected; and

463 (c) receive the emoluments of the office to which the individual was elected.

464 (3)(a) Any individual convicted of any offense under this title forfeits the right to vote at
 465 any election unless the right to vote is restored as provided in Section 20A-2-101.3 or
 466 20A-2-101.5.

467 (b) Any person may challenge the right to vote of a person described in Subsection (3)(a)
 468 by following the procedures and requirements of Section 20A-3a-803.

469 Section 3. Section **20A-1-1001** is amended to read:

470 **20A-1-1001 (Effective 05/06/26). Definitions.**

471 As used in this part:

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

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

476 (2) "Local petition" means:

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

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

481 (3) "Petition" means one of the following written requests, signed by registered voters,
482 appealing to an authority with respect to a particular cause:

483 (a) a local petition;

484 (b) a petition to consolidate two or more municipalities under Section 10-2-601;

485 (c) a petition for disincorporation of a municipality under Section 10-2-701;

486 (d) a petition to incorporate a proposed municipality under Section 10-2a-208;

487 (e) a petition to consolidate adjoining counties under Section 17-61-201;

488 (f) a petition to annex a portion of a county to an adjoining county under Section
489 17-61-301;

490 (g) a petition for the creation of a new county under Section 17-61-401;

491 (h) a petition for the removal of a county seat under Section 17-60-302;

492 (i) a petition for the adoption of an optional plan under Section 17-62-303;

493 (j) a petition for the repeal of an optional plan under Section 17-62-505;

494 (k) a petition to create a special district under Section 17B-1-203;

495 (l) a petition to withdraw an area from a special district under Section 17B-1-504;

496 (m) a petition to dissolve a special district under Section 17B-1-1303;

497 (n) a petition for issuance of local building authority bonds under Section 17D-2-502;

498 (o) a petition to become a registered political party under Section 20A-8-103;

499 (p) a nomination petition for municipal office under Section 20A-9-203;

500 (q) a nomination petition for a regular primary election under Subsection
501 20A-9-403(3)(a) and Section 20A-9-405;

502 (r) a petition for a political party to qualify as a municipal political party under Section
503 20A-9-404;

504 (s) a petition for the nomination of a qualified political party under Section 20A-9-408;

- 505 (t) a nomination petition for a candidate not affiliated with a political party under
 506 Section 20A-9-502;
- 507 (u) a nomination petition to become a delegate to a ratification convention under Section
 508 20A-15-103;
- 509 (v) a petition to create a new school district under Section 53G-3-301;
- 510 (w) a petition to consolidate school districts under Section 53G-3-401;
- 511 (x) a petition to transfer a portion of a school district to another district under Section
 512 53G-3-501;
- 513 (y) a petition to determine whether a privatization project agreement should be approved
 514 under Section 73-10d-4; or
- 515 (z) a statewide petition.

516 (4) "Petition packet" means:

- 517 (a) a candidate signature packet, as defined in Section 20A-9-401.1;
- 518 (b) an initiative packet, as defined in Section 20A-7-101;
- 519 (c) a referendum packet, as defined in Section 20A-7-101; or
- 520 (d) any other packet of signature sheets that:
- 521 (i) is bound together and circulated to gather signatures for a petition; and
- 522 (ii) includes a cover sheet at the front of the packet and a circulator verification sheet
 523 at the end of the packet.

524 [(4)] (5) "Statewide petition" means:

- 525 (a) a manual or electronic statewide initiative petition described in Chapter 7, Part 2,
 526 Statewide Initiatives; or
- 527 (b) a manual or electronic statewide referendum petition described in Chapter 7, Part 3,
 528 Statewide Referenda.

529 [(5)] (6)(a) "Substantially similar name" means:

- 530 (i) the given name, the surname, or both, provided by the individual with the
 531 individual's petition signature, contain only minor spelling differences when
 532 compared to the given name and surname shown on the official register;
- 533 (ii) the surname provided by the individual with the individual's petition signature
 534 exactly matches the surname shown on the official register, and the given names
 535 differ only because one of the given names shown is a commonly used
 536 abbreviation or variation of the other;
- 537 (iii) the surname provided by the individual with the individual's petition signature
 538 exactly matches the surname shown on the official register, and the given names

539 differ only because one of the given names shown is accompanied by a first or
540 middle initial or a middle name which is not shown on the other record; or
541 (iv) the surname provided by the individual with the individual's petition signature
542 exactly matches the surname shown on the official register, and the given names
543 differ only because one of the given names shown is an alphabetically
544 corresponding initial that has been provided in the place of a given name shown
545 on the other record.

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

549 Section 4. Section **20A-1-1002** is amended to read:

550 **20A-1-1002 (Effective 07/01/27). Verification of voter registration -- Electronic**
551 **notice to petition signer.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

571 (i) the birth date or age provided by the individual with the individual's petition
572 signature matches the birth date or age of an individual on the official register

- 573 with a substantially similar name; and
- 574 (ii) the signer's signature appears substantially similar to the signature on the
- 575 statewide voter registration database of the individual described in Subsection
- 576 (1)(c)(i).
- 577 (2) If a signature is not declared valid under Subsection (1)(a), (b), or (c), the clerk shall
- 578 declare the signature to be invalid.
- 579 (3) A clerk shall, within two business days after the day on which the clerk declares a
- 580 signer's signature valid or invalid under this section, notify the signer of the status of the
- 581 signer's signature by:
- 582 (a) sending an email notice to the signer if the signer's information in the voter
- 583 registration database includes an email address; and
- 584 (b) sending a text message notice to the signer if:
- 585 (i) the signer's information in the voter registration database includes a mobile
- 586 telephone number; and
- 587 (ii) the signer consented, on the signer's voter registration form, to receive official
- 588 communications by text at the mobile phone number.
- 589 (4) The notice described in Subsection (3)(a) shall:
- 590 (a) include the title "Notice of Signature Verification";
- 591 (b) identify the name or type of petition the signer signed; and
- 592 (c) inform the signer that the signer's signature was declared valid or invalid by the clerk.

593 Section 5. Section **20A-1-1004** is enacted to read:

594 **20A-1-1004 (Effective 05/06/26). Circulator verification sheet -- Rejection of**

595 **petition packet.**

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

599 VERIFICATION OF SIGNATURE-GATHERER

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

601 I am at least 18 years old;

602 All the names that appear in this petition packet were signed by individuals who

603 professed to be the individuals whose names appear in it, and each of the individuals

604 signed the individual's name on it in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a

605 qualifying disability, I have signed this petition packet on the individual's behalf, at the

606 direction of the individual and in the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV"

607 as the individual's signature;

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

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

612 I do not believe and do not have reason to believe that the individual lacked the
613 mental capacity to give direction or consent;

614 I do not believe and do not have reason to believe that the individual did not
615 understand the purpose or nature of my signing the petition packet on the individual's
616 benefit;

617 I did not intentionally or knowingly deceive the individual into directing me to, or
618 consenting for me to, sign the petition packet on the individual's behalf; and

619 I did not intentionally or knowingly enter false information on the signature sheet;
620 I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact related to this petition;
621 I believe that each individual's name and address is written correctly, that each signer
622 has had an opportunity to read all the information contained in the petition, and that each
623 signer is or will be registered to vote in Utah at the time the petition packet is submitted
624 for verification;

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

626 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this petition
627 packet to encourage that individual to sign it;

628 I understand that if I have been or will be paid to gather signatures for this petition,
629 my compensation must be based on an hourly rate if the petition is an initiative or
630 referendum petition, or on an hourly rate or rate per valid signature if the petition is an
631 other type of petition.

632 I completed the signature gatherer training available on the lieutenant governor's
633 website at www.vote.utah.gov before gathering signatures for this petition. Yes _____ No
634 _____ (Check one)

636 _____
(Printed Name) (Signature) (Residence Address)

637 _____
(Date)

638 (2) A clerk shall reject a petition packet if:

639 (a) all or any portion of the circulator verification sheet described in this section is not
640 completed by the individual who gathered signatures for the petition; or

641 (b) the individual who gathered signatures for the petition checked "No" in response to
642 the signature gatherer training statement.

643 Section 6. Section **20A-1-1005** is enacted to read:

644 **20A-1-1005 (Effective 05/06/26). Online training for signature gatherers.**

645 (1) The lieutenant governor shall develop and maintain an online training course to educate
646 individuals who collect signatures for a petition.

647 (2) The training course shall:

648 (a) inform signature gatherers of the requirements, restrictions, and procedures that
649 apply to the circulation of petitions and collection of signatures, including
650 information about:

651 (i) collecting a signature from an individual with a disability; and

652 (ii) electronic signature gathering;

653 (b) emphasize compliance with the requirements, restrictions, and procedures described
654 in Subsection (2)(a);

655 (c) highlight the potential for criminal penalties for knowingly or intentionally
656 falsifying, misrepresenting, or otherwise violating applicable law in the circulation of
657 a petition and collection of signatures; and

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

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

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

663 Section 7. Section **20A-7-101** is amended to read:

664 **20A-7-101 (Effective 05/06/26). Definitions.**

665 As used in this chapter:

666 (1) "Approved device" means a device described in Subsection 20A-21-201(4) used to
667 gather signatures for the electronic initiative process, the electronic referendum process,
668 or the electronic candidate qualification process.

669 (2) "Budget officer" means:

670 (a) for a county, the person designated as finance officer as defined in Section 17-63-101;

671 (b) for a city, the person designated as budget officer in Subsection 10-6-106(4); or

672 (c) for a town, the town council.

673 (3) "Certified" means that the county clerk has acknowledged a signature as being the
674 signature of a registered voter.

- 675 (4) "Circulation" means the process of submitting an initiative petition or a referendum
676 petition to legal voters for their signature.
- 677 (5) "Condensed initiative packet" means the following components, all of which are bound
678 together as a unit in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-204(5)(b), for a statewide
679 initiative, or Subsection 20A-7-504(5)(b), for a local initiative:
- 680 (a) a copy of the initiative petition;
681 (b) the signature sheets; and
682 (c) the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).
- 683 (6) "Condensed referendum packet" means the following components, all of which are
684 bound together as a unit in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-304(5)(b), for statewide
685 referendum, or Subsection 20A-7-604(5)(b), for a local referendum:
- 686 (a) a copy of the referendum petition;
687 (b) the signature sheets; and
688 (c) the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).
- 689 [~~5~~] (7) "Electronic initiative process" means:
- 690 (a) as it relates to a statewide initiative, the process, described in Sections 20A-7-215
691 and 20A-21-201, for gathering signatures; or
692 (b) as it relates to a local initiative, the process, described in Sections 20A-7-514 and
693 20A-21-201, for gathering signatures.
- 694 [~~6~~] (8) "Electronic referendum process" means:
- 695 (a) as it relates to a statewide referendum, the process, described in Sections 20A-7-313
696 and 20A-21-201, for gathering signatures; or
697 (b) as it relates to a local referendum, the process, described in Sections 20A-7-614 and
698 20A-21-201, for gathering signatures.
- 699 [~~7~~] (9) "Eligible voter" means a legal voter who resides in the jurisdiction of the county,
700 city, or town that is holding an election on a ballot proposition.
- 701 [~~8~~] (10) "Final fiscal impact statement" means a financial statement prepared after voters
702 approve an initiative that contains the information required by Subsection
703 20A-7-202.5(2) or 20A-7-502.5(2).
- 704 [~~9~~] (11) "Initial fiscal impact statement" means a financial statement prepared under
705 Section 20A-7-202.5 after the filing of a statewide initiative application.
- 706 [~~10~~] (12) "Initial fiscal impact and legal statement" means a financial and legal statement
707 prepared under Section 20A-7-502.5 or 20A-7-602.5 for a local initiative or a local
708 referendum.

709 ~~[(11)]~~ (13) "Initiative" means a new law proposed for adoption by the public as provided in
710 this chapter.

711 ~~[(12)]~~ (14) "Initiative application" means:

712 (a) for a statewide initiative, an application described in Subsection 20A-7-202(2) that
713 includes all the information, statements, documents, and notarized signatures
714 required under Subsection 20A-7-202(2); or

715 (b) for a local initiative, an application described in Subsection 20A-7-502(2) that
716 includes all the information, statements, documents, and notarized signatures
717 required under Subsection 20A-7-502(2).

718 ~~[(13)]~~ (15) "Initiative packet" means~~[a copy of the initiative petition, a copy of the proposed~~
719 ~~law, and the signature sheets, all of which have been bound together as a unit.]~~ :

720 (a) a traditional initiative packet; or

721 (b) a condensed initiative packet.

722 ~~[(14)]~~ (16) "Initiative petition":

723 (a) as it relates to a statewide initiative, using the manual initiative process:

724 (i) means the form described in Subsection 20A-7-203(2)(a), petitioning for
725 submission of the initiative to the Legislature or the legal voters;~~[and]~~

726 (ii) ~~[if the initiative proposes a tax increase,]~~ includes the statement described in
727 Subsection 20A-7-203(2)(b)~~;~~ , if the initiative proposes a tax increase; and

728 (iii) includes the statement described in Subsection 20A-7-203(2)(c), if:

729 (A) the initiative proposes a law other than a tax increase; and

730 (B) the form described in Subsection 20A-7-203(2)(a) is part of a condensed
731 initiative packet;

732 (b) as it relates to a statewide initiative, using the electronic initiative process:

733 (i) means the form described in Subsections 20A-7-215(2) and (3), petitioning for
734 submission of the initiative to the Legislature or the legal voters; and

735 (ii) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, includes the statement described in
736 Subsection 20A-7-215(5)(b);

737 (c) as it relates to a local initiative, using the manual initiative process:

738 (i) means the form described in Subsection 20A-7-503(2)(a), petitioning for
739 submission of the initiative to the legislative body or the legal voters;~~[and]~~

740 (ii) ~~[if the initiative proposes a tax increase,]~~ includes the statement described in
741 Subsection 20A-7-503(2)(b)~~;~~ , if the initiative proposes a tax increase; and

742 (iii) includes the statement described in Subsection 20A-7-503(2)(c), if:

- 743 (A) the initiative proposes a law other than a tax increase; and
 744 (B) the form described in Subsection 20A-7-503(2)(a) is part of a condensed
 745 initiative packet; or
- 746 (d) as it relates to a local initiative, using the electronic initiative process:
- 747 (i) means the form described in Subsection 20A-7-514(2)(a), petitioning for
 748 submission of the initiative to the legislative body or the legal voters; and
- 749 (ii) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, includes the statement described in
 750 Subsection 20A-7-514(4)(a).
- 751 ~~[(15)]~~ (17)(a) "Land use law" means a law of general applicability, enacted based on the
 752 weighing of broad, competing policy considerations, that relates to the use of land,
 753 including a land use regulation, a general plan, a land use development code, an
 754 annexation ordinance, the rezoning of a single property or multiple properties, or a
 755 comprehensive zoning ordinance or resolution.
- 756 (b) "Land use law" does not include a land use decision, as defined in Section 10-20-102
 757 or 17-79-102.
- 758 ~~[(16)]~~ (18) "Legal signatures" means the number of signatures of legal voters that:
- 759 (a) meet the numerical requirements of this chapter; and
- 760 (b) have been obtained, certified, and verified as provided in this chapter.
- 761 ~~[(17)]~~ (19) "Legal voter" means an individual who is registered to vote in Utah.
- 762 ~~[(18)]~~ (20) "Legally referable to voters" means:
- 763 (a) for a proposed local initiative, that the proposed local initiative is legally referable to
 764 voters under Section 20A-7-502.7; or
- 765 (b) for a proposed local referendum, that the proposed local referendum is legally
 766 referable to voters under Section 20A-7-602.7.
- 767 ~~[(19)]~~ (21) "Local attorney" means the county attorney, city attorney, or town attorney in
 768 whose jurisdiction a local initiative or referendum petition is circulated.
- 769 ~~[(20)]~~ (22) "Local clerk" means the county clerk, city recorder, or town clerk in whose
 770 jurisdiction a local initiative or referendum petition is circulated.
- 771 ~~[(21)]~~ (23)(a) "Local law" includes:
- 772 (i) an ordinance;
- 773 (ii) a resolution;
- 774 (iii) a land use law;
- 775 (iv) a land use regulation, as defined in Section 10-20-102; or
- 776 (v) other legislative action of a local legislative body.

