

Sahara Hayes proposes the following substitute bill:

1

Political Advertising Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Sahara Hayes

Senate Sponsor:

2

3

LONG TITLE

4

General Description:

5

This bill amends provisions related to political advertising.

6

Highlighted Provisions:

7

This bill:

8

▸ defines terms;

9

▸ specifies that an electioneering communication or a political advertisement includes a

10

communication or advertisement disseminated on a social media platform;

11

▸ clarifies campaign finance disclosure requirements when more than one person pays for a single political advertisement;

12

13

▸ authorizes an election officer to impose a monetary fine against a person who violates

14

certain provisions related to political advertisements; and

15

▸ makes technical and conforming changes.

16

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

17

None

18

Other Special Clauses:

19

None

20

Utah Code Sections Affected:

21

AMENDS:

22

20A-11-101, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

23

20A-11-901, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 18

24

25

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

26

Section 1. Section **20A-11-101** is amended to read:

27

20A-11-101 . Definitions.

28

As used in this chapter:

- 29 (1)(a) "Address" means the number and street where an individual resides or where a
30 reporting entity has its principal office.
- 31 (b) "Address" does not include a post office box.
- 32 (2) "Agent of a reporting entity" means:
- 33 (a) a person acting on behalf of a reporting entity at the direction of the reporting entity;
- 34 (b) a person employed by a reporting entity in the reporting entity's capacity as a
35 reporting entity;
- 36 (c) the personal campaign committee of a candidate or officeholder;
- 37 (d) a member of the personal campaign committee of a candidate or officeholder in the
38 member's capacity as a member of the personal campaign committee of the candidate
39 or officeholder; or
- 40 (e) a political consultant of a reporting entity.
- 41 (3) "Ballot proposition" includes initiatives, referenda, proposed constitutional
42 amendments, and any other ballot propositions submitted to the voters that are
43 authorized by the Utah Code Annotated 1953.
- 44 (4) "Candidate" means any person who:
- 45 (a) files a declaration of candidacy for a public office; or
- 46 (b) receives contributions, makes expenditures, or gives consent for any other person to
47 receive contributions or make expenditures to bring about the person's nomination or
48 election to a public office.
- 49 (5) "Chief election officer" means:
- 50 (a) the lieutenant governor for state office candidates, legislative office candidates,
51 officeholders, political parties, political action committees, corporations, political
52 issues committees, state school board candidates, judges, and labor organizations, as
53 defined in Section 20A-11-1501; and
- 54 (b) the county clerk for local school board candidates.
- 55 (6)(a) "Contribution" means any of the following when done for political purposes:
- 56 (i) a gift, subscription, donation, loan, advance, or deposit of money or anything of
57 value given to the filing entity;
- 58 (ii) an express, legally enforceable contract, promise, or agreement to make a gift,
59 subscription, donation, unpaid or partially unpaid loan, advance, or deposit of
60 money or anything of value to the filing entity;
- 61 (iii) any transfer of funds from another reporting entity to the filing entity;
- 62 (iv) compensation paid by any person or reporting entity other than the filing entity

- 63 for personal services provided without charge to the filing entity;
- 64 (v) remuneration from:
- 65 (A) any organization or its directly affiliated organization that has a registered
- 66 lobbyist; or
- 67 (B) any agency or subdivision of the state, including school districts;
- 68 (vi) a loan made by a candidate deposited to the candidate's own campaign; and
- 69 (vii) in-kind contributions.
- 70 (b) "Contribution" does not include:
- 71 (i) services provided by individuals volunteering a portion or all of their time on
- 72 behalf of the filing entity if the services are provided without compensation by the
- 73 filing entity or any other person;
- 74 (ii) money lent to the filing entity by a financial institution in the ordinary course of
- 75 business;
- 76 (iii) goods or services provided for the benefit of a political entity at less than fair
- 77 market value that are not authorized by or coordinated with the political entity; or
- 78 (iv) data or information described in Subsection (24)(b).
- 79 (7) "Coordinated with" means that goods or services provided for the benefit of a political
- 80 entity are provided:
- 81 (a) with the political entity's prior knowledge, if the political entity does not object;
- 82 (b) by agreement with the political entity;
- 83 (c) in coordination with the political entity; or
- 84 (d) using official logos, slogans, and similar elements belonging to a political entity.
- 85 (8)(a) "Corporation" means a domestic or foreign, profit or nonprofit, business
- 86 organization that is registered as a corporation or is authorized to do business in a
- 87 state and makes any expenditure from corporate funds for:
- 88 (i) the purpose of expressly advocating for political purposes; or
- 89 (ii) the purpose of expressly advocating the approval or the defeat of any ballot
- 90 proposition.
- 91 (b) "Corporation" does not mean:
- 92 (i) a business organization's political action committee or political issues committee;
- 93 or
- 94 (ii) a business entity organized as a partnership or a sole proprietorship.
- 95 (9) "County political party" means, for each registered political party, all of the persons
- 96 within a single county who, under definitions established by the political party, are

