

Signature Collection Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Michael L. Kohler

Senate Sponsor: Keven J. Stratton

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill amends provisions related to nominations for elective office.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- establishes a process for a voter who signs a petition on behalf of a candidate for elective office who is seeking the nomination of a registered political party that is not a qualified political party to have the voter's signature removed from the petition;
- requires an election official to post on the lieutenant governor's website the name, voter identification number, and date of signature of each voter who signs a petition to nominate a candidate for elective office who is:
 - a member of a political party; or
 - an unaffiliated candidate;
- prohibits an election official from removing a voter's name from a petition described above if the election official has already verified the voter's signature;
- describes deadlines and procedures related to the processes described above; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:**AMENDS:**

20A-9-403, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 503

20A-9-405, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 325

20A-9-408, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 116

20A-9-502, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 17

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

32 Section 1. Section **20A-9-403** is amended to read:

33 **20A-9-403 . Regular primary elections.**

34 (1)(a) Candidates for elective office that are to be filled at the next regular general
35 election shall be nominated in a regular primary election by direct vote of the people
36 in the manner prescribed in this section. The regular primary election is held on the
37 date specified in Section 20A-1-201.5. Nothing in this section shall affect a
38 candidate's ability to qualify for a regular general election's ballot as an unaffiliated
39 candidate under Section 20A-9-501 or to participate in a regular general election as a
40 write-in candidate under Section 20A-9-601.

41 (b) Each registered political party that chooses to have the names of the registered
42 political party's candidates for elective office featured with party affiliation on the
43 ballot at a regular general election shall comply with the requirements of this section
44 and shall nominate the registered political party's candidates for elective office in the
45 manner described in this section.

46 (c) A filing officer may not permit an official ballot at a regular general election to be
47 produced or used if the ballot denotes affiliation between a registered political party
48 or any other political group and a candidate for elective office who is not nominated
49 in the manner prescribed in this section or in Subsection 20A-9-202(4).

50 (d) Unless noted otherwise, the dates in this section refer to those that occur in each
51 even-numbered year in which a regular general election will be held.

52 (2)(a) Each registered political party, in a statement filed with the lieutenant governor,
53 shall:

54 (i) either declare the registered political party's intent to participate in the next regular
55 primary election or declare that the registered political party chooses not to have
56 the names of the registered political party's candidates for elective office featured
57 on the ballot at the next regular general election; and

58 (ii) if the registered political party participates in the upcoming regular primary
59 election, identify one or more registered political parties whose members may
60 vote for the registered political party's candidates and whether individuals
61 identified as unaffiliated with a political party may vote for the registered political
62 party's candidates.

63 (b)(i) A registered political party that is a continuing political party shall file the
64 statement described in Subsection (2)(a) with the lieutenant governor no later than

5 p.m. on November 30 of each odd-numbered year.

(ii) An organization that is seeking to become a registered political party under Section 20A-8-103 shall file the statement described in Subsection (2)(a) at the time that the registered political party files the petition described in Section 20A-8-103.

(3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(e), an individual who submits a declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-202 shall appear as a candidate for elective office on the regular primary ballot of the registered political party listed on the declaration of candidacy only if the individual is certified by the appropriate filing officer as having submitted a nomination petition that was:

(i) circulated and completed in accordance with Section 20A-9-405; and

(ii) signed by at least 2% of the registered political party's members who reside in the political division of the office that the individual seeks.

(b)(i) A candidate for elective office shall submit signatures for a nomination petition to the appropriate filing officer for verification and certification no later than 5 p.m. on the final day in March.

(ii) A candidate may supplement the candidate's submissions at any time on or before the filing deadline.

(c)(i) The lieutenant governor shall determine for each elective office the total number of signatures that must be submitted under Subsection (3)(a)(ii) or 20A-9-408(8) by counting the aggregate number of individuals residing in each elective office's political division who have designated a particular registered political party on the individuals' voter registration forms on or before November 15 of each odd-numbered year.

(ii) The lieutenant governor shall publish the determination for each elective office no later than November 30 of each odd-numbered year.