777 (b) "Local law" does not include a land use decision, as defined in Section 10-20-102.
778 [(22)] (24) "Local legislative body" means the legislative body of a county, city, or town.
779 [(23)] (25) "Local obligation law" means a local law passed by the local legislative body
780 regarding a bond that was approved by a majority of qualified voters in an election.
781 [(24)] (26) "Local tax law" means a law, passed by a political subdivision with an annual or
782 biannual calendar fiscal year, that increases a tax or imposes a new tax.
783 [(25)] (27) "Manual initiative process" means the process for gathering signatures for an
784 initiative using paper signature packets that a signer physically signs.
785 [(26)] (28) "Manual referendum process" means the process for gathering signatures for a
786 referendum using paper signature packets that a signer physically signs.
787 [(27)] (29)(a) "Measure" means a proposed constitutional amendment, an initiative, or
788 referendum.
789 (b) "Measure" does not include a ballot proposition for the creation of a new school
790 district under Section 53G-3-301.1, 53G-3-301.3, or 53G-3-301.4.
791 [(28)] (30) "Presiding officers" means the president of the Senate and the speaker of the
792 House of Representatives.
793 [(29)] (31) "Referendum" means a process by which a law passed by the Legislature or by a
794 local legislative body is submitted or referred to the voters for their approval or rejection.
795 [(30)] (32) "Referendum application" means:
796 (a) for a statewide referendum, an application described in Subsection 20A-7-302(2) that
797 includes all the information, statements, documents, and notarized signatures
798 required under Subsection 20A-7-302(2); or
799 (b) for a local referendum, an application described in Subsection 20A-7-602(2) that
800 includes all the information, statements, documents, and notarized signatures
801 required under Subsection 20A-7-602(2).
802 [(31)] (33) "Referendum packet" means~~[a copy of the referendum petition, a copy of the~~
803 ~~law being submitted or referred to the voters for their approval or rejection, and the~~
804 ~~signature sheets, all of which have been bound together as a unit.] :~~
805 (a) a traditional referendum packet; or
806 (b) a condensed referendum packet.
807 [(32)] (34) "Referendum petition" means:
808 (a) as it relates to a statewide referendum, using the manual referendum process, the
809 form described in Subsection [20A-7-303(2)(a)] 20A-7-303(2), petitioning for
810 submission of a law passed by the Legislature to legal voters for their approval or

- 811 rejection;
- 812 (b) as it relates to a statewide referendum, using the electronic referendum process, the
813 form described in Subsection 20A-7-313(2), petitioning for submission of a law
814 passed by the Legislature to legal voters for their approval or rejection;
- 815 (c) as it relates to a local referendum, using the manual referendum process, the form
816 described in Subsection [~~20A-7-603(2)(a)~~] 20A-7-603(2), petitioning for submission
817 of a local law to legal voters for their approval or rejection; or
- 818 (d) as it relates to a local referendum, using the electronic referendum process, the form
819 described in Subsection 20A-7-614(2), petitioning for submission of a local law to
820 legal voters for their approval or rejection.
- 821 [~~(33)~~] (35) "Signature":
- 822 (a) for a statewide initiative:
- 823 (i) as it relates to the electronic initiative process, means an electronic signature
824 collected under Section 20A-7-215 and Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(c); or
- 825 (ii) as it relates to the manual initiative process:
- 826 (A) means a holographic signature collected physically on a signature sheet
827 described in Section 20A-7-203;
- 828 (B) as it relates to an individual who, due to a qualifying disability under the
829 Americans with Disabilities Act, is unable to fill out the signature sheet or to
830 sign the voter's name consistently, the initials "AV," indicating that the voter's
831 identity will be verified by an alternate verification process described in
832 Section 20A-7-106; and
- 833 (C) does not include an electronic signature;
- 834 (b) for a statewide referendum:
- 835 (i) as it relates to the electronic referendum process, means an electronic signature
836 collected under Section 20A-7-313 and Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(c); or
- 837 (ii) as it relates to the manual referendum process:
- 838 (A) means a holographic signature collected physically on a signature sheet
839 described in Section 20A-7-303;
- 840 (B) as it relates to an individual who, due to a qualifying disability under the
841 Americans with Disabilities Act, is unable to fill out the signature sheet or to
842 sign the voter's name consistently, the initials "AV," indicating that the voter's
843 identity will be verified by an alternate verification process described in
844 Section 20A-7-106; and

- 845 (C) does not include an electronic signature;
- 846 (c) for a local initiative:
- 847 (i) as it relates to the electronic initiative process, means an electronic signature
- 848 collected under Section 20A-7-514 and Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(c); or
- 849 (ii) as it relates to the manual initiative process:
- 850 (A) means a holographic signature collected physically on a signature sheet
- 851 described in Section 20A-7-503;
- 852 (B) as it relates to an individual who, due to a qualifying disability under the
- 853 Americans with Disabilities Act, is unable to fill out the signature sheet or to
- 854 sign the voter's name consistently, the initials "AV," indicating that the voter's
- 855 identity will be verified by an alternate verification process described in
- 856 Section 20A-7-106; and
- 857 (C) does not include an electronic signature; or
- 858 (d) for a local referendum:
- 859 (i) as it relates to the electronic referendum process, means an electronic signature
- 860 collected under Section 20A-7-614 and Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(c); or
- 861 (ii) as it relates to the manual referendum process:
- 862 (A) means a holographic signature collected physically on a signature sheet
- 863 described in Section 20A-7-603;
- 864 (B) as it relates to an individual who, due to a qualifying disability under the
- 865 Americans with Disabilities Act, is unable to fill out the signature sheet or to
- 866 sign the voter's name consistently, the initials "AV," indicating that the voter's
- 867 identity will be verified by an alternate verification process described in
- 868 Section 20A-7-106; and
- 869 (C) does not include an electronic signature.
- 870 ~~[(34)]~~ (36) "Signature sheets" means sheets in the form required by this chapter that are used
- 871 under the manual initiative process or the manual referendum process to collect
- 872 signatures in support of an initiative or referendum.
- 873 ~~[(35)]~~ (37) "Special local ballot proposition" means a local ballot proposition that is not a
- 874 standard local ballot proposition.
- 875 (38)(a) "Sponsor liaison" means an individual designated by the sponsors of an initiative
- 876 or referendum to:
- 877 (i) receive communications from Office of the Lieutenant Governor; and
- 878 (ii) communicate with and act on behalf of the sponsors regarding the initiative or

879 referendum.

880 (b) "Sponsor liaison" includes a sponsor or another individual designated by the
881 sponsors.

882 [~~36~~] (39) "Sponsors" means the legal voters who support the initiative or referendum and
883 who sign the initiative application or referendum application.

884 [~~37~~] (40)(a) "Standard local ballot proposition" means a local ballot proposition for an
885 initiative or a referendum.

886 (b) "Standard local ballot proposition" does not include a property tax referendum
887 described in Section 20A-7-613.

888 (41) "Traditional initiative packet" means the following components, all of which are bound
889 together as a unit in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-204(5)(b), for a statewide
890 initiative, or Subsection 20A-7-504(5)(b), for a local initiative:

891 (a) a copy of:

892 (i) the initiative petition; and

893 (ii) the law proposed by the initiative petition;

894 (b) the signature sheets; and

895 (c) the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

896 (42) "Traditional referendum packet" means the following components, all of which are
897 bound together as a unit in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-304(5)(b), for a statewide
898 referendum, or Subsection 20A-7-604(5)(b), for a local referendum:

899 (a) a copy of:

900 (i) the referendum petition; and

901 (ii) the law being submitted or referred to the voters for approval or rejection;

902 (b) the signature sheets; and

903 (c) the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

904 [~~38~~] (43) "Tax percentage difference" means the difference between the tax rate proposed
905 by an initiative or an initiative petition and the current tax rate.

906 [~~39~~] (44) "Tax percentage increase" means a number calculated by dividing the tax
907 percentage difference by the current tax rate and rounding the result to the nearest
908 thousandth.

909 [~~40~~] (45) "Verified" means acknowledged by the person circulating the petition as required
910 in Section 20A-7-105.

911 Section 8. Section **20A-7-104** is amended to read:

912 **20A-7-104 (Effective 05/06/26). Signature gatherers -- Payments -- Badges --**

913 **Information -- Requirement to provide initiative or referendum for reading.**

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

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

919 [~~(3)] (2) A person may not accept payment made in violation of this section.~~

920 [~~(4)] (3) An individual who is paid to gather signatures for a petition described in this~~

921 chapter shall, while gathering signatures, wear a badge on the front of the individual's

922 torso that complies with the following, ensuring that the information on the badge is

923 clearly visible to the individual from whom a signature is sought:

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

925 (b) the information on the badge shall be in at least 24-point type and include the

926 following information:

927 (i) an identification number that is unique to the individual gathering signatures,

928 assigned by:

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

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

931 (ii) the title of the initiative or referendum;

932 (iii) the words "Paid Signature Gatherer"; and

933 (iv) the name of the entity paying the signature gatherer.

934 [~~(5)] (4) An individual who gathers signatures under this chapter shall offer a paper~~

935 document to each individual who signs the petition that:

936 (a) is printed in black ink on white paper, white cardstock, or a white sticker, in at least

937 12-point type; and

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

939 "You may view the initiative, its fiscal impact, and information on removing your

940 signature from the petition at [list a uniform resource locator that links directly to the

941 information described in Section 20A-7-202.7 or 20A-7-502.6, as applicable]."; or

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

943 "You may view the referendum and information on removing your signature from the

944 petition at [list a uniform resource locator that links directly to the information described in

945 Section 20A-7-304.5 or 20A-7-604.5, as applicable]."

946 [~~(6)] (5) An individual who gathers signatures under this chapter shall, before collecting a~~

947 signature from an individual, present to the individual a printed or digital copy of the
 948 initiative or referendum and wait for the individual to read the initiative or referendum.

949 [(7)] (6) A person who violates this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

950 Section 9. Section **20A-7-105** is amended to read:

951 **20A-7-105 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual petition processes -- Obtaining**
 952 **signatures -- Verification -- Submitting the petition -- Certification of signatures --**
 953 **Transfer to lieutenant governor -- Removal of signature.**

954 (1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process and the manual referendum
 955 process.

956 (2) As used in this section:

957 (a) "Local petition" means:

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

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

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

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

964 (d) "Statewide petition" means:

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

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

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

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

969 (i) is a legal voter; and

970 (ii) resides in the local jurisdiction.

971 (4)(a) The sponsors shall ensure that the individual in whose presence each signature
 972 sheet was signed:

973 (i) is at least 18 years old;

974 (ii) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification printed on the last
 975 page of each packet; and

976 (iii) is informed [~~that each signer is required to read and understand:~~] that, before
 977 signing a signature sheet, a signer is required to have an opportunity to read and
 978 understand:

979 (A) for an initiative petition, the law proposed by the initiative; or

980 (B) for a referendum petition, the law that the referendum seeks to overturn.

- 981 (b) An individual may not sign the verification printed on the last page of a packet if the
982 individual signed a signature sheet in the packet.
- 983 (5)(a) The sponsors, or an agent of the sponsors, shall submit a signed and verified
984 packet to the county clerk of the county in which the packet was circulated before 5
985 p.m. no later than the earlier of:
- 986 (i) for a statewide initiative:
- 987 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
988 the first individual signs the initiative packet;
- 989 (B) the last business day that is no more than 316 calendar days after the day on
990 which the application for the initiative petition is filed; or
- 991 (C) the February 15 immediately before the next regular general election
992 immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-202;
- 993 (ii) for a statewide referendum:
- 994 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
995 the first individual signs the referendum packet; or
- 996 (B) the first business day that is at least 40 calendar days after the day on which
997 the legislative session at which the law passed ends;
- 998 (iii) for a local initiative:
- 999 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
1000 the first individual signs the initiative packet;
- 1001 (B) the last business day that is no more than 316 calendar days after the day on
1002 which the application is filed;
- 1003 (C) the April 15 immediately before the next regular general election immediately
1004 after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-502, if the local initiative is a
1005 county initiative; or
- 1006 (D) the April 15 immediately before the next municipal general election
1007 immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-502, if the local
1008 initiative is a municipal initiative; or
- 1009 (iv) for a local referendum:
- 1010 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
1011 the first individual signs the referendum packet; or
- 1012 (B) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which
1013 the sponsors receive the items described in Subsection 20A-7-604(3) from the
1014 local clerk.

- 1015 (b) ~~[A person may not submit a packet after the applicable deadline described in~~
 1016 ~~Subsection (5)(a)]~~ A person may not mark, redact, or otherwise alter a signature sheet
 1017 in a manner that obscures, conceals, or renders illegible a signer's date of signature or
 1018 other information provided by the signer that is used for verification under this section.
- 1019 (c) Before delivering an initiative packet to the county clerk under this Subsection (5),
 1020 the sponsors shall send an email to each individual who provides a legible, valid
 1021 email address on the signature sheet that includes the following:
- 1022 (i) the subject of the email shall include the following statement, "Notice Regarding
 1023 Your Petition Signature"; and
- 1024 (ii) the body of the email shall include the following statement in 12-point type:
 1025 "You signed a petition for the following initiative:
 1026 [insert title of initiative]
 1027 To access a copy of the initiative petition, the initiative, the fiscal impact statement, and
 1028 information on the deadline for removing your signature from the petition, please visit the
 1029 following link: [insert a uniform resource locator that takes the individual directly to the page
 1030 on the lieutenant governor's or county clerk's website that includes the information referred to
 1031 in the email]."
- 1032 (d) For a statewide initiative, the sponsors shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the day on which
 1033 the sponsors submit the last initiative packet to the county clerk, submit to the
 1034 lieutenant governor:
- 1035 (i) a list containing:
- 1036 (A) the name and email address of each individual the sponsors sent, or caused to
 1037 be sent, the email described in Subsection (5)(c); and
 1038 (B) the date the email was sent;
- 1039 (ii) a copy of the email described in Subsection (5)(c); and
- 1040 (iii) the following written verification, completed and signed by each of the sponsors:
 1041 "Verification of initiative sponsor State of Utah, County of _____ I, _____,
 1042 of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:
 1043 I am a sponsor of the initiative petition entitled _____; and
 1044 I sent, or caused to be sent, to each individual who provided a legible, valid email
 1045 address on a signature sheet submitted to the county clerk in relation to the initiative petition,
 1046 the email described in Utah Code Subsection 20A-7-105(5)(c).
 1047 _____ [-]_____
 1048 _____

- 1082 the county clerk declared valid and invalid under Section 20A-1-1002; and
 1083 (D) a breakdown of the number of invalid signatures, categorized by the reason
 1084 for invalidity; and
- 1085 (ii) After a county clerk sends the certification described in Subsection (6)(b)(i) to the
 1086 lieutenant governor, the county clerk shall retain and preserve each verified packet
 1087 in the manner described in Subsection 20A-4-202(2).
- 1088 (c) For a local initiative or local referendum, the local clerk shall post a link in a
 1089 conspicuous location on the local government's website to the posting described in
 1090 Subsection (6)(a)(iii)(B):
- 1091 (i) for a local initiative, during the period of time described in Subsection
 1092 20A-7-507(3)(a); or
- 1093 (ii) for a local referendum, during the period of time described in Subsection
 1094 20A-7-607(2)(a)(i).
- 1095 (7) The county clerk may not certify a signature under Subsection [~~(6)~~] (6)(a):
- 1096 (a) on a packet that is not verified in accordance with Subsection [~~(4)~~] (4)(a)(ii); [~~or~~]
 1097 (b) that does not have a date of signature next to the signature[-] ; or
 1098 (c) if the date of signature is later than the applicable deadline described in Subsection
 1099 (5)(a).
- 1100 (8) Beginning on January 1, 2027, an election officer shall, within two business days after
 1101 the day on which the county clerk determines the signer of an initiative is a legal voter
 1102 eligible to sign a signature sheet, send the following email notice to the signer if the
 1103 signer's voter registration record includes a valid email address:
- 1104 (a) the subject of the email shall include the following statement, "Notice Regarding
 1105 Your Petition Signature"; and
- 1106 (b) the body of the email shall include the following statement in 12-point type:
 1107 "You signed a petition for the following initiative:
 1108 [insert title of initiative]
 1109 To access a copy of the initiative petition, the initiative, the fiscal impact
 1110 statement, and information on the deadline for removing your signature from the
 1111 petition, please visit the following link: [insert a uniform resource locator that takes
 1112 the individual directly to the page on the lieutenant governor's or county clerk's
 1113 website that includes the information referred to in the email]."
- 1114 [~~(8)~~] (9)(a) A voter who signs a statewide initiative petition may have the voter's
 1115 signature removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003,

- 1116 submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be
1117 removed no later than 5 p.m. the earlier of:
- 1118 (i) for an initiative packet received by the county clerk before December 1:
- 1119 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
1120 the voter signs the signature removal statement; or
- 1121 (B) the first business day that is at least 90 calendar days after the day on which
1122 the lieutenant governor posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-207(2);
1123 or
- 1124 (ii) for an initiative packet received by the county clerk on or after December 1:
- 1125 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
1126 the voter signs the signature removal statement; or
- 1127 (B) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which
1128 the lieutenant governor posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-207(2).
- 1129 (b) A voter who signs a statewide referendum petition may have the voter's signature
1130 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to
1131 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later
1132 than 5 p.m. the earlier of:
- 1133 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the
1134 voter signs the statement requesting removal; or
- 1135 (ii) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the
1136 lieutenant governor posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-307(2).
- 1137 (c) A voter who signs a local initiative petition may have the voter's signature removed
1138 from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to the
1139 county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later than
1140 5 p.m. the earlier of:
- 1141 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the
1142 voter signs the signature removal statement;
- 1143 (ii) the first business day that is at least 90 calendar days after the day on which the
1144 local clerk posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-507(2);
- 1145 (iii) the last business day that is no more than 316 calendar days after the day on
1146 which the application is filed; or
- 1147 (iv)(A) for a county initiative, April 15 immediately before the next regular
1148 general election immediately after the application is filed under Section
1149 20A-7-502; or

1150 (B) for a municipal initiative, April 15 immediately before the next municipal
 1151 general election immediately after the application is filed under Section
 1152 20A-7-502.

1153 (d) A voter who signs a local referendum petition may have the voter's signature
 1154 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to
 1155 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later
 1156 than 5 p.m. the earlier of:

1157 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the
 1158 voter signs the statement requesting removal; or

1159 (ii) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the
 1160 local clerk posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-607(2)(a).

1161 (e) In order for the signature to be removed, the county clerk must receive the statement
 1162 described in this Subsection [~~(8)~~] (9) before 5 p.m. no later than the applicable
 1163 deadline described in this Subsection [~~(8)~~] (9).

1164 (f) A county clerk shall analyze a signature, for purposes of removing a signature from a
 1165 petition, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(3).

1166 [~~(9)~~] (10)(a) If the county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal
 1167 under Subsection [~~(8)~~] (9) and determines that the signature should be removed from
 1168 the petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the county clerk shall:

1169 (i) ensure that the voter's name, voter identification number, and date of signature are
 1170 not included in the posting described in Subsection (6)(a)(ii)(B) or (iii)(B); and

1171 (ii) remove the voter's signature from the signature packets and signature packet
 1172 totals.

1173 (b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection [~~(9)~~](a) (10)(a) before the later of:

1174 (i) the deadline described in Subsection (6)(a); or

1175 (ii) two business days after the day on which the county clerk receives a statement
 1176 requesting signature removal under Subsection [~~(8)~~] (9).

1177 [~~(10)~~] (11) A person may not retrieve a packet from a county clerk, or make any alterations
 1178 or corrections to a packet, after the packet is submitted to the county clerk.