97 members of the registered political party.

98 (10) "County political party officer" means a person whose name is required to be
99 submitted by a county political party to the lieutenant governor in accordance with
100 Section 20A-8-402.

101 (11) "Detailed listing" means:

102 (a) for each contribution or public service assistance:

103 (i) the name and address of the individual or source making the contribution or public
104 service assistance, except to the extent that the name or address of the individual
105 or source is unknown;

106 (ii) the amount or value of the contribution or public service assistance; and

107 (iii) the date the contribution or public service assistance was made; and

108 (b) for each expenditure:

109 (i) the amount of the expenditure;

110 (ii) the goods or services acquired by the expenditure; and

111 (iii) the date the expenditure was made.

112 (12)(a) "Donor" means a person that gives money, including a fee, due, or assessment
113 for membership in the corporation, to a corporation without receiving full and
114 adequate consideration for the money.

115 (b) "Donor" does not include a person that signs a statement that the corporation may not
116 use the money for an expenditure or political issues expenditure.

117 (13) "Election" means each:

118 (a) regular general election;

119 (b) regular primary election; and

120 (c) special election at which candidates are eliminated and selected.

121 (14) "Electioneering communication" means a communication that:

122 (a) has at least a value of \$10,000;

123 (b) clearly identifies a candidate or judge; and

124 (c) is disseminated through the [~~Internet~~] internet, a social media platform, newspaper,
125 magazine, outdoor advertising facility, direct mailing, or a broadcast, cable, or
126 satellite provider, within 45 calendar days before the clearly identified candidate's or
127 judge's election date.

128 (15)(a) "Expenditure" means any of the following made by a reporting entity or an agent
129 of a reporting entity on behalf of the reporting entity:

130 (i) any disbursement from contributions, receipts, or from the separate bank account

- 131 required by this chapter;
- 132 (ii) a purchase, payment, donation, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, gift of money,
133 or anything of value made for political purposes;
- 134 (iii) an express, legally enforceable contract, promise, or agreement to make any
135 purchase, payment, donation, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, gift of money,
136 or anything of value for political purposes;
- 137 (iv) compensation paid by a filing entity for personal services rendered by a person
138 without charge to a reporting entity;
- 139 (v) a transfer of funds between the filing entity and a candidate's personal campaign
140 committee;
- 141 (vi) goods or services provided by the filing entity to or for the benefit of another
142 reporting entity for political purposes at less than fair market value; or
- 143 (vii) an independent expenditure, as defined in Section 20A-11-1702.
- 144 (b) "Expenditure" does not include:
- 145 (i) services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering a portion or
146 all of their time on behalf of a reporting entity;
- 147 (ii) money lent to a reporting entity by a financial institution in the ordinary course of
148 business; or
- 149 (iii) anything listed in Subsection (15)(a) that is given by a reporting entity to
150 candidates for office or officeholders in states other than Utah.
- 151 (16) "Federal office" means the office of president of the United States, United States
152 Senator, or United States Representative.
- 153 (17) "Filing entity" means the reporting entity that is required to file a financial statement
154 required by this chapter or Chapter 12, Part 2, Judicial Retention Elections.
- 155 (18) "Financial statement" includes any summary report, interim report, verified financial
156 statement, or other statement disclosing contributions, expenditures, receipts, donations,
157 or disbursements that is required by this chapter or Chapter 12, Part 2, Judicial Retention
158 Elections.
- 159 (19) "Governing board" means the individual or group of individuals that determine the
160 candidates and committees that will receive expenditures from a political action
161 committee, political party, or corporation.
- 162 (20) "Incorporation" means the process established by Title 10, Chapter 2a, Municipal
163 Incorporation, by which a geographical area becomes legally recognized as a city or
164 town.