(d) The filing officer shall:

(i) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201, verify signatures on [~~nomination petitions~~] a nomination petition in a transparent and orderly manner, no later than 14 days after the day on which a candidate submits the signatures to the filing officer;

(ii) for [~~all qualifying candidates for elective office who submit nomination petitions to the filing officer, issue certifications referenced~~] each qualifying candidate for elective office who submits a nomination petition to the filing officer, issue the

- 99 certification described in Subsection (3)(a) no later than the deadline described in
100 Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b);
- 101 (iii) ~~consider [active and inactive voters eligible to sign nomination petitions]~~ an
102 active voter and inactive voter eligible to sign a nomination petition;
- 103 (iv) consider an individual who signs a nomination petition a member of a registered
104 political party for purposes of Subsection (3)(a)(ii) if the individual has designated [
105 that] the registered political party as the individual's party membership on the
106 individual's voter registration form;[-and]
- 107 (v) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201 and with the assistance of
108 the county clerk as applicable, use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002
109 to verify submitted nomination petition signatures, or use statistical sampling
110 procedures to verify submitted nomination petition signatures in accordance with
111 rules made under Subsection (3)(f)[-] ; and
- 112 (vi) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-405(10), no later than five business days
113 after the day on which the signature of an individual who signs a nomination
114 petition is verified under Subsection (3)(d)(v), post the name, voter identification
115 number, and date of signature of the individual on the lieutenant governor's
116 website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at
117 least 90 days.
- 118 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision in this Subsection (3), a candidate for lieutenant
119 governor may appear on the regular primary ballot of a registered political party
120 without submitting [~~nomination petitions~~] a nomination petition if the candidate files
121 a declaration of candidacy and complies with Subsection 20A-9-202(3).
- 122 (f) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
123 director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, may make rules
124 that:
- 125 (i) provide for the use of statistical sampling procedures that:
- 126 (A) ~~[filing officers are]~~ each filing officer is required to use to verify signatures
127 under Subsection (3)(d); and
- 128 (B) reflect a bona fide effort to determine the validity of a candidate's entire
129 submission, using widely recognized statistical sampling techniques; and
- 130 (ii) provide for the transparent, orderly, and timely submission, verification, and
131 certification of nomination petition signatures.
- 132 (g) The county clerk shall:

- 133 (i) review the declarations of candidacy filed by ~~[candidates]~~ each candidate for local
134 boards of education to determine if more than two candidates have filed for the
135 same seat;
- 136 (ii) place the ~~[names of all candidates who have filed]~~ name of each candidate who
137 files a declaration of candidacy for a local board of education seat on the
138 nonpartisan section of the ballot if more than two candidates have filed for the
139 same seat; and
- 140 (iii) determine the order of the local board of education candidates' names on the
141 ballot in accordance with Section 20A-6-305.
- 142 (4)(a) Before the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-409(4)(c), the lieutenant
143 governor shall provide to ~~[the county clerks]~~ each county clerk:
- 144 (i) a list of the names of ~~[all candidates]~~ each candidate for federal, constitutional,
145 multi-county, single county, and county ~~[offices who have received certifications]~~
146 office who has received a certification under Subsection (3)(a), along with
147 instructions on how ~~[those names]~~ each name shall appear on the primary election
148 ballot in accordance with Section 20A-6-305; and
- 149 (ii) a list of ~~[unopposed candidates for elective office who have]~~ each unopposed
150 candidate for elective office who has been nominated by a registered political
151 party under Subsection (5)(c) and ~~[instruct the county clerks]~~ instructions to
152 exclude the unopposed ~~[candidates]~~ candidate from the primary election ballot.
- 153 (b) A candidate for lieutenant governor and a candidate for governor campaigning as
154 joint-ticket running mates shall appear jointly on the primary election ballot.
- 155 (c) After the county clerk receives the certified list from the lieutenant governor under
156 Subsection (4)(a), the county clerk shall post or publish a primary election notice in
157 substantially the following form:
- 158 "Notice is given that a primary election will be held Tuesday, June ____,
159 ____ (year), to nominate party candidates for the parties and candidates for nonpartisan
160 local school board positions listed on the primary ballot. The polling place for voting precinct
161 ____ is _____. The polls will open at 7 a.m. and continue open until 8 p.m. of the same day.
162 Attest: county clerk."
- 163 (5)(a) A candidate who, at the regular primary election, receives the highest number of
164 votes cast for the office sought by the candidate is:
- 165 (i) nominated for that office by the candidate's registered political party; or
166 (ii) for a nonpartisan local school board position, nominated for that office.