1179 Section 10. Section **20A-7-201** is amended to read:

1180 **20A-7-201 (Effective 05/06/26). Statewide initiatives -- Signature requirements --**
 1181 **Submission to the Legislature or to a vote of the people.**

1182 (1)(a) A person seeking to have an initiative submitted to the Legislature for approval or
 1183 rejection shall, after filing an initiative application, obtain:

- 1184 (i) legal signatures equal to 4% of the number of active voters in the state on January
1185 1 immediately following the last regular general election; and
- 1186 (ii) from at least 26 Utah State Senate districts, legal signatures equal to 4% of the
1187 number of active voters in that district on January 1 immediately following the
1188 last regular general election.
- 1189 (b) If, at any time not less than 10 calendar days before the beginning of the next annual
1190 general session of the Legislature, the lieutenant governor declares that an initiative
1191 petition designated under Subsection [~~20A-7-202(2)(e)(i)~~] 20A-7-202(2)(d)(i) for
1192 submission to the Legislature is signed by a sufficient number of voters to meet the
1193 requirements of Subsection (1)(a), the lieutenant governor shall deliver a copy of the
1194 initiative petition, the text of the proposed law, and the cover sheet described in
1195 Subsection (1)(c) to the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House, and the
1196 director of the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.
- 1197 (c) The lieutenant governor shall prepare a cover sheet for a petition declared sufficient
1198 under Subsection (1)(b) that contains:
- 1199 (i) the number of active voters in the state on January 1 immediately following the
1200 last regular general election;
- 1201 (ii) the number of active voters in each Utah State Senate district on January 1
1202 immediately following the last regular general election;
- 1203 (iii) the total number of certified signatures obtained for the initiative petition; and
1204 (iv) the total number of certified signatures obtained from each Utah State Senate
1205 district for the initiative petition.
- 1206 (2)(a) A person seeking to have an initiative submitted to a vote of the people for
1207 approval or rejection shall, after filing an initiative application, obtain:
- 1208 (i) legal signatures equal to 8% of the number of active voters in the state on January
1209 1 immediately following the last regular general election; and
- 1210 (ii) from at least 26 Utah State Senate districts, legal signatures equal to 8% of the
1211 number of active voters in that district on January 1 immediately following the
1212 last regular general election.
- 1213 (b) If an initiative petition meets the requirements of this part and the lieutenant
1214 governor declares that the initiative petition is signed by a sufficient number of voters
1215 to meet the requirements of Subsection (2)(a), the lieutenant governor shall submit
1216 the proposed law to a vote of the people at the next regular general election:
- 1217 (i) immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-202; and

- 1218 (ii) specified on the petition under Section 20A-7-203.
- 1219 (3) The lieutenant governor shall provide the following information to any interested person:
- 1220 (a) the number of active voters in the state on January 1 immediately following the last
- 1221 regular general election; and
- 1222 (b) for each Utah State Senate district, the number of active voters in that district on
- 1223 January 1 immediately following the last regular general election.

1224 Section 11. Section **20A-7-202** is amended to read:

1225 **20A-7-202 (Effective 05/06/26). Statewide initiative process -- Initiative**

1226 **application procedures -- Time to gather signatures -- Grounds for rejection.**

- 1227 (1) Individuals wishing to circulate an initiative petition shall file an initiative application
- 1228 with the lieutenant governor.
- 1229 (2) The initiative application shall include:
- 1230 (a) the name and residence address of at least five sponsors of the initiative petition;
- 1231 (b) a statement indicating that each of the sponsors is registered to vote in Utah;
- 1232 (c) a statement designating a sponsor liaison, including the sponsor liaison's name,
- 1233 residence address, telephone number, and email address;
- 1234 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) a statement indicating whether the initiative will be presented to:
- 1235 (i) the Legislature under Subsection 20A-7-201(1); or
- 1236 (ii) a vote of the people under Subsection 20A-7-201(2);
- 1237 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) the signature of each of the sponsors, attested to by a notary public; and
- 1238 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) the following, in the following order:
- 1239 (i) the title of the proposed law that clearly expresses the subject of the law;
- 1240 (ii) except as provided in Subsection (3)(c), a description of the manner in which the
- 1241 proposed law will be funded, including:
- 1242 (A) all proposed sources of funding for the costs associated with the proposed law,
- 1243 including the proposed percentage of total funding from each source;
- 1244 (B) if the proposed law will be funded, in whole or in part, by a new tax, a
- 1245 description of the new tax and the tax rate;
- 1246 (C) if the proposed law will be funded, in whole or in part, by a tax increase, the
- 1247 following statement for each tax increase, "This initiative seeks to increase the
- 1248 current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax percentage difference)
- 1249 percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent increase in
- 1250 the current tax rate.";
- 1251 (D) if the proposed law will be funded, in whole or in part, from new revenues, a

- 1252 description of the amount and source of the new revenues; and
- 1253 (E) if the proposed law will be funded, in whole or in part, from existing revenues,
- 1254 a description of the existing line items or programs that will receive less
- 1255 funding in order to fund the proposed law and the amount by which the
- 1256 funding will be reduced;
- 1257 (iii) a statement indicating whether persons gathering signatures for the initiative
- 1258 petition may be paid for gathering signatures; and
- 1259 (iv) the text of the proposed law.
- 1260 (3)(a) An individual's status as a resident, under Subsection (2), is determined in
- 1261 accordance with Section 20A-2-105.
- 1262 (b) The initiative application and the initiative application's contents are public when
- 1263 filed with the lieutenant governor.
- 1264 (c) If the fiscal impact of the law proposed by an initiative is less than the amount
- 1265 specified by joint legislative rule for designating a bill as a fiscal note bill:
- 1266 (i) the initiative application is not required to include the description described in
- 1267 Subsection [~~(2)(e)(ii)~~] (2)(f)(ii); and
- 1268 (ii) the lieutenant governor may not reject the initiative application or initiative
- 1269 application addendum under Subsection (5)(c).
- 1270 (4) If the initiative petition fails to qualify for the ballot of the election described in
- 1271 Subsection 20A-7-201(2)(b), the sponsors shall:
- 1272 (a) submit a new initiative application;
- 1273 (b) obtain new signature sheets; and
- 1274 (c) collect signatures again.
- 1275 (5) The lieutenant governor shall reject an initiative application or an initiative application
- 1276 addendum filed under Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5) and not issue signature sheets if:
- 1277 (a) the proposed law:
- 1278 (i) is unconstitutional;
- 1279 (ii) is nonsensical;
- 1280 (iii) could not become law if passed;
- 1281 (iv) contains more than one subject as evaluated in accordance with Subsection (6); or
- 1282 (v) is identical or substantially similar to a law proposed by an initiative for which
- 1283 signatures were submitted to the county clerks and lieutenant governor for
- 1284 certification within two years preceding the date on which the initiative
- 1285 application for the new initiative is filed;

- 1286 (b) the subject of the proposed law is not clearly expressed in the law's title; or
- 1287 (c) except as provided in Subsection (3)(c), the lieutenant governor determines, after
- 1288 consultation with the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, that the funding
- 1289 description, described in Subsection [~~(2)(e)(ii)~~] (2)(f)(ii):
- 1290 (i) does not comply with the requirements of Subsection [~~(2)(e)(ii)~~] (2)(f)(ii); or
- 1291 (ii) is unlikely to provide adequate funding for the proposed law.
- 1292 (6) To evaluate whether the proposed law contains more than one subject under Subsection
- 1293 (5)(a)(iv), the lieutenant governor shall apply the same standard provided in Utah
- 1294 Constitution, Article VI, Section 22, which prohibits a bill from passing that contains
- 1295 more than one subject.
- 1296 Section 12. Section **20A-7-202.5** is amended to read:
- 1297 **20A-7-202.5 (Effective 05/06/26). Initial fiscal impact statement -- Preparation of**
- 1298 **statement -- Challenge to statement.**
- 1299 (1) Within three business days after the day on which the lieutenant governor receives an
- 1300 initiative application, the lieutenant governor shall submit a copy of the initiative
- 1301 application to the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst.
- 1302 (2)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the Office of the Legislative Fiscal
- 1303 Analyst shall prepare an unbiased, good faith initial fiscal impact statement for the
- 1304 proposed law, not exceeding 100 words plus 100 words per revenue source created or
- 1305 impacted by the proposed law, that contains:
- 1306 (i) a description of the total estimated fiscal impact of the proposed law over the time
- 1307 period or time periods determined by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst
- 1308 to be most useful in understanding the estimated fiscal impact of the proposed law;
- 1309 (ii) if the proposed law would increase taxes, decrease taxes, or impose a new tax, a
- 1310 dollar amount representing the total estimated increase or decrease for each type
- 1311 of tax affected under the proposed law, a dollar amount showing the estimated
- 1312 amount of a new tax, and a dollar amount representing the total estimated increase
- 1313 or decrease in taxes under the proposed law;
- 1314 (iii) if the proposed law would increase a particular tax or tax rate, the tax percentage
- 1315 difference and the tax percentage increase for each tax or tax rate increased;
- 1316 (iv) if the proposed law will be funded, in whole or in part, from new revenues, a
- 1317 description of the amount and source of the new revenues;
- 1318 (v) if the proposed law will be funded, in whole or in part, from existing revenues, a
- 1319 description of:

- 1320 (A) the existing line items or programs that will receive less funding in order to
 1321 fund the proposed law and the amount by which the funding will be reduced;
 1322 and
- 1323 (B) the likely impact of the reduction in funding described in Subsection
 1324 (2)(a)(v)(A);
- 1325 (vi) if the proposed law would result in the issuance or a change in the status of
 1326 bonds, notes, or other debt instruments, a dollar amount representing the total
 1327 estimated increase or decrease in public debt under the proposed law;
- 1328 (vii) a dollar amount representing the estimated cost or savings, if any, to state or
 1329 local government entities under the proposed law;
- 1330 (viii) if the proposed law would increase costs to state government, a listing of all
 1331 sources of funding for the estimated costs; and
- 1332 (ix) a concise description and analysis titled "Funding Source," not to exceed 100
 1333 words for each funding source, of the funding source information described in
 1334 Subsection [~~20A-7-202(2)(e)(ii)~~] 20A-7-202(2)(f)(ii).
- 1335 (b) If the proposed law is estimated to have fiscal impact of less than the amount specified by
 1336 joint legislative rule for designating a bill as a fiscal note bill, the Office of the Legislative
 1337 Fiscal Analyst shall prepare the initial fiscal impact statement to read substantially as follows:
 1338 "The Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst estimates that the law proposed by this
 1339 initiative would have no significant fiscal impact and would not result in either an increase or
 1340 decrease in taxes or debt."
- 1341 (3) Within 25 calendar days after the day on which the lieutenant governor delivers a copy
 1342 of the initiative application, the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall:
- 1343 (a) send a copy of the initial fiscal impact statement to the lieutenant governor's office;
 1344 and
- 1345 (b) send a copy of the initial fiscal impact statement to the first five sponsors named in
 1346 the initiative application.
- 1347 (4)(a)(i) Three or more of the sponsors of the initiative petition may, within 20
 1348 calendar days after the day on which the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst
 1349 delivers the initial fiscal impact statement to the lieutenant governor's office, file a
 1350 petition with the appropriate court, alleging that the initial fiscal impact statement,
 1351 taken as a whole, is an inaccurate estimate of the fiscal impact of the initiative.
- 1352 (ii) After receipt of the appeal, the court shall direct the lieutenant governor to send
 1353 notice of the petition filed with the court to:

- 1354 (A) any person or group that has filed an argument with the lieutenant governor's
 1355 office for or against the initiative that is the subject of the challenge; and
 1356 (B) any political issues committee established under Section 20A-11-801 that has
 1357 filed written or electronic notice with the lieutenant governor that identifies the
 1358 name, mailing or email address, and telephone number of the person
 1359 designated to receive notice about any issues relating to the initiative.

1360 (b)(i) There is a presumption that the initial fiscal impact statement prepared by the
 1361 Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst is based upon reasonable assumptions,
 1362 uses reasonable data, and applies accepted analytical methods to present the
 1363 estimated fiscal impact of the initiative.

1364 (ii) The court may not revise the contents of, or direct the revision of, the initial fiscal
 1365 impact statement unless the plaintiffs rebut the presumption by clear and
 1366 convincing evidence that establishes that the initial fiscal impact statement, taken
 1367 as a whole, is an inaccurate statement of the estimated fiscal impact of the
 1368 initiative.

1369 (iii) The court may refer an issue related to the initial fiscal impact statement to a
 1370 master to examine the issue and make a report in accordance with Utah Rules of
 1371 Civil Procedure, Rule 53.

1372 (c) The court shall certify to the lieutenant governor a fiscal impact statement for the
 1373 initiative that meets the requirements of this section.

1374 Section 13. Section **20A-7-202.7** is amended to read:

1375 **20A-7-202.7 (Effective 05/06/26). Posting initiative information.**

1376 (1) Within one business day after the day on which the lieutenant governor receives the
 1377 initial fiscal impact statement under Subsection 20A-7-202.5(3)(a), the lieutenant
 1378 governor shall post the following information together in a conspicuous place on the
 1379 lieutenant governor's website:

- 1380 (a) the initiative application;
 1381 (b) the initiative petition;
 1382 (c) the text of the proposed law;
 1383 (d) the initial fiscal impact statement; and
 1384 (e) information describing how an individual may remove the individual's signature
 1385 from the initiative petition.

1386 (2) The lieutenant governor shall:

- 1387 (a) promptly update the information described in Subsection (1) if the information

1388 changes[;] , including if the text of the proposed law is modified under Subsection
 1389 20A-7-204.1(5); and

1390 (b) maintain the information described in Subsection (1) on the lieutenant governor's
 1391 website until the initiative fails to qualify for the ballot or is passed or defeated at an
 1392 election.

1393 Section 14. Section **20A-7-203** is amended to read:

1394 **20A-7-203 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual initiative process -- Form of initiative**
 1395 **petition and signature sheets.**

1396 (1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process.

1397 (2)(a) Each proposed initiative petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:

1398 "INITIATIVE PETITION To the Honorable _____, Lieutenant Governor:

1399 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully demand that the [~~following~~]proposed
 1400 law described in this initiative petition be submitted to the legal voters/Legislature of Utah for
 1401 their/its approval or rejection at the regular general election/session to be held/ beginning on
 1402 _____(month\day\year);

1403 Each signer says:

1404 I have personally signed this initiative petition or, if I am an individual with a qualifying
 1405 disability, I have signed this initiative petition by directing the signature gatherer to enter the
 1406 initials "AV" as my signature;

1407 The date next to my signature correctly reflects the date that I actually signed the
 1408 initiative petition;

1409 I [~~have~~]personally had an opportunity to read the entire statement included with this
 1410 initiative packet;

1411 I am registered to vote in Utah; and

1412 My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name.

1413 NOTICE TO SIGNERS:

1414 Public hearings to discuss this initiative were held at: (list dates and locations of public
 1415 hearings[;]).".

1416 (b) [~~If the initiative proposes a tax increase, the~~] The following statement shall appear, in at
 1417 least 14-point, bold type, immediately following the information described in Subsection (2)(a)[;]
 1418 , if the initiative proposes a tax increase:

1419 "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
 1420 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
 1421 increase in the current tax rate."

- 1422 (c) The following statement shall appear, in at least 14-point, bold type, immediately
 1423 following the information described in Subsection (2)(a), if:
 1424 (i) the initiative proposes a law other than a tax increase; and
 1425 (ii) the initiative petition is part of a condensed initiative packet:
 1426 "This initiative seeks to (the sponsors shall provide a brief, plain-language
 1427 description of the principal provisions of the proposed law, not to exceed 50
 1428 words, that is understandable to the average reader)."
 1429 ~~[(e) The sponsors of an initiative or an agent of the sponsors shall attach a copy of the~~
 1430 ~~proposed law to each initiative petition.]~~
 1431 (3) Each initiative signature sheet shall:
 1432 (a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
 1433 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line [~~three-fourths~~] .75 inch from the top, with the space
 1434 above that line blank for the purpose of binding;
 1435 (c) include the title of the initiative printed below the horizontal line, in at least 14-point,
 1436 bold type;
 1437 (d) if the signature sheet is part of a condensed initiative packet:
 1438 (i) contain a printed QR code at the top of the signature sheet, in a location above the
 1439 columns described in Subsection (3)(e);
 1440 (ii) ensure that the QR code links directly to the web page on the lieutenant
 1441 governor's website described in Section 20A-7-202.7; and
 1442 (iii) include the following statement adjacent to the QR code in not less than 8-point,
 1443 bold type: "This QR code provides access to a website that includes the full text of
 1444 the law proposed by this initiative petition.";
 1445 (e) be vertically divided into columns immediately below the title of the initiative, as
 1446 follows:
 1447 (i) the first column shall begin .5 inch from the left side of the paper, be .25 inch
 1448 wide, and be headed, together with the second column, "For Office Use Only";
 1449 (ii) the second column shall be .25 inch wide;
 1450 (iii) the third column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed
 1451 Name (must be legible to be counted)";
 1452 (iv) the fourth column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered
 1453 Voter";
 1454 (v) the fifth column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Date Signed";
 1455 (vi) the sixth column shall be three inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip

- 1456 Code"; and
- 1457 (vii) the seventh column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age
- 1458 (Optional)"; and
- 1459 (f) be horizontally divided into rows as follows:
- 1460 (i) the first row shall be .5 inch high for purposes of a registered voter's entry of the
- 1461 information described in Subsection (3)(e); and
- 1462 (ii) the second row shall span the width of each column described in Subsection (3)(e)
- 1463 and contain the following statement in 12-point type: "By signing this initiative
- 1464 petition, you are stating that you had an opportunity to read and understand the
- 1465 law proposed by this initiative petition."
- 1466 [~~(d) include a table immediately below the title of the initiative, and beginning .5 inch~~
- 1467 ~~from the left side of the paper, as follows:]~~
- 1468 [~~(i) the first column shall be .5 inch wide and include three rows;]~~
- 1469 [~~(ii) the first row of the first column shall be .85 inch tall and contain the words "For~~
- 1470 ~~Office Use Only" in 10-point type;]~~
- 1471 [~~(iii) the second row of the first column shall be .35 inch tall;]~~
- 1472 [~~(iv) the third row of the first column shall be .5 inch tall;]~~
- 1473 [~~(v) the second column shall be 2.75 inches wide;]~~
- 1474 [~~(vi) the first row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words~~
- 1475 ~~"Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)" in 10-point~~
- 1476 ~~type;]~~
- 1477 [~~(vii) the second row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;]~~
- 1478 [~~(viii) the third row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words~~
- 1479 ~~"Street Address, City, Zip Code" in 10-point type;]~~
- 1480 [~~(ix) the fourth row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;]~~
- 1481 [~~(x) the third column shall be 2.75 inches wide;]~~
- 1482 [~~(xi) the first row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words~~
- 1483 ~~"Signature of Registered Voter" in 10-point type;]~~
- 1484 [~~(xii) the second row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;]~~
- 1485 [~~(xiii) the third row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words~~
- 1486 ~~"Email Address (optional, to receive additional information)" in 10-point type;]~~
- 1487 [~~(xiv) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;]~~
- 1488 [~~(xv) the fourth column shall be one inch wide;]~~
- 1489 [~~(xvi) the first row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words~~