- 165 (21) "Incorporation election" means the election conducted under Section 10-2a-210.
- 166 (22) "Incorporation petition" means a petition described in Section 10-2a-208.
- 167 (23) "Individual" means a natural person.
- 168 (24)(a) "In-kind contribution" means anything of value, other than money, that is
169 accepted by or coordinated with a filing entity.
- 170 (b) "In-kind contribution" does not include survey results, voter lists, voter contact
171 information, demographic data, voting trend data, or other information that:
172 (i) is not commissioned for the benefit of a particular candidate or officeholder; and
173 (ii) is offered at no cost to a candidate or officeholder.
- 174 (25) "Interim report" means a report identifying the contributions received and expenditures
175 made since the last report.
- 176 (26) "Legislative office" means the office of state senator, state representative, speaker of
177 the House of Representatives, president of the Senate, and the leader, whip, and assistant
178 whip of any party caucus in either house of the Legislature.
- 179 (27) "Legislative office candidate" means a person who:
180 (a) files a declaration of candidacy for the office of state senator or state representative;
181 (b) declares oneself to be a candidate for, or actively campaigns for, the position of
182 speaker of the House of Representatives, president of the Senate, or the leader, whip,
183 and assistant whip of any party caucus in either house of the Legislature; or
184 (c) receives contributions, makes expenditures, or gives consent for any other person to
185 receive contributions or make expenditures to bring about the person's nomination,
186 election, or appointment to a legislative office.
- 187 (28) "Loan" means any of the following provided by a person that benefits a filing entity if
188 the person expects repayment or reimbursement:
189 (a) an expenditure made using any form of payment;
190 (b) money or funds received by the filing entity;
191 (c) the provision of a good or service with an agreement or understanding that payment
192 or reimbursement will be delayed; or
193 (d) use of any line of credit.
- 194 (29) "Major political party" means either of the two registered political parties that have the
195 greatest number of members elected to the two houses of the Legislature.
- 196 (30) "Officeholder" means a person who holds a public office.
- 197 (31) "Party committee" means any committee organized by or authorized by the governing
198 board of a registered political party.

- 199 (32) "Person" means both natural and legal persons, including individuals, business
200 organizations, personal campaign committees, party committees, political action
201 committees, political issues committees, and labor organizations, as defined in Section
202 20A-11-1501.
- 203 (33) "Personal campaign committee" means the committee appointed by a candidate to act
204 for the candidate as provided in this chapter.
- 205 (34) "Personal use expenditure" has the same meaning as provided under Section
206 20A-11-104.
- 207 (35)(a) "Political action committee" means an entity, or any group of individuals or
208 entities within or outside this state, a major purpose of which is to:
- 209 (i) solicit or receive contributions from any other person, group, or entity for political
210 purposes; or
- 211 (ii) make expenditures to expressly advocate for any person to refrain from voting or
212 to vote for or against any candidate or person seeking election to a municipal or
213 county office.
- 214 (b) "Political action committee" includes groups affiliated with a registered political
215 party but not authorized or organized by the governing board of the registered
216 political party that receive contributions or makes expenditures for political purposes.
- 217 (c) "Political action committee" does not mean:
- 218 (i) a party committee;
- 219 (ii) any entity that provides goods or services to a candidate or committee in the
220 regular course of its business at the same price that would be provided to the
221 general public;
- 222 (iii) an individual;
- 223 (iv) individuals who are related and who make contributions from a joint checking
224 account;
- 225 (v) a corporation, except a corporation a major purpose of which is to act as a
226 political action committee; or
- 227 (vi) a personal campaign committee.
- 228 (36)(a) "Political consultant" means a person who is paid by a reporting entity, or paid
229 by another person on behalf of and with the knowledge of the reporting entity, to
230 provide political advice to the reporting entity.
- 231 (b) "Political consultant" includes a circumstance described in Subsection (36)(a), where
232 the person:

- 233 (i) has already been paid, with money or other consideration;
- 234 (ii) expects to be paid in the future, with money or other consideration; or
- 235 (iii) understands that the person may, in the discretion of the reporting entity or
- 236 another person on behalf of and with the knowledge of the reporting entity, be
- 237 paid in the future, with money or other consideration.
- 238 (37) "Political convention" means a county or state political convention held by a registered
- 239 political party to select candidates.
- 240 (38) "Political entity" means a candidate, a political party, a political action committee, or a
- 241 political issues committee.
- 242 (39)(a) "Political issues committee" means an entity, or any group of individuals or
- 243 entities within or outside this state, a major purpose of which is to:
- 244 (i) solicit or receive donations from any other person, group, or entity to assist in
- 245 placing a ballot proposition on the ballot, assist in keeping a ballot proposition off
- 246 the ballot, or to advocate that a voter refrain from voting or vote for or vote
- 247 against any ballot proposition;
- 248 (ii) make expenditures to expressly advocate for any person to sign or refuse to sign a
- 249 ballot proposition or incorporation petition or refrain from voting, vote for, or vote
- 250 against any proposed ballot proposition or an incorporation in an incorporation
- 251 election; or
- 252 (iii) make expenditures to assist in qualifying or placing a ballot proposition on the
- 253 ballot or to assist in keeping a ballot proposition off the ballot.
- 254 (b) "Political issues committee" does not mean:
- 255 (i) a registered political party or a party committee;
- 256 (ii) any entity that provides goods or services to an individual or committee in the
- 257 regular course of its business at the same price that would be provided to the
- 258 general public;
- 259 (iii) an individual;
- 260 (iv) individuals who are related and who make contributions from a joint checking
- 261 account;
- 262 (v) a corporation, except a corporation a major purpose of which is to act as a
- 263 political issues committee; or
- 264 (vi) a group of individuals who:
- 265 (A) associate together for the purpose of challenging or supporting a single ballot
- 266 proposition, ordinance, or other governmental action by a county, city, town,

- 267 special district, special service district, or other local political subdivision of
268 the state;
- 269 (B) have a common liberty, property, or financial interest that is directly impacted
270 by the ballot proposition, ordinance, or other governmental action;
- 271 (C) do not associate together, for the purpose described in Subsection
272 (39)(b)(vi)(A), via a legal entity;
- 273 (D) do not receive funds for challenging or supporting the ballot proposition,
274 ordinance, or other governmental action from a person other than an individual
275 in the group; and
- 276 (E) do not expend a total of more than \$5,000 for the purpose described in
277 Subsection (39)(b)(vi)(A).

278 (40)(a) "Political issues contribution" means any of the following:

- 279 (i) a gift, subscription, unpaid or partially unpaid loan, advance, or deposit of money
280 or anything of value given to a political issues committee;
- 281 (ii) an express, legally enforceable contract, promise, or agreement to make a
282 political issues donation to influence the approval or defeat of any ballot
283 proposition;
- 284 (iii) any transfer of funds received by a political issues committee from a reporting
285 entity;
- 286 (iv) compensation paid by another reporting entity for personal services rendered
287 without charge to a political issues committee; and
- 288 (v) goods or services provided to or for the benefit of a political issues committee at
289 less than fair market value.

290 (b) "Political issues contribution" does not include:

- 291 (i) services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering a portion or
292 all of their time on behalf of a political issues committee; or
- 293 (ii) money lent to a political issues committee by a financial institution in the
294 ordinary course of business.

295 (41)(a) "Political issues expenditure" means any of the following when made by a
296 political issues committee or on behalf of a political issues committee by an agent of
297 the reporting entity:

- 298 (i) any payment from political issues contributions made for the purpose of
299 influencing the approval or the defeat of:
- 300 (A) a ballot proposition; or