(b) If two or more candidates are to be elected to the office at the regular general election, those party candidates equal in number to positions to be filled who receive the highest number of votes at the regular primary election are the nominees of the candidates' party for those positions.

(c)(i) As used in this Subsection (5)(c), a candidate is "unopposed" if:

(A) no individual other than the candidate receives a certification under Subsection (3)(a) for the regular primary election ballot of the candidate's registered political party for a particular elective office; or

(B) for an office where more than one individual is to be elected or nominated, the number of candidates who receive certification under Subsection (3)(a) for the regular primary election of the candidate's registered political party does not exceed the total number of candidates to be elected or nominated for that office.

(ii) A candidate who is unopposed for an elective office in the regular primary election of a registered political party is nominated by the party for that office without appearing on the primary election ballot.

(6) The expense of providing all ballots, blanks, or other supplies to be used at any primary election provided for by this section, and all expenses necessarily incurred in the preparation for or the conduct of that primary election shall be paid out of the treasury of the county or state, in the same manner as for the regular general elections.

(7) An individual may not file a declaration of candidacy for a registered political party of which the individual is not a member, except to the extent that the registered political party permits otherwise under the registered political party's bylaws.

Section 2. Section **20A-9-405** is amended to read:

20A-9-405 . Nomination petitions for regular primary elections.

(1) This section applies to the form and circulation of nomination petitions for regular primary elections described in Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(a).

(2) A candidate for elective office, and the agents of the candidate, may not circulate nomination petitions until the candidate has submitted a declaration of candidacy in accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(1).

(3) For the manual candidate qualification process, the nomination petitions shall be in substantially the following form:

(a) the petition shall be printed on paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

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

(c) the petition shall be headed by a caption stating the purpose of the petition and the name of the proposed candidate;

(d) the petition shall feature the word "Warning" followed by the following statement in no less than eight-point, single leaded type: "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a nomination petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more than once for the same candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this state.";

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

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

(i) Registered Voter's Printed Name;

(ii) Signature of Registered Voter;

(iii) Party Affiliation of Registered Voter;

(iv) Birth Date or Age (Optional);

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

(vi) Date of Signature; and

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

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

(a) the following warning:

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

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

(i) name;

(ii) party affiliation;

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

(iv) street address, city, zip code;

(v) date of signature;

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

(vii) other information required by the lieutenant governor.

(5) For the manual candidate qualification process, if one or more nomination petitions are bound together, a page shall be bound to the nomination petition(s) that features the following

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

"Verification

State of Utah, County of ____

I, ____, of ____, hereby state that:

I am a Utah resident and am at least 18 years old;

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

I believe that each has printed and signed the person's name and written the person's street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah."

(6) The lieutenant governor shall prepare and make public model nomination petition forms and associated instructions.

(7) A nomination petition circulator must be at least 18 years old and a resident of the state, but may affiliate with any political party.

(8) It is unlawful for any person to:

(a) knowingly sign the nomination petition described in this section or Section 20A-9-408:

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

(ii) more than once for the same candidate; or

(iii) if the person is not registered to vote in this state;

(b) sign the verification of a signature for a nomination petition if the person:

(i) does not meet the residency requirements of Section 20A-2-105;

(ii) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the nomination petition; or

(iii) knows that a person whose signature appears on the nomination petition is not registered to vote in this state;

(c) pay compensation to any person to sign a nomination petition; or

(d) pay compensation to any person to circulate a nomination petition, if the compensation is based directly on the number of signatures submitted to a filing officer rather than on the number of signatures verified or on some other basis.