- 1490 "Date Signed" in 10-point type;]
- 1491 [~~(xvii) the second row of the fourth column shall be .5 inch tall;~~]
- 1492 [~~(xviii) the third row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words~~
- 1493 "~~Birth Date or Age (optional)~~" in 10-point type;]
- 1494 [~~(xix) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall; and]~~
- 1495 [~~(xx) the fifth row of the entire table shall be the width of the entire table, .4 inch tall,~~
- 1496 ~~and contain the following statement, "By signing this initiative petition, you are~~
- 1497 ~~stating that you have read and understand the law proposed by this initiative~~
- 1498 ~~petition." in 12-point type;]~~
- 1499 [(~~e~~)] (4) [~~the table described in Subsection (3)(d)] The columns and rows described in~~
- 1500 Subsections (3)(e) and (f) shall be repeated, leaving sufficient room at the bottom of the
- 1501 sheet for the information described in [Subsection (3)(f); and] Subsection (5).
- 1502 [(~~f~~)] (5) [~~at the bottom of the sheet, include]~~ The bottom of the signature sheet shall include,
- 1503 in the following order:
- 1504 [(~~i~~)] (a) the words "Fiscal Impact of" followed by the title of the initiative, in at least
- 1505 12-point, bold type;
- 1506 [(~~ii~~)] (b) except as provided in Subsection [(5)] (6), the initial fiscal impact statement
- 1507 issued by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst in accordance with Subsection
- 1508 20A-7-202.5(2)(a), including any update in accordance with Subsection
- 1509 20A-7-204.1(5), in not less than 12-point type;
- 1510 [(~~iii~~)] (c) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, the following statement in 12-point, bold type:
- 1511 "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
- 1512 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
- 1513 increase in the current tax rate.";~~and]~~
- 1514 (d) if the signature sheet is part of a condensed initiative packet, the following statement
- 1515 in 12-point, bold type:
- 1516 "This initiative seeks to (the sponsors shall provide a brief, plain-language
- 1517 description of the principal provisions of the proposed law, not to exceed 50 words,
- 1518 that is understandable to the average reader)."; and
- 1519 [(~~iv~~)] (e) the word "Warning," in 12-point, bold type, followed by the following statement in
- 1520 not less than eight-point type:
- 1521 "It is a class A misdemeanor [for an individual to sign an initiative petition with a name
- 1522 other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than
- 1523 once for the same initiative petition, or to sign an initiative petition when the individual knows

1524 ~~that the individual is not a registered voter] to sign an initiative petition using a name other than~~
 1525 ~~your own name, to sign more than once, or to sign if you are not a registered voter.~~

1526 [~~Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity~~
 1527 ~~with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be~~
 1528 ~~verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified~~
 1529 ~~or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records] Providing
 1530 your birth date or age is optional, but it may be used to verify your identity. If you do not
 1531 provide it, your signature may not be validated if your address changes or if the information
 1532 you provide does not match your voter registration record."~~

1533 [(4) The final page of each initiative packet shall contain the following printed or typed
 1534 statement:

1535 ~~Verification of signature collector~~

1536 ~~State of Utah, County of _____~~

1537 ~~I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:~~

1538 ~~I am at least 18 years old;~~

1539 ~~All the names that appear in this initiative packet were signed by individuals who~~
 1540 ~~professed to be the individuals whose names appear in it, and each of the individuals signed~~
 1541 ~~the individual's name on it in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a qualifying~~
 1542 ~~disability, I have signed this initiative petition on the individual's behalf, at the direction of the~~
 1543 ~~individual and in the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV" as the individual's~~
 1544 ~~signature;~~

1545 ~~_____ I certify that, for each individual whose signature is represented in this initiative~~
 1546 ~~packet by the initials "AV":~~

1547 ~~_____ I obtained the individual's voluntary direction or consent to sign the initiative~~
 1548 ~~petition on the individual's behalf;~~

1549 ~~_____ I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual lacked the~~
 1550 ~~mental capacity to give direction or consent;~~

1551 ~~_____ I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual did not~~
 1552 ~~understand the purpose or nature of my signing the initiative petition on the individual's behalf;~~

1553 ~~_____ I did not intentionally or knowingly deceive the individual into directing me to,~~
 1554 ~~or consenting for me to, sign the initiative petition on the individual's behalf; and~~

1555 ~~_____ I did not intentionally or knowingly enter false information on the signature~~
 1556 ~~sheet;~~

1557 ~~I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law proposed by~~

1558 the initiative;

1559 I believe that each individual's name, post office address, and residence is written
1560 correctly, that each signer has read the law proposed by the initiative, and that each signer is
1561 registered to vote in Utah;

1562 The correct date of signature appears next to each individual's name; and

1563 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this initiative
1564 packet to encourage that individual to sign it.

1565 _____
1566 _____
1566 (Name) _____ (Residence Address) _____ (Date)]

1567 ~~[(5)]~~ (6) The final page of each initiative packet shall contain the circulator verification
1568 sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

1569 (7) If the initial fiscal impact statement described in Subsection ~~[(3)(f)(ii)]~~ (5)(b), as updated
1570 in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5), exceeds 200 words, the Office of the
1571 Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall prepare a shorter summary statement, for the purpose of
1572 inclusion on an initiative signature sheet, that does not exceed 200 words.

1573 ~~[(6)]~~ (8) If the forms described in this section are substantially followed, the initiative
1574 petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

1575 Section 15. Section **20A-7-204** is amended to read:

1576 **20A-7-204 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual initiative process -- Circulation**
1577 **requirements -- Lieutenant governor to provide sponsors with materials.**

1578 (1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process.

1579 (2)(a) In order to obtain the necessary number of signatures required by this part, the
1580 sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, after the sponsors receive the documents
1581 described in Subsection (3), circulate initiative packets that meet the form
1582 requirements of this part.

1583 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may circulate initiative packets using
1584 traditional initiative packets, condensed initiative packets, or both.

1585 (3) The lieutenant governor shall provide the sponsors with a copy of the initiative petition
1586 and a signature sheet no later than the first business day that is at least three calendar
1587 days after the day on which the following conditions are fulfilled:

1588 (a) the sponsors hold the final hearing required under Section 20A-7-204.1;

1589 (b) the sponsors provide to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor the video tape, audio
1590 tape, or comprehensive minutes described in Subsection 20A-7-204.1(4) for each
1591 public hearing described in Section 20A-7-204.1;

- 1592 (c)(i) the sponsors give written notice to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor that
1593 the sponsors waive the opportunity to change the text of the proposed law under
1594 Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5);
- 1595 (ii) the deadline, described in Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5)(a), for changing the text of
1596 the proposed law passes without the sponsors filing an application addendum in
1597 accordance with Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5); or
- 1598 (iii) if the sponsors file an application addendum in accordance with Subsection
1599 20A-7-204.1(5), the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst provides to the Office
1600 of the Lieutenant Governor:
- 1601 (A) an updated initial fiscal impact statement, in accordance with Subsection
1602 20A-7-204.1(5)(b); or
- 1603 (B) a written notice indicating that no changes to the initial fiscal impact statement
1604 are necessary;
- 1605 (d)(i) the sponsors give written notice to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor that
1606 the sponsors waive the opportunity to:
- 1607 (A) challenge the initial fiscal impact statement in court; and
1608 (B) if applicable, challenge the updated initial fiscal impact statement in court;
- 1609 (ii) the deadline, described in Subsection 20A-7-202.5(4)(a)(i), for:
- 1610 (A) challenging the initial fiscal impact statement in court passes without the
1611 sponsors filing a petition to challenge; and
1612 (B) if applicable, challenging the updated initial fiscal impact statement in court
1613 passes without the sponsors filing a petition to challenge; or
- 1614 (iii) if the sponsors timely file a petition challenging the initial fiscal impact
1615 statement in court or, if applicable, the updated initial fiscal impact statement in
1616 court, and the court's decision becomes final; and
- 1617 (e) the sponsors sign ~~[an agreement, under Subsection (6)(a), with the Office of the~~
1618 ~~Lieutenant Governor specifying the range of numbers that the sponsors will use to~~
1619 ~~number the initiative packets]~~ the agreement described in Subsection (6)(a)(iii) with
1620 the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.
- 1621 (4) The sponsors of the initiative shall:
- 1622 (a) arrange and pay for the printing of all documents that are part of the initiative
1623 packets; and
- 1624 (b) ensure that the initiative packets and the documents described in Subsection (4)(a)
1625 meet the requirements of this part.

- 1626 (5)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may prepare the initiative packets for
1627 circulation by creating multiple initiative packets.
- 1628 (b) ~~[The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall create the initiative packets by~~
1629 ~~binding a copy of the initiative petition with the text of the proposed law, including~~
1630 ~~any modification made under Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5) and no more than 50~~
1631 ~~signature sheets together at the top in a manner that the initiative packets may be~~
1632 ~~conveniently opened for signing]~~ The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall create
1633 initiative packets by:
- 1634 (i) binding the components of each initiative packet together at the top in a manner
1635 that secures all components of the initiative packet together;
- 1636 (ii) arranging the components in the following order:
- 1637 (A) a copy of the initiative petition;
- 1638 (B) if the initiative packet is a traditional initiative packet, a copy of the law
1639 proposed by the initiative petition, including any modification to the law made
1640 under Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5);
- 1641 (C) the signature sheets; and
- 1642 (D) the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1);
- 1643 (iii) including no more than 50 signature sheets in each initiative packet; and
- 1644 (iv) binding the initiative packet in a manner that allows the initiative packet to be
1645 conveniently opened for signing.
- 1646 (c) An initiative packet is not required to have a uniform number of signature sheets.
- 1647 (6)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, before gathering signatures:
- 1648 (i) ensure that the sponsors or any agent of the sponsors who gathers signatures have
1649 completed the online training course described in Section 20A-1-1005;
- 1650 (ii) contact the lieutenant governor's office to receive a range of numbers that the
1651 sponsors may use to number initiative packets;
- 1652 [(iii)] (iii) sign an agreement with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, specifying:
- 1653 (A) whether the sponsors or an agent of the sponsors will circulate initiative
1654 packets using traditional initiative packets, condensed initiative packets, or
1655 both; and
- 1656 (B) the range of numbers that the sponsors will use to number the initiative
1657 packets; and
- 1658 [(iii)] (iv) number each initiative packet, sequentially, within the range of numbers
1659 provided by the lieutenant governor's office, starting with the lowest number in

1660 the range.

1661 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may not:

1662 (i) number an initiative packet in a manner not directed by the lieutenant governor's
1663 office; or

1664 (ii) circulate or submit an initiative packet that is not numbered in the manner
1665 directed by the lieutenant governor's office.

1666 Section 16. Section **20A-7-213** is amended to read:

1667 **20A-7-213 (Effective 05/06/26). Misconduct of electors and officers -- Penalty.**

1668 (1) It is unlawful for an individual to:

1669 (a) sign any name other than the individual's own to an initiative petition or a statement
1670 described in Subsection [~~20A-7-105(8)~~] 20A-7-105(9) or 20A-7-216(4);

1671 (b) knowingly sign the individual's name more than once for the same initiative at one
1672 election;

1673 (c) knowingly indicate that an individual who signed an initiative petition signed the
1674 initiative petition on a date other than the date that the individual signed the initiative
1675 petition;

1676 (d) sign an initiative petition knowing the individual is not a legal voter;

1677 (e) on behalf of a voter described in Section 20A-7-106, place the initials "AV" or enter
1678 any information on a signature sheet or statement described in Section 20A-7-106, if
1679 the individual:

1680 (i) does not obtain the voluntary direction or consent of the voter;

1681 (ii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter lacks the mental capacity to give
1682 the voter's direction or consent;

1683 (iii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter does not understand the purpose
1684 or nature of the action taken by the individual on behalf of the voter;

1685 (iv) intentionally or knowingly deceives the voter into providing the direction or
1686 consent of the voter; or

1687 (v) intentionally or knowingly enters false information on the signature sheet or
1688 statement; or

1689 (f) knowingly and willfully violate any provision of this part.

1690 (2) It is unlawful for an individual to sign the verification for an initiative packet, or to
1691 electronically sign the verification for a signature under Subsection 20A-21-201(10),
1692 knowing that:

1693 (a) the signature date associated with the individual's signature for the initiative petition

- 1694 is not the date that the individual signed the initiative petition;
- 1695 (b) the individual has not witnessed the signatures of those individuals whose signatures
1696 the individual collects or submits; or
- 1697 (c) one or more individuals who signed the initiative petition are not registered to vote in
1698 Utah.

1699 (3) It is unlawful for an individual to:

- 1700 (a) pay an individual to sign an initiative petition;
- 1701 (b) pay an individual to remove the individual's signature from an initiative petition;
- 1702 (c) accept payment to sign an initiative petition; or
- 1703 (d) accept payment to have the individual's name removed from an initiative petition.

1704 (4) A violation of this section is a class A misdemeanor.

1705 Section 17. Section **20A-7-215** is amended to read:

1706 **20A-7-215 (Effective 05/06/26). Electronic initiative process -- Form of initiative**
1707 **petition -- Circulation requirements -- Signature collection.**

1708 (1) This section applies only to the electronic initiative process.

1709 (2)(a) The first screen presented on the approved device shall include the following statement:

1710 "This INITIATIVE PETITION is addressed to the Honorable _____, Lieutenant
1711 Governor:

1712 The citizens of Utah who sign this petition respectfully demand that the following
1713 proposed law be submitted to the legal voters/Legislature of Utah for their/its approval or
1714 rejection at the regular general election/session to be held/beginning on
1715 _____(month\day\year)."

1716 (b) An individual may not advance to the second screen until the individual clicks a link
1717 at the bottom of the first screen stating, "By clicking here, I attest that I have read and
1718 understand the information presented on this screen."

1719 (3)(a) The second screen presented on the approved device shall include the following
1720 statement:

1721 "Public hearings to discuss this initiative were held at: (list dates and locations of public
1722 hearings.)".

1723 (b) An individual may not advance to the third screen until the individual clicks a link at
1724 the bottom of the second screen stating, "By clicking here, I attest that I have read
1725 and understand the information presented on this screen."

1726 (4)(a) The third screen presented on the approved device shall include the title of
1727 proposed law, described in Subsection [20A-7-202(2)(e)(i)] 20A-7-202(2)(f)(i),

1728 followed by the entire text of the proposed law.

1729 (b) An individual may not advance to the fourth screen until the individual clicks a link
1730 at the bottom of the third screen stating, "By clicking here, I attest that I have read
1731 and understand the entire text of the proposed law."

1732 (5) Subsequent screens shall be presented on the device in the following order, with the
1733 individual viewing the device being required, before advancing to the next screen, to
1734 click a link at the bottom of the screen with the following statement: "By clicking here, I
1735 attest that I have read and understand the information presented on this screen.":

1736 (a) a description of all proposed sources of funding for the costs associated with the
1737 proposed law, including the proposed percentage of total funding from each source;

1738 (b)(i) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, the following statement, "This initiative
1739 seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax percentage
1740 difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
1741 increase in the current tax rate."; or

1742 (ii) if the initiative does not propose a tax increase, the following statement, "This
1743 initiative does not propose a tax increase.";

1744 (c) the initial fiscal impact statement issued by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal
1745 Analyst in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-202.5(2)(a), including any update in
1746 accordance with Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5)(b);

1747 (d) a statement indicating whether persons gathering signatures for the initiative petition
1748 may be paid for gathering signatures; and

1749 (e) the following statement, followed by links where the individual may click "yes" or "no":

1750 "I have personally read the entirety of each statement presented on this device;

1751 I am personally signing this initiative petition;

1752 I am registered to vote in Utah; and

1753 All information I enter on this device, including my residence and post office address, is
1754 accurate.

1755 It is a class A misdemeanor for an individual to sign an initiative petition with a name
1756 other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than
1757 once for the same initiative petition, or to sign an initiative petition when the individual knows
1758 that the individual is not a registered voter.

1759 **WARNING**

1760 Even if your voter registration record is classified as private, your name, voter

1761 identification number, and date of signature in relation to signing this initiative petition will be

1762 made public.

1763 Do you wish to continue and sign this initiative petition?"

1764 (6)(a) If the individual clicks "no" in response to the question described in Subsection
1765 (5)(e), the next screen shall include the following statement, "Thank you for your
1766 time. Please return this device to the signature-gatherer."

1767 (b) If the individual clicks "yes" in response to the question described in Subsection
1768 (5)(e), the website, or the application that accesses the website, shall take the
1769 signature-gatherer and the individual signing the initiative petition through the
1770 signature process described in Section 20A-21-201.

1771 Section 18. Section **20A-7-302** is amended to read:

1772 **20A-7-302 (Effective 05/06/26). Referendum process -- Application procedures.**

1773 (1) Individuals wishing to circulate a referendum petition shall file a referendum
1774 application with the lieutenant governor no later than 5 p.m. on the first business day
1775 that is at least five calendar days after the day on which the legislative session at which
1776 the law passed ends.

1777 (2) The referendum application shall include:

1778 (a) the name and residence address of at least five sponsors of the referendum petition;

1779 (b) a statement designating a sponsor liaison, including the sponsor liaison's name,
1780 residence address, telephone number, and email address;

1781 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) a statement indicating that each of the sponsors is registered to vote in Utah;

1782 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) a statement indicating whether persons gathering signatures for the referendum
1783 petition may be paid for gathering signatures;

1784 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) the signature of each of the sponsors, attested to by a notary public; and

1785 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) a copy of the law that is the subject of the proposed referendum.