- 301 (B) an incorporation petition or incorporation election;
- 302 (ii) a purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money made
- 303 for the express purpose of influencing the approval or the defeat of:
- 304 (A) a ballot proposition; or
- 305 (B) an incorporation petition or incorporation election;
- 306 (iii) an express, legally enforceable contract, promise, or agreement to make any
- 307 political issues expenditure;
- 308 (iv) compensation paid by a reporting entity for personal services rendered by a
- 309 person without charge to a political issues committee; or
- 310 (v) goods or services provided to or for the benefit of another reporting entity at less
- 311 than fair market value.
- 312 (b) "Political issues expenditure" does not include:
- 313 (i) services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering a portion or
- 314 all of their time on behalf of a political issues committee; or
- 315 (ii) money lent to a political issues committee by a financial institution in the
- 316 ordinary course of business.
- 317 (42) "Political purposes" means an act done with the intent or in a way to influence or tend
- 318 to influence, directly or indirectly, any person to refrain from voting or to vote for or
- 319 against any:
- 320 (a) candidate or a person seeking a municipal or county office at any caucus, political
- 321 convention, or election; or
- 322 (b) judge standing for retention at any election.
- 323 (43)(a) "Poll" means the survey of a person regarding the person's opinion or knowledge
- 324 of an individual who has filed a declaration of candidacy for public office, or of a
- 325 ballot proposition that has legally qualified for placement on the ballot, which is
- 326 conducted in person or by telephone, facsimile, Internet, postal mail, or email.
- 327 (b) "Poll" does not include:
- 328 (i) a ballot; or
- 329 (ii) an interview of a focus group that is conducted, in person, by one individual, if:
- 330 (A) the focus group consists of more than three, and less than thirteen, individuals;
- 331 and
- 332 (B) all individuals in the focus group are present during the interview.
- 333 (44) "Primary election" means any regular primary election held under the election laws.
- 334 (45) "Publicly identified class of individuals" means a group of 50 or more individuals

335 sharing a common occupation, interest, or association that contribute to a political action
336 committee or political issues committee and whose names can be obtained by contacting
337 the political action committee or political issues committee upon whose financial
338 statement the individuals are listed.

339 (46) "Public office" means the office of governor, lieutenant governor, state auditor, state
340 treasurer, attorney general, state school board member, state senator, state representative,
341 speaker of the House of Representatives, president of the Senate, and the leader, whip,
342 and assistant whip of any party caucus in either house of the Legislature.

343 (47)(a) "Public service assistance" means the following when given or provided to an
344 officeholder to defray the costs of functioning in a public office or aid the
345 officeholder to communicate with the officeholder's constituents:

346 (i) a gift, subscription, donation, unpaid or partially unpaid loan, advance, or deposit
347 of money or anything of value to an officeholder; or

348 (ii) goods or services provided at less than fair market value to or for the benefit of
349 the officeholder.

350 (b) "Public service assistance" does not include:

351 (i) anything provided by the state;

352 (ii) services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering a portion or
353 all of their time on behalf of an officeholder;

354 (iii) money lent to an officeholder by a financial institution in the ordinary course of
355 business;

356 (iv) news coverage or any publication by the news media; or

357 (v) any article, story, or other coverage as part of any regular publication of any
358 organization unless substantially all the publication is devoted to information
359 about the officeholder.

360 (48) "Receipts" means contributions and public service assistance.

361 (49) "Registered lobbyist" means a person licensed under Title 36, Chapter 11, Lobbyist
362 Disclosure and Regulation Act.

363 (50) "Registered political action committee" means any political action committee that is
364 required by this chapter to file a statement of organization with the Office of the
365 Lieutenant Governor.

366 (51) "Registered political issues committee" means any political issues committee that is
367 required by this chapter to file a statement of organization with the Office of the
368 Lieutenant Governor.

- 369 (52) "Registered political party" means an organization of voters that:
- 370 (a) participated in the last regular general election and polled a total vote equal to 2% or
- 371 more of the total votes cast for all candidates for the United States House of
- 372 Representatives for any of its candidates for any office; or
- 373 (b) has complied with the petition and organizing procedures of Chapter 8, Political
- 374 Party Formation and Procedures.
- 375 (53)(a) "Remuneration" means a payment:
- 376 (i) made to a legislator for the period the Legislature is in session; and
- 377 (ii) that is approximately equivalent to an amount a legislator would have earned
- 378 during the period the Legislature is in session in the legislator's ordinary course of
- 379 business.
- 380 (b) "Remuneration" does not mean anything of economic value given to a legislator by:
- 381 (i) the legislator's primary employer in the ordinary course of business; or
- 382 (ii) a person or entity in the ordinary course of business:
- 383 (A) because of the legislator's ownership interest in the entity; or
- 384 (B) for services rendered by the legislator on behalf of the person or entity.
- 385 (54) "Reporting entity" means a candidate, a candidate's personal campaign committee, a
- 386 judge, a judge's personal campaign committee, an officeholder, a party committee, a
- 387 political action committee, a political issues committee, a corporation, or a labor
- 388 organization, as defined in Section 20A-11-1501.
- 389 (55) "School board office" means the office of state school board.
- 390 (56)(a) "Source" means the person or entity that is the legal owner of the tangible or
- 391 intangible asset that comprises the contribution.
- 392 (b) "Source" means, for political action committees and corporations, the political action
- 393 committee and the corporation as entities, not the contributors to the political action
- 394 committee or the owners or shareholders of the corporation.
- 395 (57) "State office" means the offices of governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general,
- 396 state auditor, and state treasurer.
- 397 (58) "State office candidate" means a person who:
- 398 (a) files a declaration of candidacy for a state office; or
- 399 (b) receives contributions, makes expenditures, or gives consent for any other person to
- 400 receive contributions or make expenditures to bring about the person's nomination,
- 401 election, or appointment to a state office.
- 402 (59) "Summary report" means the year end report containing the summary of a reporting

