

1 **Signature Verification Amendments**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Lisa Shepherd

Senate Sponsor:

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill amends provision related to signature verification.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

- 8 ▶ for a registered voter who manually signs a petition to nominate a candidate for elective
- 9 office, requires the election officer to post the voter's name and other voter-related
- 10 information on the lieutenant governor's website for at least 90 days;
- 11 ▶ if a voter's information in the voter registration database contains a valid email address,
- 12 requires an election officer to send an email to the voter notifying the voter that:
 - 13 • the voter's name and other voter-related information is posted on the website described
 - 14 above; and
 - 15 • the voter may request to have the voter's signature removed from the petition by
 - 16 submitting a written statement to the election officer;
 - 17 ▶ amends the information appearing on a nomination petition form to notify a voter of the
 - 18 posting and signature removal process described above;
 - 19 ▶ implements the posting and signature removal processes in relation to a candidate for
 - 20 elective office who is not affiliated with a political party;
 - 21 ▶ establishes and amends deadlines relating to signature submission, verification, and
 - 22 candidate certification; and
 - 23 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

24 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

25 None

26 **Other Special Clauses:**

27 This bill provides a special effective date.

28 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

29 AMENDS:

30 **20A-9-403**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 503

31 **20A-9-405**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 325

32 **20A-9-408**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 116

33 **20A-9-502**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 17

34

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

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

37 **20A-9-403 . Regular primary elections.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

62 (ii) if the registered political party participates in the upcoming regular primary
63 election, identify one or more registered political parties whose members may
64 vote for the registered political party's candidates and whether individuals

65 identified as unaffiliated with a political party may vote for the registered political
66 party's candidates.

67 (b)(i) A registered political party that is a continuing political party shall file the
68 statement described in Subsection (2)(a) with the lieutenant governor no later than
69 5 p.m. on November 30 of each odd-numbered year.

70 (ii) An organization that is seeking to become a registered political party under
71 Section 20A-8-103 shall file the statement described in Subsection (2)(a) at the
72 time that the registered political party files the petition described in Section
73 20A-8-103.

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

79 (i) circulated and completed in accordance with Section 20A-9-405; and
80 (ii) signed by at least 2% of the registered political party's members who reside in the
81 political division of the office that the individual seeks.

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

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

87 (c)(i) The lieutenant governor shall determine for each elective office the total
88 number of signatures that must be submitted under Subsection (3)(a)(ii) or
89 20A-9-408(8) by counting the aggregate number of individuals residing in each
90 elective office's political division who have designated a particular registered
91 political party on the individuals' voter registration forms on or before November
92 15 of each odd-numbered year.

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

95 (d) The filing officer shall:

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

- 99 the filing officer;
- 100 (ii) ~~for [all qualifying candidates for elective office who submit nomination petitions~~
101 ~~to the filing officer, issue certifications referenced]~~ each qualifying candidate for
102 elective office who submits a nomination petition to the filing officer, issue the
103 certification described in Subsection (3)(a) no later than the deadline described in
104 Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b);
- 105 (iii) ~~consider [active and inactive voters eligible to sign nomination petitions]~~ an
106 active voter and an inactive voter eligible to sign a nomination petition;
- 107 (iv) consider an individual who signs a nomination petition a member of a registered
108 political party for purposes of Subsection (3)(a)(ii) if the individual has designated [
109 ~~that]~~ the registered political party as the individual's party membership on the
110 individual's voter registration form; and
- 111 (v) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201 and with the assistance of
112 the county clerk as applicable, use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002
113 to verify submitted nomination petition signatures, or use statistical sampling
114 procedures to verify submitted nomination petition signatures in accordance with
115 rules made under Subsection ~~[(3)(f):]~~ (3)(g).
- 116 (e) Except as provided Subsection 20A-9-405(10), the filing officer shall:
- 117 (i) no later than one business day after the day on which each signature of an
118 individual who signs a nomination petition is verified under Subsection (3)(d)(v),
119 post the name, voter identification number, voter precinct number, and date of
120 signature of each individual on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous
121 location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 days; and
- 122 (ii) notwithstanding Subsections 20A-2-104(4)(d) and 20A-2-104(7), on the same
123 day the filing officer makes the posting described in Subsection (3)(e)(i), for each
124 individual whose voter information in the voter registration database includes a
125 valid email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email to the
126 individual notifying the individual that:
- 127 (A) the individual's nomination petition signature is verified;
- 128 (B) the individual's name and related voter information described in Subsection
129 (3)(e)(i) is posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and
- 130 (C) the individual has until the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-405(10)(a)
131 to submit a statement to the filing officer in accordance with Subsection
132 20A-1-1003(2) requesting that the voter's signature be removed from the

133 nomination petition.