1786 Section 19. Section **20A-7-303** is amended to read:

1787 **20A-7-303 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual referendum process -- Form of**
1788 **referendum petition and signature sheets.**

1789 (1) This section applies only to the manual referendum process.

1790 (2)~~[(a)]~~ Each proposed referendum petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:

1791 "REFERENDUM PETITION To the Honorable _____, Lieutenant Governor:

1792 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully order that [~~Senate (or House)~~] (insert

1793 "Senate" or "House") Bill No. _____, entitled (title of act, and, if the petition is against less

1794 than the whole act, set forth here the part or parts on which the referendum is sought), passed

1795 by the Legislature of the state of Utah during the _____ Session, be referred to the people of

1796 Utah for their approval or rejection at a regular general election or a statewide special election;

1797 Each signer says:

1798 I have personally signed this referendum petition or, if I am an individual with a
1799 qualifying disability, I have signed this referendum petition by directing the signature gatherer
1800 to enter the initials "AV" as my signature;

1801 The date next to my signature correctly reflects the date that I actually signed the
1802 referendum petition;

1803 I ~~have~~ personally had an opportunity to read the entire statement included with this
1804 referendum packet;

1805 I am registered to vote in Utah; and

1806 My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name."[-]

1807 ~~[(b) The sponsors of a referendum or an agent of the sponsors shall attach a copy of the~~
1808 ~~law that is the subject of the referendum to each referendum petition.]~~

1809 (3) Each referendum signature sheet shall:

1810 (a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

1811 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line ~~[three-fourths]~~ .75 inch from the top, with the space
1812 above that line blank for the purpose of binding;

1813 (c) include the title of the referendum printed below the horizontal line, in at least
1814 14-point, bold type;

1815 (d) if the signature sheet is part of a condensed referendum packet:

1816 (i) contain a printed QR code at the top of the signature sheet, in a location above the
1817 columns described in Subsection (3)(e);

1818 (ii) ensure that the QR code links directly to the web page on the lieutenant
1819 governor's website described in Section 20A-7-304.5; and

1820 (iii) include the following statement adjacent to the QR code in not less than 8-point,
1821 bold type: "This QR code provides access to a website that includes the full text of
1822 the law that is the subject of this referendum petition.";

1823 (e) be vertically divided into columns immediately below the title of the initiative, as
1824 follows:

1825 (i) the first column shall begin .5 inch from the left side of the paper, be .25 inch
1826 wide, and be headed, together with the second column, "For Office Use Only";

1827 (ii) the second column shall be .25 inch wide;

1828 (iii) the third column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed
1829 Name (must be legible to be counted)";

- 1830 (iv) the fourth column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered
 1831 Voter";
- 1832 (v) the fifth column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Date Signed";
- 1833 (vi) the sixth column shall be three inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip
 1834 Code"; and
- 1835 (vii) the seventh column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age
 1836 (Optional)"; and
- 1837 (f) be horizontally divided into rows as follows:
- 1838 (i) the first row shall be .5 inch high for purposes of a registered voter's entry of the
 1839 information described in Subsection (3)(e); and
- 1840 (ii) the second row shall span the width of each column described in Subsection (3)(e)
 1841 and contain the following statement in 11-point type: "By signing this referendum
 1842 petition, you are stating that you had an opportunity to read and understand the
 1843 law that this referendum petition seeks to overturn.".
- 1844 ~~[(d) include a table immediately below the title of the referendum, and beginning .5 inch~~
 1845 ~~from the left side of the paper, as follows:]~~
- 1846 ~~[(i) the first column shall be .5 inch wide and include three rows;]~~
- 1847 ~~[(ii) the first row of the first column shall be .85 inch tall and contain the words "For~~
 1848 ~~Office Use Only" in 10-point type;]~~
- 1849 ~~[(iii) the second row of the first column shall be .35 inch tall;]~~
- 1850 ~~[(iv) the third row of the first column shall be .5 inch tall;]~~
- 1851 ~~[(v) the second column shall be 2.75 inches wide;]~~
- 1852 ~~[(vi) the first row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words~~
 1853 ~~"Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)" in 10-point~~
 1854 ~~type;]~~
- 1855 ~~[(vii) the second row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;]~~
- 1856 ~~[(viii) the third row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words~~
 1857 ~~"Street Address, City, Zip Code" in 10-point type;]~~
- 1858 ~~[(ix) the fourth row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;]~~
- 1859 ~~[(x) the third column shall be 2.75 inches wide;]~~
- 1860 ~~[(xi) the first row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words~~
 1861 ~~"Signature of Registered Voter" in 10-point type;]~~
- 1862 ~~[(xii) the second row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;]~~
- 1863 ~~[(xiii) the third row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words~~

1864 "Email Address (optional, to receive additional information)" in 10-point type;]
 1865 [(xiv) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;]
 1866 [(xv) the fourth column shall be one inch wide;]
 1867 [(xvi) the first row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
 1868 "Date Signed" in 10-point type;]
 1869 [(xvii) the second row of the fourth column shall be .5 inch tall;]
 1870 [(xviii) the third row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
 1871 "Birth Date or Age (optional)" in 10-point type;]
 1872 [(xix) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall; and]
 1873 [(xx) the fifth row of the entire table shall be the width of the entire table, .4 inch tall,
 1874 and contain the following words "By signing this referendum petition, you are
 1875 stating that you have read and understand the law that this referendum petition
 1876 seeks to overturn." in 12-point type;]

1877 [(e)] (4) [~~the table described in Subsection (3)(d)~~] The columns and rows described in
 1878 Subsections (3)(e) and (f) shall be repeated, leaving sufficient room at the bottom of the
 1879 sheet for the information described in [Subsection (3)(f); and] Subsection (5).

1880 [(f)] (5) [~~at the bottom of the sheet, include~~] The bottom of the signature sheet shall include,
 1881 in the following order:

1882 (a) the following statement in at least 12-point, bold type:

1883 "This referendum petition seeks to have (insert "Senate" or "House") Bill No.
 1884 _____, entitled (title of act, and, if the petition is against less than the whole act, set
 1885 forth here the part or parts on which the referendum is sought), passed by the
 1886 Legislature of the state of Utah during the _____ Session, be referred to the people of
 1887 Utah for their approval or rejection at a regular general election or a statewide special
 1888 election."; and

1889 (b) the word "Warning," in 12-point, bold type, followed by the following statement in not less
 1890 than eight-point type:

1891 "It is a class A misdemeanor [~~for an individual to sign a referendum petition with a name~~
 1892 ~~other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than~~
 1893 ~~once for the same referendum petition, or to sign a referendum petition when the individual~~
 1894 ~~knows that the individual is not a registered voter] to sign a referendum petition using a name
 1895 other than your own name, to sign more than once, or to sign if you are not a registered voter.~~

1896 [~~Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity~~
 1897 ~~with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be~~

1898 verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified
 1899 or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records] Providing
 1900 your birth date or age is optional, but it may be used to verify your identity. If you do not
 1901 provide it, your signature may not be validated if your address changes or if the information
 1902 you provide does not match your voter registration record."

1903 [(4) The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the following printed or typed
 1904 statement:

1905 Verification of signature collector

1906 State of Utah, County of _____

1907 I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

1908 I am at least 18 years old;

1909 All the names that appear in this referendum packet were signed by individuals who
 1910 professed to be the individuals whose names appear in it, and each of the individuals signed
 1911 the individual's name on it in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a qualifying
 1912 disability, I have signed this referendum petition on the individual's behalf, at the direction of
 1913 the individual and in the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV" as the individual's
 1914 signature;

1915 _____ I certify that, for each individual whose signature is represented in this referendum
 1916 packet by the initials "AV":

1917 _____ I obtained the individual's voluntary direction or consent to sign the
 1918 referendum petition on the individual's behalf;

1919 _____ I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual lacked the
 1920 mental capacity to give direction or consent;

1921 _____ I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual did not
 1922 understand the purpose or nature of my signing the referendum petition on the individual's
 1923 behalf;

1924 _____ I did not intentionally or knowingly deceive the individual into directing me to,
 1925 or consenting for me to, sign the referendum petition on the individual's behalf; and

1926 _____ I did not intentionally or knowingly enter false information on the signature
 1927 sheet;

1928 I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law this petition
 1929 seeks to overturn;

1930 I believe that each individual's name, post office address, and residence is written
 1931 correctly, that each signer has read the law that the referendum seeks to overturn, and that each

1932 signer is registered to vote in Utah;
 1933 The correct date of signature appears next to each individual's name; and
 1934 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this referendum
 1935 packet to encourage that individual to sign it.

1936 _____
 1937 _____
 1937 (Name) _____ (Residence Address) _____ (Date):]

1938 ~~[(5)]~~ (6) The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the circulator verification
 1939 sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

1940 (7) If the forms described in this section are substantially followed, the referendum
 1941 petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

1942 Section 20. Section **20A-7-304** is amended to read:

1943 **20A-7-304 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual referendum process -- Circulation**
 1944 **requirements -- Lieutenant governor to provide sponsors with materials.**

1945 (1) This section applies only to the manual referendum process.

1946 (2)(a) In order to obtain the necessary number of signatures required by this part, the
 1947 sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, after the sponsors receive the documents
 1948 described in Subsection (3), circulate referendum packets that meet the form
 1949 requirements of this part.

1950 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may circulate referendum packets using
 1951 traditional referendum packets, condensed referendum packets, or both.

1952 (3) The lieutenant governor shall provide the sponsors with a copy of the referendum
 1953 petition and a signature sheet no later than the first business day that is at least five
 1954 calendar days after the day on which the sponsors sign an agreement, under Subsection
 1955 (6)(a), with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor specifying the range of numbers that
 1956 the sponsors will use to number the referendum packets.

1957 (4) The sponsors of the referendum petition shall:

1958 (a) arrange and pay for the printing of all documents that are part of the referendum
 1959 packets; and

1960 (b) ensure that the referendum packets and the documents described in Subsection (4)(a)
 1961 meet the form requirements of this section.

1962 (5)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may prepare the referendum packets for
 1963 circulation by creating multiple referendum packets.

1964 (b) ~~[The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall create referendum packets by binding~~
 1965 ~~a copy of the referendum petition with the text of the law that is the subject of the~~

- 1966 referendum and no more than 50 signature sheets together at the top in a manner that
 1967 the referendum packets may be conveniently opened for signing] The sponsors or an
 1968 agent of the sponsors shall create referendum packets by:
- 1969 (i) binding the components of each referendum packet together at the top in a manner
 1970 that secures all components of the initiative packet together;
- 1971 (ii) arranging the components in the following order:
- 1972 (A) a copy of the referendum petition;
- 1973 (B) if the referendum packet is a traditional referendum packet, a copy of the law
 1974 that is the subject of the referendum petition;
- 1975 (C) the signature sheets; and
- 1976 (D) the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1);
- 1977 (iii) including no more than 50 signature sheets in each referendum packet; and
- 1978 (iv) binding the referendum packet in a manner that allows the referendum packet to
 1979 be conveniently opened for signing.
- 1980 (c) A referendum packet is not required to have a uniform number of signature sheets.
- 1981 (6)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, before gathering signatures:
- 1982 (i) ensure that the sponsors or any agent of the sponsors who gathers signatures have
 1983 completed the online training course described in Section 20A-1-1005;
- 1984 (ii) contact the lieutenant governor's office to receive a range of numbers that the
 1985 sponsors may use to number referendum packets;
- 1986 [~~(iii)~~] (iii) sign an agreement with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, specifying:
- 1987 (A) whether the sponsors or an agent of the sponsors will circulate referendum
 1988 packets using traditional referendum packets, condensed referendum packets,
 1989 or both; and
- 1990 (B) the range of numbers that the sponsor will use to number the referendum
 1991 packets; and
- 1992 [~~(iii)~~] (iv) number each referendum packet, sequentially, within the range of numbers
 1993 provided by the lieutenant governor's office, starting with the lowest number in
 1994 the range.
- 1995 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may not:
- 1996 (i) number a referendum packet in a manner not directed by the lieutenant governor's
 1997 office; or
- 1998 (ii) circulate or submit a referendum packet that is not numbered in the manner
 1999 directed by the lieutenant governor's office.

2000 Section 21. Section **20A-7-502** is amended to read:

2001 **20A-7-502 (Effective 05/06/26). Local initiative process -- Application**
 2002 **procedures.**

2003 (1) Individuals wishing to circulate an initiative petition shall file an initiative application
 2004 with the local clerk.

2005 (2) The initiative application shall include:

2006 (a) the name and residence address of at least five sponsors of the initiative petition;

2007 (b) a statement indicating that each of the sponsors is registered to vote in Utah;

2008 (c) a statement designating a sponsor liaison, including the sponsor liaison's name,
 2009 residence address, telephone number, and email address;

2010 [(e)] (d) the signature of each of the sponsors, acknowledged by a notary public;

2011 [(d)] (e) a copy of the proposed law that includes:

2012 (i) the title of the proposed law that clearly expresses the subject of the law;

2013 (ii) a description of all proposed sources of funding for the costs associated with the
 2014 proposed law, including the proposed percentage of total funding from each
 2015 source; and

2016 (iii) the text of the proposed law;

2017 [(e)] (f) if the initiative petition proposes a tax increase, the following statement, "This
 2018 initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
 2019 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase)
 2020 percent increase in the current tax rate."; and

2021 [(f)] (g) a statement indicating whether persons gathering signatures for the initiative
 2022 petition may be paid for gathering signatures.

2023 (3) A proposed law submitted under this section may not contain more than one subject to
 2024 the same extent that a bill may not pass containing more than one subject as provided in
 2025 Utah Constitution, Article VI, Section 22.

2026 Section 22. Section **20A-7-503** is amended to read:

2027 **20A-7-503 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual initiative process -- Form of initiative**
 2028 **petition and signature sheet.**

2029 (1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process.

2030 (2)(a) Each proposed initiative petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:

2031 "INITIATIVE PETITION To the Honorable _____, County Clerk/City Recorder/Town
 2032 Clerk:

2033 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully demand that the [~~following~~]proposed

2034 law described in this initiative petition be submitted to:
 2035 the legislative body for its approval or rejection at its next meeting; and
 2036 the legal voters of the county/city/town, if the legislative body rejects the proposed
 2037 law or takes no action on it.

2038 Each signer says:

2039 I have personally signed this initiative petition or, if I am an individual with a qualifying
 2040 disability, I have signed this initiative petition by directing the signature gatherer to enter the
 2041 initials "AV" as my signature;

2042 The date next to my signature correctly reflects the date that I actually signed the
 2043 petition;

2044 I ~~have~~ personally had an opportunity to read the entire statement included with this
 2045 initiative packet;

2046 I am registered to vote in Utah; and

2047 My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name."

2048 (b) ~~[If the initiative proposes a tax increase, the]~~ The following statement shall appear, in at
 2049 least 14-point, bold type, immediately following the information described in Subsection (2)(a)~~[:]~~
 2050 , if the initiative petition proposes a tax increase:

2051 "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
 2052 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
 2053 increase in the current tax rate.".

2054 (c) The following statement shall appear, in at least 14-point, bold type, immediately
 2055 following the information described in Subsection (2)(a), if:

2056 (i) the initiative proposes a law other than a tax increase; and

2057 (ii) the initiative petition is part of a condensed initiative packet.

2058 "This initiative seeks to (the sponsors shall provide a brief, plain-language
 2059 description of the principal provisions of the proposed law, not to exceed 50
 2060 words, that is understandable to the average reader)."

2061 ~~[(e) The sponsors of an initiative or an agent of the sponsors shall attach a copy of the~~
 2062 ~~proposed law to each initiative petition.]~~

2063 (3) Each initiative signature sheet shall:

2064 (a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

2065 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line ~~[three-fourths]~~ .75 inch from the top, with the space
 2066 above that line blank for the purpose of binding;

2067 (c) include the title of the initiative printed below the horizontal line, in at least 14-point,

- 2068 bold type;
- 2069 (d) if the signature sheet is part of a condensed initiative packet:
- 2070 (i) contain a printed QR code at the top of the signature sheet, in a location above the
- 2071 columns described in Subsection (3)(e);
- 2072 (ii) ensure that the QR code links directly to the web page on the local clerk's website
- 2073 described in Section 20A-7-502.6; and
- 2074 (iii) include the following statement adjacent to the QR code in not less than 8-point,
- 2075 bold type: "This QR code provides access to a website that includes the full text of
- 2076 the law proposed by this initiative petition.";
- 2077 (e) be vertically divided into columns immediately below the title of the initiative, as
- 2078 follows:
- 2079 (i) the first column shall begin .5 inch from the left side of the paper, be .25 inch
- 2080 wide, and be headed, together with the second column, "For Office Use Only";
- 2081 (ii) the second column shall be .25 inch wide;
- 2082 (iii) the third column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed
- 2083 Name (must be legible to be counted)";
- 2084 (iv) the fourth column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered
- 2085 Voter";
- 2086 (v) the fifth column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Date Signed";
- 2087 (vi) the sixth column shall be three inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip
- 2088 Code"; and
- 2089 (vii) the seventh column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age
- 2090 (Optional)"; and
- 2091 (f) be horizontally divided into rows as follows:
- 2092 (i) the first row shall be .5 inch high for purposes of a registered voter's entry of the
- 2093 information described in Subsection (3)(e); and
- 2094 (ii) the second row shall span the width of each column described in Subsection (3)(e)
- 2095 and contain the following statement in 12-point type: "By signing this initiative
- 2096 petition, you are stating that you had an opportunity to read and understand the
- 2097 law proposed by this initiative petition.".
- 2098 ~~[(d) include a table immediately below the title of the initiative, and beginning .5 inch~~
- 2099 ~~from the left side of the paper, as follows:]~~
- 2100 ~~[(i) the first column shall be .5 inch wide and include three rows;]~~
- 2101 ~~[(ii) the first row of the first column shall be .85 inch tall and contain the words "For~~