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

(10)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (11), a voter who signs a nomination petition may have the voter's signature removed from the petition by, no later than three

business days after the day on which the candidate files the petition with the appropriate filing officer, submitting to the filing officer a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

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

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

(11)(a) A filing officer may not remove a voter's signature from a nomination petition if, before the date and time that the filing officer receives the statement described in Subsection (10)(a), the filing officer verifies the voter's signature under Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(d)(v).

(b) A filing officer who removes a voter's signature under Subsection (10) shall:

(i) ensure that the voter's name, voter identification number, and date of signature are not included in the posting described in Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(d)(vi); and

(ii) remove the voter's signature from the nomination petition and the nomination petition signature totals.

~~[(10) Withdrawal of petition signatures is prohibited.]~~

Section 3. Section **20A-9-408** is amended to read:

20A-9-408 . Signature-gathering process to seek the nomination of a qualified political party -- Removal of signature.

(1) This section describes the requirements for a member of a qualified political party who is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office through the signature-gathering process described in this section.

(2) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-201(7)(a), the form of the declaration of candidacy for a member of a qualified political party who is nominated by, or who is seeking the nomination of, the qualified political party under this section shall be substantially as described in Section 20A-9-408.5.

(3) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(a), and except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(4), a member of a qualified political party who, under this section, is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office that is to be filled at the next general election shall:

(a) during the declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, and before gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing officer on a

form approved by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy that includes:

(i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a registered political party under this section;

(ii) the name of the registered political party for which the member is seeking nomination;

(iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;

(iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and

(v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;

(b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in person, with the filing officer during the declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and

(c) pay the filing fee.

(4) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(2)(a), a member of a qualified political party who, under this section, is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for the office of district attorney within a multicounty prosecution district that is to be filled at the next general election shall:

(a) during the declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, and before gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing officer on a form approved by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy that includes:

(i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a registered political party under this section;

(ii) the name of the registered political party for which the member is seeking nomination;

(iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;

(iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and

(v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;

(b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in person, with the filing officer during the declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and

(c) pay the filing fee.

(5) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(3)(a)(iii), a lieutenant governor candidate who files as the joint-ticket running mate of an individual who is nominated by a qualified

political party, under this section, for the office of governor shall, during the declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, file a declaration of candidacy and submit a letter from the candidate for governor that names the lieutenant governor candidate as a joint-ticket running mate.

(6) The lieutenant governor shall ensure that the certification described in Subsection 20A-9-701(1) also includes the name of each candidate nominated by a qualified political party under this section.

(7) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-701(2), the ballot shall, for each candidate who is nominated by a qualified political party under this section, designate the qualified political party that nominated the candidate.

(8) A member of a qualified political party may seek the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office by:

(a) complying with the requirements described in this section; and

(b) collecting signatures, on a form approved by the lieutenant governor that complies with Subsection 20A-9-405(3), during the period beginning on the day on which the member files a notice of intent to gather signatures and ending at 5 p.m. 14 days before the day on which the qualified political party's convention for the office is held, in the following amounts:

(i) for a statewide race, 28,000 signatures of registered voters in the state who are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;

(ii) for a congressional district race, 7,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the congressional district and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;

(iii) for a state Senate district race, 2,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the state Senate district and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;

(iv) for a state House district race, 1,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the state House district and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;

(v) for a State Board of Education race, the lesser of:

(A) 2,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the State Board of Education district and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election; or