134 [(e)] (f) Notwithstanding any other provision in this Subsection (3), a candidate for
 135 lieutenant governor may appear on the regular primary ballot of a registered political
 136 party without submitting [~~nomination petitions~~] a nomination petition if the candidate
 137 files a declaration of candidacy and complies with Subsection 20A-9-202(3).

138 [(f)] (g) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,
 139 the director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, may make
 140 rules that:

141 (i) provide for the use of statistical sampling procedures that:

142 (A) [~~filing officers are~~] each filing officer is required to use to verify signatures
 143 under Subsection (3)(d); and

144 (B) reflect a bona fide effort to determine the validity of a candidate's entire
 145 submission, using widely recognized statistical sampling techniques; and

146 (ii) provide for the transparent, orderly, and timely submission, verification, and
 147 certification of nomination petition signatures.

148 [(g)] (h) The county clerk shall:

149 (i) review the declarations of candidacy filed by [~~candidates~~] each candidate for local
 150 boards of education to determine if more than two candidates have filed for the
 151 same seat;

152 (ii) place the names of [~~all candidates who have~~] each candidate who has filed a
 153 declaration of candidacy for a local board of education seat on the nonpartisan
 154 section of the ballot if more than two candidates have filed for the same seat; and

155 (iii) determine the order of the local board of education candidates' names on the
 156 ballot in accordance with Section 20A-6-305.

157 (4)(a) Before the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-409(4)(c), the lieutenant
 158 governor shall provide to the county clerks:

159 (i) a list of the names of [~~all candidates~~] each candidate for federal, constitutional,
 160 multi-county, single county, and county offices who [~~have received certifications~~]
 161 has received a certification under Subsection (3), along with instructions on how [~~those names~~]
 162 each name shall appear on the primary election ballot in accordance
 163 with Section 20A-6-305; and

164 (ii) a list of [~~unopposed candidates for elective office who have~~] each unopposed
 165 candidate for elective office who has been nominated by a registered political
 166 party under Subsection (5)(c) and [~~instruct the county clerks~~] instructions to

167 exclude the unopposed candidates from the primary election ballot.

168 (b) A candidate for lieutenant governor and a candidate for governor campaigning as
169 joint-ticket running mates shall appear jointly on the primary election ballot.

170 (c) After the county clerk receives the certified list from the lieutenant governor under
171 Subsection (4)(a), the county clerk shall post or publish a primary election notice in
172 substantially the following form:

173 "Notice is given that a primary election will be held Tuesday, June ____,
174 ____ (year), to nominate party candidates for the parties and candidates for nonpartisan
175 local school board positions listed on the primary ballot. The polling place for voting precinct
176 ____ is _____. The polls will open at 7 a.m. and continue open until 8 p.m. of the same day.
177 Attest: county clerk."

178 (5)(a) A candidate who, at the regular primary election, receives the highest number of
179 votes cast for the office sought by the candidate is:

180 (i) nominated for that office by the candidate's registered political party; or

181 (ii) for a nonpartisan local school board position, nominated for that office.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

205 **20A-9-405 . Nomination petitions for regular primary elections.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

218 (d) the petition shall feature the ~~[word]~~ words:

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

224 (ii) "Notice" followed by the following statement in no less than eight-point, single
225 leaded type: "By signing this petition, you are consenting to the public posting of
226 your name, voter identification number, voter precinct number, and date of
227 signature on the lieutenant governor's website, regardless of any voter privacy
228 designation that may apply to you. If your voter registration information includes
229 a valid email address, you will receive an email notifying you of the posting, as
230 well as information on how to remove your name and voter information from this
231 petition. To ensure your voter registration information contains a valid email
232 address, please visit vote.utah.gov or the office of your county clerk.";