- 2102 Office Use Only" in 10-point type;]
- 2103 [(iii) the second row of the first column shall be .35 inch tall;]
- 2104 [(iv) the third row of the first column shall be .5 inch tall;]
- 2105 [(v) the second column shall be 2.75 inches wide;]
- 2106 [(vi) the first row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
- 2107 "Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)" in 10-point
- 2108 type;]
- 2109 [(vii) the second row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;]
- 2110 [(viii) the third row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
- 2111 "Street Address, City, Zip Code" in 10-point type;]
- 2112 [(ix) the fourth row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;]
- 2113 [(x) the third column shall be 2.75 inches wide;]
- 2114 [(xi) the first row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
- 2115 "Signature of Registered Voter" in 10-point type;]
- 2116 [(xii) the second row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;]
- 2117 [(xiii) the third row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
- 2118 "Email Address (optional, to receive additional information)" in 10-point type;]
- 2119 [(xiv) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;]
- 2120 [(xv) the fourth column shall be one inch wide;]
- 2121 [(xvi) the first row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
- 2122 "Date Signed" in 10-point type;]
- 2123 [(xvii) the second row of the fourth column shall be .5 inch tall;]
- 2124 [(xviii) the third row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
- 2125 "Birth Date or Age (optional)" in 10-point type;]
- 2126 [(xix) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall; and]
- 2127 [(xx) the fifth row of the entire table shall be the width of the entire table, .4 inch tall,
- 2128 and contain the following words "By signing this initiative petition, you are
- 2129 stating that you have read and understand the law proposed by this initiative
- 2130 petition." in 12-point type;]
- 2131 [(e)] (4) [the table described in Subsection (3)(d)] The columns and rows described in
- 2132 Subsections (3)(e) and (f) shall be repeated, leaving sufficient room at the bottom of the
- 2133 sheet for the information described in Subsection [(3)(f); and] (5).
- 2134 [(f)] (5) [at the bottom of the sheet, include] The bottom of the signature sheet shall include,
- 2135 in the following order:

2136 [(i)] (a) the words "Fiscal and legal impact of" followed by the title of the initiative, in at
2137 least 12-point, bold type;

2138 [(ii)] (b) the summary statement in the initial fiscal impact and legal statement issued by
2139 the budget officer in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-502.5(2)(b) and the cost
2140 estimate for printing and distributing information related to the initiative petition in
2141 accordance with Subsection 20A-7-502.5(3), in not less than 12-point, bold type;

2142 [(iii)] (c) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, the following statement in 12-point, bold type:

2143 "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
2144 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
2145 increase in the current tax rate.";[-and]

2146 (d) if the signature sheet is part of a condensed initiative packet, the following statement
2147 in 12-point, bold type:

2148 "This initiative seeks to (the sponsors shall provide a brief, plain-language
2149 description of the principal provisions of the proposed law, not to exceed 50 words,
2150 that is understandable to the average reader)."; and

2151 [(iv)] (e) the word "Warning," in 12-point, bold type, followed by the following statement in
2152 not less than eight-point type:

2153 ~~"It is a class A misdemeanor [for an individual to sign an initiative petition with a name~~
2154 ~~other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than~~
2155 ~~once for the same initiative petition, or to sign an initiative petition when the individual knows~~
2156 ~~that the individual is not a registered voter] to sign an initiative petition using a name other than~~
2157 ~~your own name, to sign more than once, or to sign if you are not a registered voter.~~

2158 [~~Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity~~
2159 ~~with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be~~
2160 ~~verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified~~
2161 ~~or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records] Providing
2162 your birth date or age is optional, but it may be used to verify your identity. If you do not
2163 provide it, your signature may not be validated if your address changes or if the information
2164 you provide does not match your voter registration record."~~

2165 [(4) The final page of each initiative packet shall contain the following printed or typed
2166 statement:

2167 ~~"Verification of signature collector~~

2168 ~~State of Utah, County of _____~~

2169 ~~I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:~~

2170 I am at least 18 years old;

2171 All the names that appear in this packet were signed by individuals who professed to be
2172 the individuals whose names appear in it, and each of the individuals signed the individual's
2173 name on it in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a qualifying disability, I have
2174 signed this initiative petition on the individual's behalf, at the direction of the individual and in
2175 the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV" as the individual's signature;

2176 — I certify that, for each individual whose signature is represented in this initiative
2177 packet by the initials "AV":

2178 — I obtained the individual's voluntary direction or consent to sign the initiative
2179 petition on the individual's behalf;

2180 — I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual lacked the
2181 mental capacity to give direction or consent;

2182 — I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual did not
2183 understand the purpose or nature of my signing the initiative petition on the individual's behalf;

2184 — I did not intentionally or knowingly deceive the individual into directing me to,
2185 or consenting for me to, sign the initiative petition on the individual's behalf; and

2186 — I did not intentionally or knowingly enter false information on the signature
2187 sheet;

2188 I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law proposed by
2189 the initiative; and

2190 I believe that each individual's name, post office address, and residence is written
2191 correctly, that each signer has read the law proposed by the initiative, and that each signer is
2192 registered to vote in Utah.

2193 _____
2194 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)

2195 The correct date of signature appears next to each individual's name.

2196 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this petition to
2197 encourage that individual to sign it.

2198 _____
2199 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)"]

2200 [(5)] (6) The final page of each initiative packet shall contain the circulator verification
2201 sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

2202 (7) If the forms described in this section are substantially followed, the initiative petitions
2203 are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

2204 Section 23. Section **20A-7-504** is amended to read:

2205 **20A-7-504 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual initiative process -- Circulation**
2206 **requirements -- Local clerk to provide sponsors with materials.**

2207 (1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process.

2208 (2)(a) In order to obtain the necessary number of signatures required by this part, the
2209 sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, after the sponsors receive the documents
2210 described in Subsections (3) and 20A-7-401.5(4)(b), circulate initiative packets that
2211 meet the form requirements of this part.

2212 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may circulate initiative packets using
2213 traditional initiative packets, condensed initiative packets, or both.

2214 (3) Within five calendar days after the day on which a county, city, town, or court
2215 determines, in accordance with Section 20A-7-502.7, that a law proposed in an initiative
2216 petition is legally referable to voters, the local clerk shall provide to the sponsors:

2217 (a) a copy of the initiative petition;

2218 (b) a signature sheet; and

2219 (c) a copy of the proposition information pamphlet provided to the sponsors under
2220 Subsection 20A-7-401.5(4)(b).

2221 (4) The sponsors of the initiative shall:

2222 (a) arrange and pay for the printing of all documents that are part of the initiative
2223 packets; and

2224 (b) ensure that the initiative packets and the documents described in Subsection (4)(a)
2225 meet the requirements of this part.

2226 (5)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may prepare the initiative packets for
2227 circulation by creating multiple initiative packets.

2228 (b) ~~[The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall create initiative packets by binding a~~
2229 ~~copy of the initiative petition with the text of the proposed law and no more than 50~~
2230 ~~signature sheets together at the top in a manner that the initiative packets may be~~
2231 ~~conveniently opened for signing.] The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall
2232 create initiative packets by:~~

2233 (i) binding the components of each initiative packet together at the top in a manner
2234 that secures all components of the initiative packet together;

2235 (ii) arranging the components in the following order:

2236 (A) a copy of the initiative petition;

2237 (B) if the initiative packet is a traditional initiative packet, a copy of the law

- 2238 proposed by the initiative petition;
- 2239 (C) the signature sheets; and
- 2240 (D) the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1);
- 2241 (iii) including no more than 50 signature sheets in each initiative packet; and
- 2242 (iv) binding the initiative packet in a manner that allows the initiative packet to be
- 2243 conveniently opened for signing.
- 2244 (c) An initiative packet is not required to have a uniform number of signature sheets.
- 2245 (d) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall include, with each initiative packet, a
- 2246 copy of the proposition information pamphlet provided to the sponsors under
- 2247 Subsection 20A-7-401.5(4)(b).
- 2248 (6)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, before gathering signatures:
- 2249 (i) ensure that the sponsors or any agent of the sponsors who gathers signatures have
- 2250 completed the online training course described in Section 20A-1-1005;
- 2251 (ii) contact the county clerk to receive a range of numbers that the sponsors may use
- 2252 to number initiative packets;[and]
- 2253 (iii) sign an agreement with the local clerk, specifying:
- 2254 (A) whether the sponsors or an agent of the sponsors will circulate initiative
- 2255 packets using traditional initiative packets, condensed initiative packets, or
- 2256 both; and
- 2257 (B) the range of numbers that the sponsor will use to number the referendum
- 2258 packets; and
- 2259 [(ii)] (iv) number each initiative packet, sequentially, within the range of numbers
- 2260 provided by the county clerk, starting with the lowest number in the range.
- 2261 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may not:
- 2262 (i) number an initiative packet in a manner not directed by the county clerk; or
- 2263 (ii) circulate or submit an initiative packet that is not numbered in the manner
- 2264 directed by the county clerk.
- 2265 (c) The county clerk shall keep a record of the number range provided under Subsection
- 2266 (6)(a).
- 2267 Section 24. Section **20A-7-514** is amended to read:
- 2268 **20A-7-514 (Effective 05/06/26). Electronic initiative process -- Form of initiative**
- 2269 **petition -- Circulation requirements -- Signature collection.**
- 2270 (1) This section applies only to the electronic initiative process.
- 2271 (2)(a) The first screen presented on the approved device shall include the following statement:

2272 "This INITIATIVE PETITION is addressed to the Honorable _____, County Clerk/City
2273 Recorder/Town Clerk:

2274 The citizens of Utah who sign this petition respectfully demand that the following
2275 proposed law be submitted to: the legislative body for its approval or rejection at its next
2276 meeting; and the legal voters of the county/city/town, if the legislative body rejects the
2277 proposed law or takes no action on it."

2278 (b) An individual may not advance to the second screen until the individual clicks a link
2279 at the bottom of the first screen stating, "By clicking here, I attest that I have read and
2280 understand the information presented on this screen."

2281 (3)(a) The second screen presented on the approved device shall include the title of
2282 proposed law, described in Subsection [20A-7-502(2)(d)(i)] 20A-7-502(2)(e)(i),
2283 followed by the entire text of the proposed law.

2284 (b) An individual may not advance to the third screen until the individual clicks a link at
2285 the bottom of the second screen stating, "By clicking here, I attest that I have read
2286 and understand the entire text of the proposed law."

2287 (4) Subsequent screens shall be presented on the device in the following order, with the
2288 individual viewing the device being required, before advancing to the next screen, to
2289 click a link at the bottom of the screen with the following statement, "By clicking here, I
2290 attest that I have read and understand the information presented on this screen.":

2291 (a)(i) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, the following statement, "This initiative
2292 seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax percentage
2293 difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
2294 increase in the current tax rate."; or

2295 (ii) if the initiative does not propose a tax increase, the following statement, "This
2296 initiative does not propose a tax increase.";

2297 (b) the summary statement from the initial fiscal impact and legal statement issued by
2298 the budget officer in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-502.5(2)(b) and the cost
2299 estimate for printing and distributing information related to the initiative petition in
2300 accordance with Subsection 20A-7-502.5(3);

2301 (c) a statement indicating whether persons gathering signatures for the initiative petition
2302 may be paid for gathering signatures; and

2303 (d) the following statement, followed by links where the individual may click "yes" or "no":
2304 "I have personally read the entirety of each statement presented on this device;
2305 I am personally signing this petition;

2306 I am registered to vote in Utah; and
 2307 All information I enter on this device, including my residence and post office address, is
 2308 accurate.

2309 It is a class A misdemeanor for an individual to sign an initiative petition with a name
 2310 other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than
 2311 once for the same initiative petition, or to sign an initiative petition when the individual knows
 2312 that the individual is not a registered voter.

2313 WARNING

2314 Even if your voter registration record is classified as private, your name, voter
 2315 identification number, and date of signature in relation to signing this initiative petition will be
 2316 made public.

2317 Do you wish to continue and sign this initiative petition?"

2318 (5)(a) If the individual clicks "no" in response to the question described in Subsection
 2319 (4)(d), the next screen shall include the following statement, "Thank you for your
 2320 time. Please return this device to the signature-gatherer."

2321 (b) If the individual clicks "yes" in response to the question described in Subsection
 2322 (4)(d), the website, or the application that accesses the website, shall take the
 2323 signature-gatherer and the individual signing the petition through the signature
 2324 process described in Section 20A-21-201.

2325 Section 25. Section **20A-7-602** is amended to read:

2326 **20A-7-602 (Effective 05/06/26). Local referendum process -- Application**
 2327 **procedures.**

2328 (1) Individuals wishing to circulate a referendum petition shall file a referendum
 2329 application with the local clerk.

2330 (2) The referendum application shall include:

2331 (a) the name and residence address of at least five sponsors of the referendum petition;

2332 (b) a statement indicating that each of the sponsors is registered to vote in Utah;

2333 (c) a statement designating a sponsor liaison, including the sponsor liaison's name,
 2334 residence address, telephone number, and email address;

2335 [(e)] (d) a statement indicating whether persons gathering signatures for the referendum
 2336 petition may be paid for gathering signatures;

2337 [(d)] (e) the signature of each of the sponsors, acknowledged by a notary public; and

2338 [(e)] (f)(i) if the referendum challenges an ordinance or resolution, a copy of the
 2339 ordinance or resolution; or

2340 (ii) if the referendum challenges a local law that is not an ordinance or resolution, a
 2341 written description of the local law, including the result of the vote on the local
 2342 law.

2343 Section 26. Section **20A-7-603** is amended to read:

2344 **20A-7-603 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual referendum process -- Form of**
 2345 **referendum petition and signature sheet.**

2346 (1) This section applies only to the manual referendum process.

2347 (2)[(a)] Each proposed referendum petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:

2348 "REFERENDUM PETITION To the Honorable _____, County Clerk/City
 2349 Recorder/Town Clerk:

2350 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully order that (description of local law or
 2351 portion of local law being challenged), passed by the _____ be referred to the voters for their
 2352 approval or rejection at the regular/municipal general election to be held on
 2353 _____(month\day\year);

2354 Each signer says:

2355 I have personally signed this referendum petition or, if I am an individual with a
 2356 qualifying disability, I have signed this referendum petition by directing the signature gatherer
 2357 to enter the initials "AV" as my signature;

2358 The date next to my signature correctly reflects the date that I actually signed the
 2359 petition;

2360 I [~~have~~]personally had an opportunity to read the entire statement included with this
 2361 packet;

2362 I am registered to vote in Utah; and

2363 My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name."

2364 [~~(b) The sponsors of a referendum or an agent of the sponsors shall attach a copy of the~~
 2365 ~~law that is the subject of the referendum to each referendum petition.]~~

2366 (3) Each referendum signature sheet shall:

2367 (a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

2368 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line [~~three-fourths~~] .75 inch from the top, with the space
 2369 above that line blank for the purpose of binding;

2370 (c) include the title of the referendum printed below the horizontal line, in at least
 2371 14-point type;

2372 (d) if the signature sheet is part of a condensed referendum packet:

2373 (i) contain a printed QR code at the top of the signature sheet, in a location above the

- 2374 columns described in Subsection (3)(e);
- 2375 (ii) ensure that the QR code links directly to the web page on the local clerk's website
- 2376 described in Section 20A-7-604.5; and
- 2377 (iii) include the following statement adjacent to the QR code in not less than 8-point,
- 2378 bold type: "This QR code provides access to a website that includes the full text of
- 2379 the law that is the subject of this referendum petition.";
- 2380 (e) be vertically divided into columns immediately below the title of the initiative, as
- 2381 follows:
- 2382 (i) the first column shall begin .5 inch from the left side of the paper, be .25 inch
- 2383 wide, and be headed, together with the second column, "For Office Use Only";
- 2384 (ii) the second column shall be .25 inch wide;
- 2385 (iii) the third column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed
- 2386 Name (must be legible to be counted)";
- 2387 (iv) the fourth column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered
- 2388 Voter";
- 2389 (v) the fifth column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Date Signed";
- 2390 (vi) the sixth column shall be three inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip
- 2391 Code"; and
- 2392 (vii) the seventh column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age
- 2393 (Optional); and
- 2394 (f) be horizontally divided into rows as follows:
- 2395 (i) the first row shall be .5 inch high for purposes of a registered voter's entry of the
- 2396 information described in Subsection (3)(e); and
- 2397 (ii) the second row shall span the width of each column described in Subsection (3)(e)
- 2398 and contain the following statement in 11-point type: "By signing this referendum
- 2399 petition, you are stating that you had an opportunity to read and understand the
- 2400 law that this referendum petition seeks to overturn.".
- 2401 [~~(d) include a table immediately below the title of the referendum, and beginning .5 inch~~
- 2402 ~~from the left side of the paper, as follows:]~~
- 2403 [~~(i) the first column shall be .5 inch wide and include three rows;]~~
- 2404 [~~(ii) the first row of the first column shall be .85 inch tall and contain the words "For~~
- 2405 ~~Office Use Only" in 10-point type;]~~
- 2406 [~~(iii) the second row of the first column shall be .35 inch tall;]~~
- 2407 [~~(iv) the third row of the first column shall be .5 inch tall;]~~

2408 [(v) the second column shall be 2.75 inches wide;]
 2409 [(vi) the first row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
 2410 "Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)" in 10-point
 2411 type;]
 2412 [(vii) the second row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;]
 2413 [(viii) the third row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
 2414 "Street Address, City, Zip Code" in 10-point type;]
 2415 [(ix) the fourth row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;]
 2416 [(x) the third column shall be 2.75 inches wide;]
 2417 [(xi) the first row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
 2418 "Signature of Registered Voter" in 10-point type;]
 2419 [(xii) the second row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;]
 2420 [(xiii) the third row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
 2421 "Email Address (optional, to receive additional information)" in 10-point type;]
 2422 [(xiv) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;]
 2423 [(xv) the fourth column shall be one inch wide;]
 2424 [(xvi) the first row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
 2425 "Date Signed" in 10-point type;]
 2426 [(xvii) the second row of the fourth column shall be .5 inch tall;]
 2427 [(xviii) the third row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
 2428 "Birth Date or Age (optional)" in 10-point type;]
 2429 [(xix) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall; and]
 2430 [(xx) the fifth row of the entire table shall be the width of the entire table, .4 inch tall,
 2431 and contain the following words, "By signing this referendum petition, you are
 2432 stating that you have read and understand the law that this referendum petition
 2433 seeks to overturn." in 12-point type;]
 2434 [(e)] (4) [the table described in Subsection (3)(d)] The columns and rows described in
 2435 Subsections (3)(e) and (f) shall be repeated, leaving sufficient room at the bottom of the
 2436 sheet [or] for the information described in Subsection [(3)(f); and] (5).
 2437 [(f)] (5) [at the bottom of the sheet, include] The bottom of the signature sheet shall include,
 2438 in the following order:
 2439 (a) the following statement in 12-point, bold type:
 2440 "This referendum petition seeks to have (description of local law or portion of
 2441 local law being challenged), passed by the _____ be referred to the voters for their