- 371 (B) 3% of the registered voters of the qualified political party who are residents of
372 the applicable State Board of Education district; and
- 373 (vi) for a county office race, signatures of 3% of the registered voters who are
374 residents of the area permitted to vote for the county office and are permitted by
375 the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in
376 a primary election.
- 377 (9)(a) This Subsection (9) applies only to the manual candidate qualification process.
- 378 (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the
379 qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, using
380 the manual candidate qualification process, the member shall:
- 381 (i) collect the signatures on a form approved by the lieutenant governor, using the
382 same circulation and verification requirements described in ~~[Sections 20A-7-105~~
383 ~~and 20A-7-204]~~ Section 20A-9-405; and
- 384 (ii) submit the signatures to the election officer before 5 p.m. no later than 14 days
385 before the day on which the qualified political party holds the party's convention
386 to select candidates, for the elective office, for the qualified political party's
387 nomination.
- 388 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), the
389 election officer shall, no later than the earlier of 14 days after the day on which the
390 election officer receives the signatures, or one day before the day on which the
391 qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee for the elective
392 office to which the signature packets relate:
- 393 (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature
394 packet to determine whether each individual is a resident of Utah and is at least 18
395 years old;
- 396 (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (9)(c)(i) who is not a
397 Utah resident or who is not at least 18 years old to the attorney general and the
398 county attorney;
- 399 (iii) with the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, determine whether each
400 signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the petition, using the same
401 method, described in Section 20A-1-1002, used to verify a signature on a petition;
402 and
- 403 (iv) certify whether each name is that of a registered voter who is qualified to sign the
404 signature packet.

(d) Except as provided in Subsection (11), an election officer shall, no later than five business days after the day on which the signature of an individual who signs a petition is verified under Subsection (9)(c)(iii), post the name, voter identification number, and date of signature of the individual on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 days.

~~[(d)(i) A registered voter who physically signs a form under Subsections (8) and (9)(b) may have the voter's signature removed from the form by, no later than three business days after the day on which the member submits the signature form to the election officer, submitting to the election officer a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.]~~

~~[(ii) A statement described in Subsection (9)(d)(i) shall comply with the requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).]~~

~~[(iii) With the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, the election officer shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove an individual's signature after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.]~~

(10)(a) This Subsection (10) applies only to the electronic candidate qualification process.

(b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, the member shall, before 5 p.m. no later than 14 days before the day on which the qualified political party holds the party's convention to select candidates, for the elective office, for the qualified political party's nomination, collect signatures electronically:

(i) in accordance with Section 20A-21-201; and

(ii) using progressive screens, in a format approved by the lieutenant governor, that complies with Subsection 20A-9-405(4).

(c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and ~~[(9)(b)]~~ (10)(b), the election officer shall, no later than the earlier of 14 days after the day on which the election officer receives the signatures, or one day before the day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee for the elective office to which the signature packets relate:

(i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature to determine whether each individual is a resident of Utah and is at least 18 years

- old; and
- (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (10)(c)(i) who is not a Utah resident or who is not at least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney.
- (d) Except as provided in Subsection (11), an election officer shall, no later than five business days after the day on which the signature of an individual who signs a petition is verified under Section 20A-21-201, post the name, voter identification number, and date of signature of the individual on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 days.
- (11)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (12), a registered voter who physically signs a petition under Subsections (8) and (9)(b), or who electronically signs a petition under Subsections (8) and (10)(b), may have the voter's signature removed from the petition by, no later than three business days after the day on which the member of the qualified political party submits the signatures to the election officer, submitting to the election officer a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.
- (b) A statement described in Subsection (11)(a) shall comply with the requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
- (c) With the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, the election officer shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a petition after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.
- (12)(a) An election officer may not remove a voter's signature from a petition if, before the date and time that the election officer receives the statement described in Subsection (11)(a), the election officer verifies the voter's signature under Subsection (9)(c)(iii) or Section 20A-21-201.
- (b) An election officer who removes a voter's signature under Subsection (11) shall:
- (i) ensure that the voter's name, voter identification number, and date of signature are not included in the posting described in Subsection (9)(d) or (10)(d); and
- (ii) remove the voter's signature from the petition and the petition signature totals.
- [(11)] (13)(a) An individual may not gather signatures under this section until after the individual files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this section.
- (b) An individual who files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy, described in Subsection (3)(a) or (4)(a), is, beginning on the day on which the

individual files the notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy:

(i) required to comply with the reporting requirements that a candidate for office is required to comply with; and

(ii) subject to the same enforcement provisions, and civil and criminal penalties, that apply to a candidate for office in relation to the reporting requirements described in Subsection ~~[(11)(b)(i)]~~ (13)(b)(i).