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

- 235 (f) the signature portion of the petition shall be divided into columns headed by the
236 following titles:
- 237 (i) Registered Voter's Printed Name;
238 (ii) Signature of Registered Voter;
239 (iii) Party Affiliation of Registered Voter;
240 (iv) Birth Date or Age (Optional);
241 (v) Street Address, City, Zip Code; and
242 (vi) Date of Signature; and
- 243 (g) a photograph of the candidate may appear on the nomination petition.
- 244 (4) For the electronic candidate qualification process, the lieutenant governor shall design
245 an electronic form, using progressive screens, that includes:
- 246 (a) the following warning:
- 247 "Warning: It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a nomination
248 petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more than once for the same
249 candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this state.";~~and~~
- 250 (b) the following notice:
- 251 "Notice: By signing this petition, you are consenting to the public posting of your
252 name, voter identification number, voter precinct number, and date of signature on
253 the lieutenant governor's website, regardless of any voter privacy designation that
254 may apply to you. If your voter registration information includes a valid email
255 address, you will receive an email notifying you of the posting, as well as
256 information on how to remove your name and voter information from this petition.
257 To ensure your voter registration information contains a valid email address, please
258 visit vote.utah.gov or the office of your county clerk."; and
- 259 ~~(b)~~ (c) the following information for each individual who signs the petition:
- 260 (i) name;
261 (ii) party affiliation;
262 (iii) date of birth or age, (optional);
263 (iv) street address, city, zip code;
264 (v) date of signature;
265 (vi) other information required under Section 20A-21-201; and
266 (vii) other information required by the lieutenant governor.
- 267 (5) For the manual candidate qualification process, if one or more nomination petitions are
268 bound together, a page shall be bound to the nomination petition(s) that features the following

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

270 "Verification

271 State of Utah, County of ____

272 I, ____, of ____, hereby state that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

285 (a) knowingly sign the nomination petition described in this section or Section
286 20A-9-408:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

301 (10)(a) A voter who signs a nomination petition may have the voter's signature removed
302 from the petition by, no later than five business days after the day on which the filing

- 303 officer makes the posting described in Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(e)(i), submitting to
 304 the filing officer a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.
 305 (b) A statement described in Subsection (10)(a) shall comply with the requirements
 306 described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
 307 (c) The filing officer shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to
 308 determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a nomination petition
 309 after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.
 310 (11)(a) If a filing officer timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under
 311 Subsection (10)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed under
 312 Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the filing officer shall:
 313 (i) ensure that the voter's name, voter identification number, voter precinct number,
 314 and date of signature are not included in the posting described in Subsection
 315 20A-9-403(3)(e)(i); and
 316 (ii) remove the voter's signature from the nomination petition and the nomination
 317 petition signature totals.
 318 (b) The filing officer shall comply with Subsection (11)(a) no later than five business
 319 days after the day on which the filing officer receives a statement requesting
 320 signature removal under Subsection (10)(a).

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

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

323 **20A-9-408 . Signature-gathering process to seek the nomination of a qualified**
 324 **political party -- Removal of signature.**

- 325 (1) This section describes the requirements for a member of a qualified political party who
 326 is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office through
 327 the signature-gathering process described in this section.
 328 (2) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-201(7)(a), the form of the declaration of candidacy
 329 for a member of a qualified political party who is nominated by, or who is seeking the
 330 nomination of, the qualified political party under this section shall be substantially as
 331 described in Section 20A-9-408.5.
 332 (3) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(a), and except as provided in Subsection
 333 20A-9-202(4), a member of a qualified political party who, under this section, is seeking
 334 the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office that is to be filled at
 335 the next general election shall:
 336 (a) during the declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5,