2442 approval or rejection at the regular/municipal general election to be held on
 2443 _____ (month\day\year)."; and

2444 (b) the word "Warning," in 12-point, bold type, followed by the following statement in not less
 2445 than eight-point type:

2446 "It is a class A misdemeanor [~~for an individual to sign a referendum petition with a name~~
 2447 ~~other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than~~
 2448 ~~once for the same referendum petition, or to sign a referendum petition when the individual~~
 2449 ~~knows that the individual is not a registered voter] to sign a referendum petition using a name
 2450 other than your own name, to sign more than once, or to sign if you are not a registered voter.
 2451 [~~Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity~~
 2452 ~~with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be~~
 2453 ~~verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified~~
 2454 ~~or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records] Providing
 2455 your birth date or age is optional, but it may be used to verify your identity. If you do not
 2456 provide it, your signature may not be validated if your address changes or if the information
 2457 you provide does not match your voter registration record."~~~~

2458 [(4) The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the following printed or typed
 2459 statement:

2460 "Verification of signature collector

2461 State of Utah, County of _____

2462 I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

2463 I am at least 18 years old;

2464 All the names that appear in this packet were signed by individuals who professed to be
 2465 the individuals whose names appear in it, and each of the individuals signed the individual's
 2466 name on it in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a qualifying disability, I have
 2467 signed this referendum petition on the individual's behalf, at the direction of the individual and
 2468 in the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV" as the individual's signature;

2469 _____ I certify that, for each individual whose signature is represented in this referendum
 2470 packet by the initials "AV":

2471 _____ I obtained the individual's voluntary direction or consent to sign the
 2472 referendum petition on the individual's behalf;

2473 _____ I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual lacked the
 2474 mental capacity to give direction or consent;

2475 _____ I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual did not

2476 understand the purpose or nature of my signing the referendum petition on the individual's
2477 behalf;

2478 ~~———— I did not intentionally or knowingly deceive the individual into directing me to,~~
2479 ~~or consenting for me to, sign the referendum petition on the individual's behalf; and~~

2480 ~~———— I did not intentionally or knowingly enter false information on the signature~~
2481 ~~sheet;~~

2482 I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law this petition
2483 seeks to overturn; and

2484 I believe that each individual's name, post office address, and residence is written
2485 correctly, that each signer has read the law that the referendum seeks to overturn, and that each
2486 signer is registered to vote in Utah.

2487 _____
2488 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)

2489 The correct date of signature appears next to each individual's name.

2490 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this referendum
2491 packet to encourage that individual to sign it.

2492 _____
2493 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)"]

2494 [(5)] (6) The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the circulator verification
2495 sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

2496 (7) If the forms described in this section are substantially followed, the referendum
2497 petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

2498 Section 27. Section **20A-7-604** is amended to read:

2499 **20A-7-604 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual referendum process -- Circulation**
2500 **requirements -- Local clerk to provide sponsors with materials.**

2501 (1) This section applies only to the manual referendum process.

2502 (2)(a) In order to obtain the necessary number of signatures required by this part, the
2503 sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, after the sponsors receive the documents
2504 described in Subsections (3) and 20A-7-401.5(4)(b), circulate referendum packets
2505 that meet the form requirements of this part.

2506 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may circulate referendum packets using
2507 traditional referendum packets, condensed referendum packets, or both.

2508 (3) Within five calendar days after the day on which a county, city, town, or court
2509 determines, in accordance with Section 20A-7-602.7, that a proposed referendum is

- 2510 legally referable to voters, the local clerk shall provide the sponsors with:
- 2511 (a) a copy of the referendum petition;
- 2512 (b) a signature sheet; and
- 2513 (c) a copy of the proposition information pamphlet provided to the sponsors under
- 2514 Subsection 20A-7-401.5(4)(b).
- 2515 (4) The sponsors of the referendum petition shall:
- 2516 (a) arrange and pay for the printing of all documents that are part of the referendum
- 2517 packets; and
- 2518 (b) ensure that the referendum packets and the documents described in Subsection (4)(a)
- 2519 meet the form requirements of this section.
- 2520 (5)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may prepare the referendum packets for
- 2521 circulation by creating multiple referendum packets.
- 2522 (b) ~~[The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall create referendum packets by binding~~
- 2523 ~~a copy of the referendum petition with the text of the law that is the subject of the~~
- 2524 ~~referendum and no more than 50 signature sheets together at the top in a manner that~~
- 2525 ~~the referendum packets may be conveniently opened for signing.] The sponsors or an~~
- 2526 agent of the sponsors shall create referendum packets by:
- 2527 (i) binding the components of each referendum packet together at the top in a manner
- 2528 that secures all components of the initiative packet together;
- 2529 (ii) arranging the components in the following order:
- 2530 (A) a copy of the referendum petition;
- 2531 (B) if the referendum packet is a traditional referendum packet, a copy of the law
- 2532 that is the subject of the referendum petition;
- 2533 (C) the signature sheets; and
- 2534 (D) the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1);
- 2535 (iii) including no more than 50 signature sheets in each referendum packet; and
- 2536 (iv) binding the referendum packet in a manner that allows the referendum packet to
- 2537 be conveniently opened for signing.
- 2538 (c) A referendum packet is not required to have a uniform number of signature sheets.
- 2539 (d) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall include, with each packet, a copy of
- 2540 the proposition information pamphlet provided to the sponsors under Subsection
- 2541 20A-7-401.5(4)(b).
- 2542 (6)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, before gathering signatures:
- 2543 (i) ensure that the sponsors or any agent of the sponsors who gathers signatures have

- 2544 completed the online training course described in Section 20A-1-1005;
 2545 (ii) contact the county clerk to receive a range of numbers that the sponsors may use
 2546 to number referendum packets;
 2547 [(iii)] (iii) sign an agreement with the local clerk, specifying:
 2548 (A) whether the sponsors or an agent of the sponsors will circulate referendum
 2549 packets using traditional referendum packets, condensed referendum packets,
 2550 or both; and
 2551 (B) the range of numbers that the sponsor will use to number the referendum
 2552 packets; and
 2553 [(iii)] (iv) number each referendum packet, sequentially, within the range of numbers
 2554 provided by the county clerk, starting with the lowest number in the range.
 2555 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may not:
 2556 (i) number a referendum packet in a manner not directed by the county clerk; or
 2557 (ii) circulate or submit a referendum packet that is not numbered in the manner
 2558 directed by the county clerk.

2559 Section 28. Section **20A-8-103** is amended to read:

2560 **20A-8-103 (Effective 05/06/26). Petition procedures -- Criminal penalty --**

2561 **Removal of signature.**

- 2562 (1) As used in this section, the proposed name or emblem of a registered political party is
 2563 "distinguishable" if a reasonable person of average intelligence will be able to perceive a
 2564 difference between the proposed name or emblem and any name or emblem currently
 2565 being used by another registered political party.
 2566 (2) To become a registered political party, an organization of registered voters that is not a
 2567 continuing political party shall:
 2568 (a) circulate a petition seeking registered political party status beginning no earlier than
 2569 the date of the statewide canvass held after the last regular general election and
 2570 ending before 5 p.m. no later than November 30 of the year before the year in which
 2571 the next regular general election will be held;
 2572 (b) file a petition with the lieutenant governor that is signed, with a holographic
 2573 signature, by at least 2,000 registered voters before 5 p.m. no later than November 30
 2574 of the year in which a regular general election will be held; and
 2575 (c) file, with the petition described in Subsection (2)(b), a document certifying:
 2576 (i) the identity of one or more registered political parties whose members may vote
 2577 for the organization's candidates;

- 2578 (ii) whether unaffiliated voters may vote for the organization's candidates; and
 2579 (iii) whether, for the next election, the organization intends to nominate the
 2580 organization's candidates in accordance with the provisions of Section 20A-9-406.

2581 (3) The petition shall:

- 2582 (a) be on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
 2583 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space above that line
 2584 blank for the purpose of binding;
 2585 (c) contain the name of the political party and the words "Political Party Registration
 2586 Petition" printed directly below the horizontal line;
 2587 (d) contain the word "Warning" printed directly under the words described in Subsection
 2588 (3)(c);
 2589 (e) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed in not less than
 2590 eight-point, single leaded type:

2591 "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a political party registration
 2592 petition signature sheet with any name other than the individual's own name or more than once
 2593 for the same party or if the individual is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend
 2594 to become registered to vote in this state before the petition is submitted to the lieutenant
 2595 governor.";

2596 (f) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in Subsection (3)(e):

2597 "POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION PETITION To the Honorable _____,
 2598 Lieutenant Governor:

2599 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, seek registered political party status for _____
 2600 (name);

2601 Each signer says:

2602 I have personally signed this petition with a holographic signature;

2603 I am registered to vote in Utah or will register to vote in Utah before the petition is
 2604 submitted to the lieutenant governor;

2605 I am or desire to become a member of the political party; and

2606 My street address is written correctly after my name.";

2607 (g) be vertically divided into columns as follows:

2608 (i) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be 5/8 inch wide, be
 2609 headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical line
 2610 down the middle;

2611 (ii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed

- 2612 Name (must be legible to be counted)";
- 2613 (iii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Holographic Signature of
- 2614 Registered Voter";
- 2615 (iv) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age (Optional)";
- 2616 (v) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip
- 2617 Code"; and
- 2618 (vi) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age
- 2619 information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with voter
- 2620 registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be
- 2621 certified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures
- 2622 are certified or if the information you provide does not match your voter
- 2623 registration records.";

2624 ~~[(h) have a final page bound to one or more signature sheets that are bound together that~~
 2625 ~~contains the following printed statement:~~

2626 "Verification

2627 State of Utah, County of _____

2628 I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:

2629 I am at least 18 years old;

2630 ~~All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were signed by~~
 2631 ~~individuals who professed to be the individuals whose names appear on the signature sheets,~~
 2632 ~~and each individual signed the individual's name on the signature sheets in my presence;~~

2633 ~~I believe that each individual has printed and signed the individual's name and written~~
 2634 ~~the individual's street address correctly, and that each individual is registered to vote in Utah or~~
 2635 ~~will register to vote in Utah before the petition is submitted to the lieutenant governor.~~

2636 _____
 2637 ~~(Signature) (Residence Address) (Date)"; and]~~

2638 ~~[(†)] (h) have a final page bound to one or more signature sheets that contains the~~
 2639 ~~circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1); and~~

2640 ~~(i) be bound to a cover sheet that:~~

2641 ~~(i) identifies the political party's name, which may not exceed four words, and the~~
 2642 ~~emblem of the party;~~

2643 ~~(ii) states the process that the organization will follow to organize and adopt a~~
 2644 ~~constitution and bylaws; and~~

2645 ~~(iii) is signed by a filing officer, who agrees to receive communications on behalf of~~

- 2646 the organization.
- 2647 (4) The filing officer described in Subsection (3)(i)(iii) shall ensure that the individual in
2648 whose presence each signature sheet is signed:
- 2649 (a) is at least 18 years old; and
- 2650 (b) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification bound to one or more
2651 signature sheets that are bound together.
- 2652 (5) An individual may not sign the verification if the individual signed a signature sheet
2653 bound to the verification.
- 2654 (6) The lieutenant governor shall:
- 2655 (a) use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to determine whether a signer is
2656 a registered voter;
- 2657 (b) review the proposed name and emblem to determine if they are "distinguishable"
2658 from the names and emblems of other registered political parties; and
- 2659 (c) certify the lieutenant governor's findings to the filing officer described in Subsection
2660 (3)(i)(iii) within 30 calendar days after the day on which the organization files the
2661 petition described in Subsection (2)(b).
- 2662 (7)(a) If the lieutenant governor determines that the petition meets the requirements of
2663 this section, and that the proposed name and emblem are distinguishable, the
2664 lieutenant governor shall authorize the filing officer described in Subsection (3)(i)(iii)
2665 to organize the prospective political party.
- 2666 (b) If the lieutenant governor finds that the name, emblem, or both are not
2667 distinguishable from the names and emblems of other registered political parties, the
2668 lieutenant governor shall notify the filing officer that the filing officer has seven
2669 calendar days to electronically submit a new name or emblem to the lieutenant
2670 governor.
- 2671 (8) A registered political party may not change [its] the registered political party's name or
2672 emblem during the regular general election cycle.
- 2673 (9)(a) It is unlawful for an individual to:
- 2674 (i) knowingly sign a political party registration petition:
- 2675 (A) with any name other than the individual's own name;
- 2676 (B) more than once for the same political party; or
- 2677 (C) if the individual is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
2678 become registered to vote in this state before the petition is submitted to the
2679 lieutenant governor; or

- 2680 (ii) sign the verification of a political party registration petition signature sheet if the
2681 individual:
- 2682 (A) has not witnessed the signing by those individuals whose names appear on the
2683 political party registration petition signature sheet; or
- 2684 (B) knows that an individual whose signature appears on the political party
2685 registration petition signature sheet is not registered to vote in this state and
2686 does not intend to become registered to vote in this state.
- 2687 (b) An individual who violates this Subsection (9) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
- 2688 (10)(a) A voter who signs a petition under this section may have the voter's signature
2689 removed from the petition by, no later than three business days after the day on
2690 which the petition is filed with the lieutenant governor, submitting to the lieutenant
2691 governor a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.
- 2692 (b) A statement described in Subsection (10)(a) shall comply with the requirements
2693 described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
- 2694 (c) The lieutenant governor shall use the procedures described in Subsection
2695 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a
2696 petition after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.
- 2697 Section 29. Section **20A-9-405** is amended to read:
- 2698 **20A-9-405 (Effective 05/06/26). Nomination petitions for regular primary**
2699 **elections.**
- 2700 (1) This section applies to the form and circulation of nomination petitions for regular
2701 primary elections described in Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(a).
- 2702 (2) A candidate for elective office, and the agents of the candidate, may not circulate
2703 nomination petitions until the candidate has submitted a declaration of candidacy in
2704 accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(1).
- 2705 (3) For the manual candidate qualification process, the nomination petitions shall be in
2706 substantially the following form:
- 2707 (a) the petition shall be printed on paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
- 2708 (b) the petition shall be ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space
2709 above that line blank for purposes of binding;
- 2710 (c) the petition shall be headed by a caption stating the purpose of the petition and the
2711 name of the proposed candidate;
- 2712 (d) the petition shall feature the word "Warning" followed by the following statement in
2713 no less than eight-point, single leaded type: "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone

2714 to knowingly sign a nomination petition with any name other than the person's own
 2715 name, or more than once for the same candidate, or if the person is not registered to
 2716 vote in this state.";

2717 (e) the petition shall feature 10 lines spaced one-half inch apart and consecutively
 2718 numbered one through 10;

2719 (f) the signature portion of the petition shall be divided into columns headed by the
 2720 following titles:

2721 (i) Registered Voter's Printed Name;

2722 (ii) Signature of Registered Voter;

2723 (iii) Party Affiliation of Registered Voter;

2724 (iv) Birth Date or Age (Optional);

2725 (v) Street Address, City, Zip Code; and

2726 (vi) Date of Signature; and

2727 (g) a photograph of the candidate may appear on the nomination petition.

2728 (4) For the electronic candidate qualification process, the lieutenant governor shall design
 2729 an electronic form, using progressive screens, that includes:

2730 (a) the following warning:

2731 "Warning: It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a nomination
 2732 petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more than once for the same
 2733 candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this state."; and

2734 (b) the following information for each individual who signs the petition:

2735 (i) name;

2736 (ii) party affiliation;

2737 (iii) date of birth or age, (optional);

2738 (iv) street address, city, zip code;

2739 (v) date of signature;

2740 (vi) other information required under Section 20A-21-201; and

2741 (vii) other information required by the lieutenant governor.

2742 [~~5) For the manual candidate qualification process, if one or more nomination petitions are~~
 2743 ~~bound together, a page shall be bound to the nomination petition(s) that features the following~~
 2744 ~~printed verification statement to be signed and dated by the petition circulator:~~

2745 ~~"Verification~~

2746 ~~State of Utah, County of _____~~

2747 ~~I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:~~

- 2748 I am at least 18 years old;
- 2749 All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were, to the best of
- 2750 my knowledge, signed by the persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear on
- 2751 the signature sheets, and each of them signed the person's name on the signature sheets in my
- 2752 presence;
- 2753 I believe that each has printed and signed the person's name and written the person's
- 2754 street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah."]
- 2755 [(6)] (5) For the manual candidate qualification process, if one or more nomination petitions
- 2756 are bound together, a final page shall be bound to the nomination petition(s) that
- 2757 contains the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).
- 2758 (6) The lieutenant governor shall prepare and make public model nomination petition forms
- 2759 and associated instructions.
- 2760 (7) A nomination petition circulator:
- 2761 (a) must be at least 18 years old; and
- 2762 (b) may affiliate with any political party.
- 2763 (8) It is unlawful for any person to:
- 2764 (a) knowingly sign the nomination petition described in this section or Section
- 2765 20A-9-408:
- 2766 (i) with any name other than the person's own name;
- 2767 (ii) more than once for the same candidate; or
- 2768 (iii) if the person is not registered to vote in this state;
- 2769 (b) sign the verification of a signature for a nomination petition if the person:
- 2770 (i) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the
- 2771 nomination petition; or
- 2772 (ii) knows that a person whose signature appears on the nomination petition is not
- 2773 registered to vote in this state;
- 2774 (c) pay [~~compensation to~~] any person to sign a nomination petition; or
- 2775 (d) pay [~~compensation to~~] any person to circulate a nomination petition[~~, if the~~
- 2776 ~~compensation is based directly on the number of signatures submitted to a filing~~
- 2777 ~~officer rather than on the number of signatures verified or on some other basis.]~~
- 2778 unless the payment is based on:
- 2779 (i) an hourly rate; or
- 2780 (ii) a rate per valid signature.
- 2781 (9) Any person violating Subsection (8) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

2782 (10)(a) A voter who signs a nomination petition may have the voter's signature removed
2783 from the petition by, no later than three business days after the day on which the
2784 candidate files the petition with the appropriate filing officer, submitting to the filing
2785 officer a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

2786 (b) A statement described in Subsection (10)(a) shall comply with the requirements
2787 described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

2788 (c) The filing officer shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to
2789 determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a nomination petition
2790 after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

2791 Section 30. Section **20A-9-502** is amended to read:

2792 **20A-9-502 (Effective 05/06/26). Certificate of nomination -- Contents --**
2793 **Circulation -- Verification -- Criminal penalty -- Removal of petition signature.**

2794 (1) The candidate shall:

2795 (a) prepare a certificate of nomination in substantially the following form:

2796 "State of Utah, County of _____

2797 I, _____, declare my intention of becoming an unaffiliated candidate for the
2798 political group designated as ____ for the office of _____. I do solemnly swear that I can
2799 qualify to hold that office both legally and constitutionally if selected, and that I reside at ____
2800 Street, in the city of _____, county of _____, state of _____, zip code _____, phone _____, and
2801 that I am providing, or have provided, the required number of holographic signatures of
2802 registered voters required by law; that as a candidate at the next election I will not knowingly
2803 violate any election or campaign law; that, if filing via a designated agent for an office other
2804 than president of the United States, I will be out of the state of Utah during the entire candidate
2805 filing period; I will file all campaign financial disclosure reports as required by law; and I
2806 understand that failure to do so will result in my disqualification as a candidate for this office
2807 and removal of my name from the ballot.

