

Stephanie Pitcher proposes the following substitute bill:

Elected Official Publicity Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Stephanie Pitcher

House Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates an exception to the 60-day restriction on certain publicly funded mass communications.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- creates an exception to the 60-day restriction on certain publicly funded mass communications to permit a public official's photograph to appear in a regularly published public entity newsletter as part of a neutral, uniformly displayed candidate profile that does not promote or oppose any candidacy; and

- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

20A-11-1203.5, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 96

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

Section 1. Section **20A-11-1203.5** is amended to read:

20A-11-1203.5 . Public official prohibited from expending public funds on certain communications.

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), a public official may not make an expenditure from public funds for a billboard or mass communication that:

(a)(i) includes a photograph, image, or likeness of the public official; or

(ii) contains the name of the public official in a font size that is larger than any other

- 30 font size on the billboard or mass communication; and
- 31 (b) is posted, displayed, or mailed less than 60 calendar days before the date of any
- 32 caucus, political convention, or election at which the public official is a candidate for
- 33 elective office.
- 34 (2) A public official may make an expenditure from public funds for a mass communication
- 35 described in Subsection (1) if:
- 36 (a) the mass communication is mailed to a person in response to that person making an
- 37 inquiry of the public official;
- 38 (b) the mass communication is sent to another public official;
- 39 (c) the mass communication is a news release sent to a news media organization; ~~[or]~~
- 40 (d) the public official is legally required to mail the mass communication~~[-]~~ ; or
- 41 (e) the mass communication:
- 42 (i) is an informational newsletter or similar communication that a public entity
- 43 regularly publishes outside the period described in Subsection (1)(b); and
- 44 (ii) fails to comply with Subsection (1) solely because the mass communication
- 45 includes a photograph of the public official as part of a candidate profile that:
- 46 (A) is displayed in the same time, place, and manner as the profiles of all other
- 47 candidates for the elective office for which the public official is a candidate;
- 48 and
- 49 (B) does not promote or oppose any individual's candidacy.

50 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

51 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.