- 337 and before gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing officer on a
338 form approved by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather signatures for
339 candidacy that includes:
- 340 (i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a registered
341 political party under this section;
 - 342 (ii) the name of the registered political party for which the member is seeking
343 nomination;
 - 344 (iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;
 - 345 (iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and
 - 346 (v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;
- 347 (b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in
348 person, with the filing officer during the declaration of candidacy filing period
349 described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and
- 350 (c) pay the filing fee.
- 351 (4) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(2)(a), a member of a qualified political party
352 who, under this section, is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for the
353 office of district attorney within a multicounty prosecution district that is to be filled at
354 the next general election shall:
- 355 (a) during the declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5,
356 and before gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing officer on a
357 form approved by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather signatures for
358 candidacy that includes:
 - 359 (i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a registered
360 political party under this section;
 - 361 (ii) the name of the registered political party for which the member is seeking
362 nomination;
 - 363 (iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;
 - 364 (iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and
 - 365 (v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;
 - 366 (b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in
367 person, with the filing officer during the declaration of candidacy filing period
368 described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and
 - 369 (c) pay the filing fee.
- 370 (5) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(3)(a)(iii), a lieutenant governor candidate who

371 files as the joint-ticket running mate of an individual who is nominated by a qualified
372 political party, under this section, for the office of governor shall, during the declaration
373 of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, file a declaration of
374 candidacy and submit a letter from the candidate for governor that names the lieutenant
375 governor candidate as a joint-ticket running mate.

376 (6) The lieutenant governor shall ensure that the certification described in Subsection
377 20A-9-701(1) also includes the name of each candidate nominated by a qualified
378 political party under this section.

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

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

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

385 (b) collecting signatures, on a form approved by the lieutenant governor that complies
386 with Subsection 20A-9-405(3), during the period beginning on the day on which the
387 member files a notice of intent to gather signatures and ending at 5 p.m. [14] 21 days
388 before the day on which the qualified political party's convention for the office is
389 held, in the following amounts:

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

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

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

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

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

403 (A) 2,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the State Board of
404 Education district and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for

- 405 the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election; or
- 406 (B) 3% of the registered voters of the qualified political party who are residents of
- 407 the applicable State Board of Education district; and
- 408 (vi) for a county office race, signatures of 3% of the registered voters who are
- 409 residents of the area permitted to vote for the county office and are permitted by
- 410 the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in
- 411 a primary election.
- 412 (9)(a) This Subsection (9) applies only to the manual candidate qualification process.
- 413 (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the
- 414 qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, using
- 415 the manual candidate qualification process, the member shall:
- 416 (i) collect the signatures on a form approved by the lieutenant governor, using the
- 417 same circulation and verification requirements described in [~~Sections 20A-7-105~~
- 418 ~~and 20A-7-204~~] Section 20A-9-405; and
- 419 (ii) submit the signatures to the election officer before 5 p.m. no later than [~~14~~] 21
- 420 days before the day on which the qualified political party holds the party's
- 421 convention to select candidates, for the elective office, for the qualified political
- 422 party's nomination.
- 423 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), the
- 424 election officer shall, no later than the earlier of 14 days after the day on which the
- 425 election officer receives the signatures, or [~~one day~~] seven days before the day on
- 426 which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee for the
- 427 elective office to which the signature packets relate:
- 428 (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature
- 429 packet to determine whether each individual is a resident of Utah and is at least 18
- 430 years old;
- 431 (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (9)(c)(i) who is not a
- 432 Utah resident or who is not at least 18 years old to the attorney general and the
- 433 county attorney;
- 434 (iii) with the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, determine whether each
- 435 signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the petition, using the same
- 436 method, described in Section 20A-1-1002, used to verify a signature on a petition;
- 437 and
- 438 (iv) certify whether each name is that of a registered voter who is qualified to sign the

439 signature packet.

440 (d) Except as provided in Subsection (12), the election officer shall:

441 (i) no later than one business day after the day on which each signature of an
 442 individual who signs a petition is verified under Subsection (9)(c)(iii), post the
 443 name, voter identification number, voter precinct number, and date of signature of
 444 each individual on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location
 445 designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 days; and

446 (ii) notwithstanding Subsections 20A-2-104(4)(d) and 20A-2-104(7), on the same
 447 day the filing officer makes the posting described in Subsection (9)(d)(i), for each
 448 individual whose voter information in the voter registration database includes a
 449 valid email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email to the
 450 individual notifying the individual that:

451 (A) the individual's petition signature is verified;

452 (B) the individual's name and related voter information described in Subsection
 453 (9)(d)(i) is posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and

454 (C) the individual has until the deadline described in Subsection (11)(a) to submit
 455 a statement to the election officer in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(2)
 456 requesting that the individual's signature be removed from the petition.