2808 _____

2809 Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____(month\day\year).

2810 _____

2811 _____
Notary Public (or other officer

2812

qualified to administer oaths)");

2813 (b) for each signature packet, bind signature sheets to a copy of the certificate of
2814 nomination and the circulator verification, that:

2815 (i) are printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

2816 (ii) are ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space above that
2817 line blank for the purpose of binding;

2818 (iii) contain the name of the proposed candidate and the words "Unaffiliated
2819 Candidate Certificate of Nomination Petition" printed directly below the
2820 horizontal line;

2821 (iv) contain the word "Warning" printed directly under the words described in
2822 Subsection (1)(b)(iii);

2823 (v) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed in not less than
2824 eight-point, single leaded type:

2825 "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a certificate of nomination
2826 signature sheet with any name other than the person's own name or more than once for the
2827 same candidate or if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
2828 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the signatures.";

2829 (vi) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in Subsection
2830 (1)(b)(v):

2831 "Each signer says:

2832 I have personally signed this petition with a holographic signature;

2833 I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the
2834 county clerk certifies my signature; and

2835 My street address is written correctly after my name.";

2836 (vii) contain horizontally ruled lines, 3/8 inch apart under the statement described in
2837 Subsection (1)(b)(vi); and

2838 (viii) be vertically divided into columns as follows:

2839 (A) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be 5/8 inch wide,
2840 be headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical
2841 line down the middle;

2842 (B) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's
2843 Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)";

2844 (C) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Holographic Signature of

2845 Registered Voter";
 2846 (D) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age
 2847 (Optional)";
 2848 (E) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip
 2849 Code"; and
 2850 (F) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age
 2851 information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with
 2852 voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may
 2853 not be certified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition
 2854 signatures are certified or if the information you provide does not match your
 2855 voter registration records."; and

2856 (c) bind a final page to one or more signature sheets that contains the circulator
 2857 verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

2858 ~~[(e) bind a final page to one or more signature sheets that are bound together that contains,~~
 2859 ~~except as provided by Subsection (3), the following printed statement:~~

2860 ~~"Verification~~

2861 ~~State of Utah, County of _____~~

2862 ~~I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:~~

2863 ~~I am at least 18 years old;~~

2864 ~~All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were signed by~~
 2865 ~~persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear on the signature sheets, and each~~
 2866 ~~of them signed the person's name on the signature sheets in my presence;~~

2867 ~~I believe that each has printed and signed the person's name and written the person's~~
 2868 ~~street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah or will register to~~
 2869 ~~vote in Utah before the county clerk certifies the signatures on the signature sheet.~~

2870

2871 ~~(Signature) (Residence Address) (Date)"]~~

2872 (2) An agent designated to file a certificate of nomination under Subsection
 2873 20A-9-503(2)(b) or (4)(b) may not sign the form described in Subsection (1)(a).

2874 (3)(a) The candidate shall circulate the nomination petition and ensure that the person in
 2875 whose presence each signature sheet is signed:

2876 (i) is at least 18 years old; and

2877 (ii) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification bound to one or more
 2878 signature sheets that are bound together.

- 2879 (b) A person may not sign the circulator verification if the person signed a signature
2880 sheet bound to the verification.
- 2881 (4)(a) It is unlawful for any person to:
- 2882 (i) knowingly sign a certificate of nomination signature sheet:
- 2883 (A) with any name other than the person's own name;
- 2884 (B) more than once for the same candidate; or
- 2885 (C) if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
2886 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the
2887 signatures; or
- 2888 (ii) sign the verification of a certificate of nomination signature sheet if the person:
- 2889 (A) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the
2890 certificate of nomination signature sheet; or
- 2891 (B) knows that a person whose signature appears on the certificate of nomination
2892 signature sheet is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
2893 become registered to vote in this state.
- 2894 (b) Any person violating this Subsection (4) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
- 2895 (5)(a) To qualify for placement on the general election ballot, the candidate shall, no
2896 earlier than the start of the applicable declaration of candidacy period described in
2897 Section 20A-9-201.5 and no later than 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in which the
2898 election will be held:
- 2899 (i) comply with Subsection 20A-9-503(1); and
- 2900 (ii) submit each signature packet to the county clerk where the majority of the
2901 signatures in the packet were collected, with signatures totaling:
- 2902 (A) at least 1,000 registered voters residing within the state when the nomination
2903 is for an office to be filled by the voters of the entire state; or
- 2904 (B) at least 300 registered voters residing within a political division or at least 5%
2905 of the registered voters residing within a political division, whichever is less,
2906 when the nomination is for an office to be filled by the voters of any political
2907 division smaller than the state.
- 2908 (b) A candidate has not complied with Subsection (5)(a)(ii), unless the county clerks
2909 verify that each required signature is a valid signature of a registered voter who is
2910 eligible to sign the signature packet and has not signed a signature packet to nominate
2911 another candidate for the same office.
- 2912 (c) In reviewing the signature packets, the county clerk shall count and certify only those

- 2913 persons who signed with a holographic signature, who:
- 2914 (i) are registered voters within the political division that the candidate seeks to
- 2915 represent; and
- 2916 (ii) did not sign any other certificate of nomination for that office.
- 2917 (d) The county clerk shall count and certify the number of registered voters who validly
- 2918 signed a signature packet, no later than 30 calendar days after the day on which the
- 2919 candidate submits the signature packet.
- 2920 (e) The candidate may supplement the signatures or amend the certificate of nomination
- 2921 or declaration of candidacy at any time on or before 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in
- 2922 which the election will be held.
- 2923 (f) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to
- 2924 determine whether a signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature
- 2925 packet.
- 2926 (6)(a) A voter who signs a signature packet under this section may have the voter's
- 2927 signature removed from the signature packet by, no later than 5 p.m. three business
- 2928 days after the day on which the candidate submits the signature packet to the county
- 2929 clerk, submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature
- 2930 be removed.
- 2931 (b) A statement described in Subsection (6)(a) shall comply with the requirements
- 2932 described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
- 2933 (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to
- 2934 determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a signature packet after
- 2935 receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.
- 2936 Section 31. Section **20A-21-201** is amended to read:
- 2937 **20A-21-201 (Effective 05/06/26). Electronic signature gathering for an initiative,**
- 2938 **a referendum, or candidate qualification.**
- 2939 (1) After filing a petition for a statewide initiative or a statewide referendum, and before
- 2940 gathering signatures, the sponsors shall, after consulting with the Office of the
- 2941 Lieutenant Governor, sign a form provided by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- 2942 indicating whether the sponsors will gather signatures manually, electronically, or both.
- 2943 (2) After filing a petition for a local initiative or a local referendum, and before gathering
- 2944 signatures, the sponsors shall, after consulting with the local clerk's office, sign a form
- 2945 provided by the local clerk's office indicating whether the sponsors will gather
- 2946 signatures manually, electronically, or both.

- 2947 (3) After a candidate files a notice of intent to gather signatures to qualify for a ballot, and
2948 before gathering signatures, the candidate shall, after consulting with the election
2949 officer, sign a form provided by the election officer indicating whether the candidate
2950 will gather signatures manually, electronically, or both.
- 2951 (4) To gather a signature electronically, a signature-gatherer shall:
- 2952 (a) use a device provided by the signature-gatherer or a sponsor of the petition that:
- 2953 (i) is approved by the lieutenant governor;
- 2954 (ii) except as provided in Subsection (4)(a)(iii), does not store a signature or any
2955 other information relating to an individual signing the petition in any location
2956 other than the location used by the website to store the information;
- 2957 (iii) does not, on the device, store a signature or any other information relating to an
2958 individual signing the petition except for the minimum time necessary to upload
2959 information to the website;
- 2960 (iv) does not contain any applications, software, or data other than those approved by
2961 the lieutenant governor; and
- 2962 (v) complies with cyber-security and other security protocols required by the
2963 lieutenant governor;
- 2964 (b) use the approved device to securely access a website designated by the lieutenant
2965 governor, directly, or via an application designated by the lieutenant governor; and
- 2966 (c) while connected to the website, present the approved device to an individual
2967 considering signing the petition and, while the signature-gatherer is in the physical
2968 presence of the individual:
- 2969 (i) wait for the individual to reach each screen presented to the individual on the
2970 approved device; and
- 2971 (ii) wait for the individual to advance to each subsequent screen by clicking on the
2972 acknowledgement at the bottom of the screen.
- 2973 (5) Each screen shown on an approved device as part of the signature-gathering process
2974 shall appear as a continuous electronic document that, if the entire document does not
2975 appear on the screen at once, requires the individual viewing the screen to, before
2976 advancing to the next screen, scroll through the document until the individual reaches
2977 the end of the document.
- 2978 (6) After advancing through each screen required for the petition, the signature process
2979 shall proceed as follows:
- 2980 (a) except as provided in Subsection (6)(b):

- 2981 (i) the individual desiring to sign the petition shall present the individual's driver
2982 license or state identification card to the signature-gatherer;
- 2983 (ii) the signature-gatherer shall verify that the individual pictured on the driver
2984 license or state identification card is the individual signing the petition;
- 2985 (iii) the signature-gatherer shall scan or enter the driver license number or state
2986 identification card number through the approved device; and
- 2987 (iv) immediately after the signature-gatherer complies with Subsection (6)(a)(iii), the
2988 website shall determine whether the individual desiring to sign the petition is
2989 eligible to sign the petition;
- 2990 (b) if the individual desiring to sign the petition is unable to provide a driver license or
2991 state identification card to the signature gatherer:
- 2992 (i) the individual may present other valid voter identification;
- 2993 (ii) if the valid voter identification contains a picture of the individual, the
2994 signature-gatherer shall verify that the individual pictured is the individual signing
2995 the petition;
- 2996 (iii) if the valid voter identification does not contain a picture of the individual, the
2997 signature-gatherer shall, to the extent reasonably practicable, use the individual's
2998 address or other available means to determine whether the identification relates to
2999 the individual presenting the identification;
- 3000 (iv) the signature-gatherer shall scan an image of the valid voter identification and
3001 immediately upload the image to the website; and
- 3002 (v) the individual:
- 3003 (A) shall enter the individual's address; and
- 3004 (B) may, at the discretion of the individual, enter the individual's date of birth or
3005 age after the individual clicks on the screen acknowledging that they have read
3006 and understand the following statement, "Birth date or age information is not
3007 required, but may be used to verify your identity with voter registration
3008 records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be verified as a
3009 valid signature if you change your address before your signature is verified or
3010 if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records.";
- 3011 and
- 3012 (c) after completing the process described in Subsection (6)(a) or (b), the screen shall:
- 3013 (i) except for a petition to qualify a candidate for the ballot, give the individual
3014 signing the petition the opportunity to enter the individual's email address after the

3015 individual reads the following statement, "If you provide your email address, you
 3016 may receive an email with additional information relating to the petition you are
 3017 signing."; and

3018 (ii)(A) if the website determines, under Subsection (6)(a)(iv), that the individual is
 3019 eligible to sign the petition, permit the individual to enter the individual's name
 3020 as the individual's electronic signature and, immediately after the
 3021 signature-gatherer timely complies with Subsection (10), certify the signature; or
 3022 (B) if the individual provides valid voter identification under Subsection (6)(b),
 3023 permit the individual to enter the individual's name as the individual's
 3024 electronic signature.

3025 (7) If an individual provides valid voter identification under Subsection (6)(b), the county
 3026 clerk shall, within seven calendar days after the day on which the individual submits the
 3027 valid voter identification, certify the signature if:

3028 (a) the individual is eligible to sign the petition;
 3029 (b) the identification provided matches the information on file; and
 3030 (c) the signature-gatherer timely complies with Subsection (10).

3031 (8) For each signature submitted under this section, the website shall record:

3032 (a) the information identifying the individual who signs;
 3033 (b) the date the signature was collected; and
 3034 (c) the name of the signature-gatherer.

3035 (9) An individual who is a signature-gatherer may not sign a petition unless another
 3036 individual acts as the signature-gatherer when the individual signs the petition.

3037 ~~[(10) Except for a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political party,~~
 3038 ~~each individual who gathers a signature under this section shall, within one business day after~~
 3039 ~~the day on which the individual gathers a signature, electronically sign and submit the~~
 3040 ~~following statement to the website:~~

3041 ~~"VERIFICATION OF SIGNATURE-GATHERER~~

3042 ~~State of Utah, County of _____~~

3043 ~~I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:~~

3044 ~~I am at least 18 years old;~~

3045 ~~All the signatures that I collected on [Date signatures were gathered] were signed by~~

3046 ~~individuals who professed to be the individuals whose signatures I gathered, and each of the~~
 3047 ~~individuals signed the petition in my presence;~~

3048 ~~I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law or proposed~~

3049 law to which the petition relates;

3050 I believe that each individual has signed the individual's name and written the
3051 individual's residence correctly, that each signer has read and understands the law to which the
3052 petition relates, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah;

3053 Each signature correctly reflects the date on which the individual signed the petition;
3054 and

3055 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this petition to
3056 encourage that individual to sign it."]

3057 [(H)] (10) Except for a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered
3058 political party, each individual who gathers a signature under this section shall, within
3059 one business day after the day on which the individual gathers a signature, electronically
3060 sign and submit the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1)
3061 to the website.

3062 (11) Except for a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political
3063 party:

3064 (a) the county clerk may not certify a signature that is not timely verified in accordance
3065 with Subsection (10); and

3066 (b) if a signature certified by a county clerk under Subsection (6)(c)(ii)(A) is not timely
3067 verified in accordance with Subsection (10), the county clerk shall:

3068 (i) revoke the certification;

3069 (ii) remove the signature from the posting described in Subsection 20A-7-217(4),
3070 20A-7-315(4), 20A-7-516(4), or 20A-7-616(4); and

3071 (iii) update the totals described in Subsections 20A-7-217(5)(a)(ii),
3072 20A-7-315(5)(a)(ii), 20A-7-516(5)(a)(ii), and 20A-7-616(5)(a)(ii).

3073 [(12) For a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political party, each
3074 individual who gathers a signature under this section shall, within one business day after the
3075 day on which the individual gathers a signature, electronically sign and submit the following
3076 statement to the lieutenant governor in the manner specified by the lieutenant governor:

3077 "VERIFICATION OF SIGNATURE-GATHERER

3078 State of Utah, County of _____

3079 I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:

3080 I am at least 18 years old;

3081 All the signatures that I collected on [Date signatures were gathered] were signed by
3082 individuals who professed to be the individuals whose signatures I gathered, and each of the

3083 individuals signed the petition in my presence;

3084 I believe that each individual has signed the individual's name and written the
3085 individual's residence correctly and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah; and

3086 Each signature correctly reflects the date on which the individual signed the petition."]

3087 (12) For a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political party,
3088 each individual who gathers a signature under this section shall, within one business day
3089 after the day on which the individual gathers a signature, electronically sign and submit
3090 the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1) to the lieutenant
3091 governor in the manner specified by the lieutenant governor.

3092 (13) For a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political party, the
3093 election officer may not certify a signature that is not timely verified in accordance with
3094 Subsection (12).

3095 Section 32. Section **63I-2-220** is amended to read:

3096 **63I-2-220 (Effective 05/06/26). Repeal dates: Title 20A.**

3097 (1) Section 20A-7-103.1, Constitutional amendments proposed during specified timeframe
3098 -- Analysis -- Arguments -- Publication, is repealed July 1, 2025.

3099 [(2) Title 20A, Chapter 4, Part 6, Municipal Alternate Voting Methods Pilot Project, is
3100 repealed January 1, 2026.]

3101 (2) Subsection 20A-7-105(5)(c), regarding the email that the sponsors of an initiative
3102 petition send to certain individuals before delivering an initiative packet to the county
3103 clerk, is repealed January 1, 2027.

3104 (3) Subsection 20A-7-105(5)(d), regarding the email recipient list and written verification
3105 that the sponsors of a statewide initiative petition submit to the lieutenant governor, is
3106 repealed January 1, 2027.

3107 (4) Subsection 20A-7-105(5)(e), regarding the email recipient list and written verification
3108 that the sponsors of a local initiative petition submit to the local clerk, is repealed
3109 January 1, 2027.

3110 (5) Subsection 20A-7-105(5)(f), regarding the validity of signatures gathered for an
3111 initiative petition, is repealed January 1, 2027.

3112 Section 33. **Effective Date.**

3113 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), this bill takes effect May 6, 2026.

3114 (2) The actions affecting Section 20A-1-1002 (Effective 07/01/27) take effect on July 1,
3115 2027.