403 entity's contributions and expenditures.

404 (60) "Supervisory board" means the individual or group of individuals that allocate
405 expenditures from a political issues committee.

406 Section 2. Section **20A-11-901** is amended to read:

407 **20A-11-901 . Political advertisements -- Requirement that ads designate**
408 **responsibility and authorization -- Report to lieutenant governor -- Unauthorized use of**
409 **endorsements.**

410 (1) As used in this section:

411 (a)(i) "Advertisement" means a communication disseminated through:

412 (A) the internet, a social media platform, newspaper, magazine, outdoor
413 advertising facility, direct mailing, or a broadcast, cable, or satellite provider; or

414 (B) any other medium used for communicating with the general public.

415 (ii) "Advertisement" includes a marketing campaign disseminated on a medium
416 described in Subsection (1)(a)(i).

417 (b) "Local attorney" means:

418 (i) a county attorney or district attorney, as described in Title 17, Chapter 18a,
419 Powers and Duties of County and District Attorney; or

420 (ii) a city attorney under Section 10-3-928.

421 [(+) (2)(a) Whenever any person makes an expenditure for the purpose of financing an
422 advertisement expressly advocating for the election or defeat of a clearly identified
423 candidate, or solicits any contribution through [~~any broadcasting station, newspaper,~~
424 ~~magazine, outdoor advertising facility, direct mailing, or any other type of general~~
425 ~~public political advertising]~~ an advertisement, the advertisement shall:

426 (i) if paid for and authorized by a candidate or the candidate's campaign committee, [
427 ~~shall]~~clearly state that the advertisement has been paid for by the candidate or the
428 candidate's campaign committee;

429 (ii) if paid for by another person but authorized by a candidate or the candidate's
430 campaign committee, [~~shall]~~clearly state who paid for the advertisement and that
431 the candidate or the candidate's campaign committee authorized the
432 advertisement; or

433 (iii) if not authorized by a candidate or a candidate's campaign committee, [~~shall]~~
434 clearly state the name of the person who paid for the advertisement and state that
435 the advertisement is not authorized by any candidate or [~~candidate's]~~ a candidate's
436 campaign committee.