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

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

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

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

470 (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the
 471 qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, the
 472 member shall, before 5 p.m. no later than ~~[+4]~~ 21 days before the day on which the

- 473 qualified political party holds the party's convention to select candidates, for the
474 elective office, for the qualified political party's nomination, collect signatures
475 electronically:
- 476 (i) in accordance with Section 20A-21-201; and
477 (ii) using progressive screens, in a format approved by the lieutenant governor, that
478 complies with Subsection 20A-9-405(4).
- 479 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and ~~[(9)(b)]~~ (10)(b),
480 the election officer shall, no later than the earlier of 14 days after the day on which
481 the election officer receives the signatures, or ~~[one day]~~ seven days before the day on
482 which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee for the
483 elective office to which the signature packets relate:
- 484 (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature
485 to determine whether each individual is a resident of Utah and is at least 18 years
486 old; and
487 (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (10)(c)(i) who is not
488 a Utah resident or who is not at least 18 years old to the attorney general and the
489 county attorney.
- 490 (d) Except as provided in Subsection (12), the election officer shall:
- 491 (i) no later than one business day after the day on which each signature of an
492 individual who signs a petition is verified under Section 20A-21-201, post the
493 name, voter identification number, voter precinct number, and date of signature of
494 each individual on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location
495 designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 days; and
- 496 (ii) notwithstanding Subsections 20A-2-104(4)(d) and 20A-2-104(7), on the same
497 day the filing officer makes the posting described in Subsection (10)(d)(i), for
498 each individual whose voter information in the voter registration database includes
499 a valid email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email to the
500 individual notifying the individual that:
- 501 (A) the individual's electronic petition signature is verified;
502 (B) the individual's name and related voter information described in Subsection
503 (10)(d)(i) is posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and
504 (C) the individual has until the deadline described in Subsection (11)(a) to submit
505 a statement to the election officer in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(2)
506 requesting that the individual's signature be removed from the petition.

- 507 (11)(a) A registered voter who physically signs a petition under Subsections (8) and
508 (9)(b), or who electronically signs a petition under Subsections (8) and (10)(b), may
509 have the voter's signature removed from the petition by, no later than three days after
510 the day on which the election officer makes the posting described in Subsection (9)(d)
511 or Subsection (10)(d), submitting to the election officer a statement requesting that
512 the voter's signature be removed.
- 513 (b) A statement described in Subsection (11)(a) shall comply with the requirements
514 described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
- 515 (c) With the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, the election officer shall use the
516 procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove
517 an individual's signature after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal
518 of the signature.
- 519 (12)(a) If an election officer timely receives a statement requesting signature removal
520 under Subsection (11)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed under
521 Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the election officer shall:
- 522 (i) ensure that the voter's name, voter identification number, voter precinct number,
523 and date of signature are not included in the posting described in Subsection (9)
524 (d)(i) or Subsection (10)(d)(i); and
- 525 (ii) remove the voter's signature from the petition and the petition signature totals.
- 526 (b) The election officer shall comply with Subsection (12)(a) no later than one day
527 before the day of the convention described in Subsection (13)(c).
- 528 ~~[(11)]~~ (13)(a) An individual may not gather signatures under this section until after the
529 individual files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this
530 section.
- 531 (b) An individual who files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy,
532 described in Subsection (3)(a) or (4)(a), is, beginning on the day on which the
533 individual files the notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy:
- 534 (i) required to comply with the reporting requirements that a candidate for office is
535 required to comply with; and
- 536 (ii) subject to the same enforcement provisions, and civil and criminal penalties, that
537 apply to a candidate for office in relation to the reporting requirements described
538 in Subsection ~~[(11)(b)(i)]~~ (13)(b)(i).
- 539 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), or
540 Subsections (8) and (10)(b), the election officer shall, no later than one day before the

541 day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee
 542 for the elective office to which the signature packets relate, notify the qualified
 543 political party and the lieutenant governor of the name of each member of the
 544 qualified political party who qualifies as a nominee of the qualified political party,
 545 under this section, for the elective office to which the convention relates.