(c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), or Subsections (8) and (10)(b), the election officer shall, no later than one day before the day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee for the elective office to which the signature packets relate, notify the qualified political party and the lieutenant governor of the name of each member of the qualified political party who qualifies as a nominee of the qualified political party, under this section, for the elective office to which the convention relates.

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

Section 4. Section **20A-9-502** is amended to read:

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

(1) The candidate shall:

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

"State of Utah, County of _____

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

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

509

510

Notary Public (or other officer

511

qualified to administer oaths)";

512

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

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

515

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

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

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

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

523

524

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

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

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530

"Each signer says:

531

I have personally signed this petition with a holographic signature;

532

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

533

534

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

535

(vii) contain horizontally ruled lines, 3/8 inch apart under the statement described in

Subsection (1)(b)(vi); and

(viii) be vertically divided into columns as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Verification

State of Utah, County of ____

I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:

I am at least 18 years old;

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

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

(Signature) (Residence Address) (Date)".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

592 (5)(a) To qualify for placement on the general election ballot, the candidate shall, no
593 earlier than the start of the declaration of candidacy period described in Section
594 20A-9-201.5 and no later than 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in which the election
595 will be held:

596 (i) comply with Subsection 20A-9-503(1); and

597 (ii) submit each signature packet to the county clerk where the majority of the
598 signatures in the packet were collected, with signatures totaling:

599 (A) at least 1,000 registered voters residing within the state when the nomination
600 is for an office to be filled by the voters of the entire state; or

601 (B) at least 300 registered voters residing within a political division or at least 5%
602 of the registered voters residing within a political division, whichever is less,
603 when the nomination is for an office to be filled by the voters of any political

- 604 division smaller than the state.
- 605 (b) A candidate has not complied with Subsection (5)(a)(ii), unless the county clerks
606 verify that each required signature is a valid signature of a registered voter who is
607 eligible to sign the signature packet and has not signed a signature packet to nominate
608 another candidate for the same office.
- 609 (c) In reviewing the signature packets, the county clerk shall count and certify only those
610 persons who signed with a holographic signature, who:
611 (i) are registered voters within the political division that the candidate seeks to
612 represent; and
613 (ii) did not sign any other certificate of nomination for that office.
- 614 (d) The county clerk shall count and certify the number of registered voters who validly
615 signed a signature packet, no later than 30 days after the day on which the candidate
616 submits the signature packet.
- 617 (e) The candidate may supplement the signatures or amend the certificate of nomination
618 or declaration of candidacy at any time on or before 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in
619 which the election will be held.
- 620 (f) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to
621 determine whether a signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature
622 packet.
- 623 (6) Except as provided in Subsection (7), the county clerk shall, no later than five business
624 days after the day on which the signature of a voter who signs a signature packet is
625 verified under Subsection (5)(b), post the name, voter identification number, and date of
626 signature of the voter on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location
627 designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 days.
- 628 [(6)] (7)(a) [A] Except as provided in Subsection (8), a voter who signs a signature packet
629 under this section may have the voter's signature removed from the signature packet
630 by, no later than three business days after the day on which the candidate submits the
631 signature packet to the county clerk, submitting to the county clerk a statement
632 requesting that the voter's signature be removed.
- 633 (b) A statement described in Subsection [(6)(a)] (7)(a) shall comply with the
634 requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
- 635 (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to
636 determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a signature packet after
637 receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

638 (8)(a) A county clerk may not remove a voter's signature from a petition packet if,
639 before the date and time the county clerk receives the statement described in
640 Subsection (7)(a), the county clerk verifies the voter's signature under Subsection
641 (5)(b).
642 (b) A county clerk who removes a voter's signature under Subsection (7) shall:
643 (i) ensure that the voter's name, voter identification number, and date of signature are
644 not included in the posting described in Subsection (6); and
645 (ii) remove the voter's signature from the nomination petition and the nomination
646 petition signature totals.
647 **Section 5. Effective Date.**
648 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.