- 437 (b)(i) An advertisement described in Subsection (2)(a) that is paid for, in whole or in
438 part, by more than one person, satisfies the requirements of Subsection (2)(a) if
439 the advertisement includes a single statement that:
- 440 (A) identifies each person who made an expenditure to pay for any portion of the
441 cost to produce or disseminate the advertisement; and
 - 442 (B) includes the authorization statement described in Subsection (2)(a)(ii) or (iii),
443 as applicable.
- 444 (ii) An advertisement described in Subsection (2)(b)(i) is not required to include
445 separate or additional disclosure statements based solely on the manner in which
446 the advertisement's costs were divided among persons.
- 447 ~~(2)~~ (3)(a) A person that makes an expenditure for the purpose of financing an
448 advertisement related to a ballot proposition shall ensure that the advertisement
449 complies with Subsection ~~(2)(b)~~ (3)(b) if the advertisement expressly advocates:
- 450 (i) for placing a ballot proposition on the ballot;
 - 451 (ii) for keeping a ballot proposition off the ballot;
 - 452 (iii) that a voter refrain from voting on a ballot proposition; or
 - 453 (iv) that a voter vote for or against a ballot proposition.
- 454 (b) An advertisement described in Subsection ~~(2)(a)~~ (3)(a) shall:
- 455 (i) if paid for by a political issues committee, clearly state that the advertisement was
456 paid for by the political issues committee;
 - 457 (ii) if paid for by another person but authorized by a political issues committee,
458 clearly state who paid for the advertisement and that the political issues committee
459 authorized the advertisement; or
 - 460 (iii) if not authorized by a political issues committee, clearly state the name of the
461 person who paid for the advertisement and state that the advertisement is not
462 authorized by any political issues committee.
- 463 (c)(i) An advertisement described in Subsection (3)(a) that is paid for, in whole or in
464 part, by more than one person, satisfies the requirements of Subsection (3)(b) if
465 the advertisement includes a single statement that:
- 466 (A) identifies each person who made an expenditure to pay for any portion of the
467 cost to produce or disseminate the advertisement; and
 - 468 (B) includes the authorization statement described in Subsection (3)(b)(ii) or (iii),
469 as applicable.
- 470 (ii) An advertisement described in Subsection (3)(c)(i) is not required to include

471 separate or additional disclosure statements based solely on the manner in which
472 the advertisement's costs were divided among persons.

473 [~~3~~] (4) The requirements of Subsections [~~1~~] (2) and [~~2~~] (3) do not apply to:

474 (a) lawn signs with dimensions of four by eight feet or smaller;

475 (b) bumper stickers;

476 (c) campaign pins, buttons, and pens; or

477 (d) similar small items upon which the disclaimer cannot be conveniently printed.

478 [~~4~~] (5)(a) A person who is not a reporting entity and pays for an electioneering

479 communication shall file a report with the lieutenant governor within 24 hours of

480 making the payment or entering into a contract to make the payment.

481 (b) The report shall include:

482 (i) the name and address of the person described in Subsection [~~4~~](a) (5)(a);

483 (ii) the name and address of each person contributing at least \$100 to the person

484 described in Subsection [~~4~~](a) (5)(a) for the purpose of disseminating the

485 electioneering communication;

486 (iii) the amount spent on the electioneering communication;

487 (iv) the name of the identified referenced candidate; and

488 (v) the medium used to disseminate the electioneering communication.

489 [~~5~~] (6) A person may not, in order to promote the success of any candidate for nomination

490 or election to any public office, or in connection with any question submitted to the

491 voters, include or cause to be included the name of any person as endorser or supporter

492 in any political advertisement, circular, poster, or publication without the express

493 consent of that person.

494 [~~6~~] (7)(a) It is unlawful for a person to pay the owner, editor, publisher, or agent of any

495 newspaper or other periodical to induce the owner, editor, publisher, or agent to

496 advocate or oppose editorially any candidate for nomination or election.

497 (b) It is unlawful for any owner, editor, publisher, or agent to accept any payment to

498 advocate or oppose editorially any candidate for nomination or election.

499 (8) The lieutenant governor shall impose a \$1,000 fine against a person who:

500 (a) violates Subsection (5); or

501 (b) violates any other disclosure requirement or prohibition described in this section, if

502 the violation relates to:

503 (i) a statewide ballot proposition; or

504 (ii) the nomination or election of a candidate for:

- 505 (A) federal office;
- 506 (B) state office;
- 507 (C) legislative office; or
- 508 (D) state school board.

509 (9) Upon investigation by the local attorney, the county clerk or municipal clerk shall
510 impose a \$500 fine against a person who violates this section, other than Subsection (5),
511 if the violation relates to:

- 512 (a) for a county clerk:
 - 513 (i) a candidate for county office, local school board office, or special district office;
 - 514 (ii) a countywide local ballot proposition; or
 - 515 (iii) a judicial retention election; or
- 516 (b) for a municipal clerk:
 - 517 (i) a candidate for municipal office; or
 - 518 (ii) a citywide or townwide local ballot proposition.

519 (10)(a) The lieutenant governor shall deposit a fine collected under Subsection (8) into
520 the state's General Fund.

521 (b) The county clerk or municipal clerk shall deposit a fine collected under Subsection
522 (9) into the political subdivision's general fund.

523 **Section 3. Effective Date.**

524 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.