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

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

551 **20A-9-502 . Certificate of nomination -- Contents -- Circulation -- Verification --**
 552 **Criminal penalty -- Removal of petition signature.**

553 (1) The candidate shall:

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

555 "State of Utah, County of _____

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

567

568

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

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 Notary Public (or other officer

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- qualified to administer oaths)";
- (b) for each signature packet, bind signature sheets to a copy of the certificate of nomination and the circulator verification, that:
- (i) are printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
- (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;
- (iii) contain the name of the proposed candidate and the words "Unaffiliated Candidate Certificate of Nomination Petition" printed directly below the horizontal line;
- (iv) contain the word "Warning" printed directly under the words described in Subsection (1)(b)(iii);
- (v) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed in not less than eight-point, single leaded type:
- "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.";
- (vi) contain the word "Notice" printed directly under the words described in Subsection (1)(b)(v);
- (vii) contain, to the right of the word "Notice," the following statement printed in not less than eight-point, single leaded type:
- "By signing this petition, you are consenting to the public posting of your name, voter identification number, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the lieutenant governor's website, regardless of any voter privacy designation that may apply to you. If your voter registration information includes a valid email address, you will receive an email notifying you of the posting, as well as information on how to remove your name and voter information from this petition. To ensure your voter registration information contains a valid email address, please visit vote.utah.gov or the office of your county clerk.";
- ~~(vi)~~ (viii) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in Subsection ~~[(1)(b)(v)]~~ (1)(b)(vii):
- "Each signer says:
- I have personally signed this petition with a holographic signature;

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

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

607 [~~(vii)~~] (ix) contain horizontally ruled lines, 3/8 inch apart under the statement

608 described in Subsection [~~(1)(b)(vi)~~] (1)(b)(viii); and

609 [~~(viii)~~] (x) be vertically divided into columns as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

629 "Verification

630 State of Utah, County of ____

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

632 I am at least 18 years old;

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

636 I believe that each has printed and signed the person's name and written the person's
637 street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah or will register to

638 vote in Utah before the county clerk certifies the signatures on the signature sheet.

639

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

664 (5)(a) To qualify for placement on the general election ballot, the candidate shall, no
665 earlier than the start of the declaration of candidacy period described in Section
666 20A-9-201.5 and no later than 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in which the election
667 will be held:

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

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

671 (A) at least 1,000 registered voters residing within the state when the nomination

- 672 is for an office to be filled by the voters of the entire state; or
- 673 (B) at least 300 registered voters residing within a political division or at least 5%
- 674 of the registered voters residing within a political division, whichever is less,
- 675 when the nomination is for an office to be filled by the voters of any political
- 676 division smaller than the state.
- 677 (b) A candidate has not complied with Subsection (5)(a)(ii), unless the county clerks
- 678 verify that each required signature is a valid signature of a registered voter who is
- 679 eligible to sign the signature packet and has not signed a signature packet to nominate
- 680 another candidate for the same office.
- 681 (c) In reviewing the signature packets, the county clerk shall count and certify only those
- 682 persons who signed with a holographic signature, who:
- 683 (i) are registered voters within the political division that the candidate seeks to
- 684 represent; and
- 685 (ii) did not sign any other certificate of nomination for that office.
- 686 (d) The county clerk shall count and certify the number of registered voters who validly
- 687 signed a signature packet, no later than 30 days after the day on which the candidate
- 688 submits the signature packet.
- 689 (e) The candidate may supplement the signatures or amend the certificate of nomination
- 690 or declaration of candidacy at any time on or before 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in
- 691 which the election will be held.
- 692 (f) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to
- 693 determine whether a signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature
- 694 packet.
- 695 (6) Except as provided in Subsection (8), the county clerk shall:
- 696 (a) no later than one business day after the day on which each signature of a voter who
- 697 signs a signature packet is verified under Subsection (5)(b), post the name, voter
- 698 identification number, voter precinct number, and date of signature of each voter on
- 699 the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the
- 700 lieutenant governor, for at least 90 days; and
- 701 (b) notwithstanding Subsections 20A-2-104(4)(d) and 20A-2-104(7), on the same day
- 702 the filing officer makes the posting described in Subsection (6)(a), for each individual
- 703 whose voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid email
- 704 address, use an electronic notification system to send an email to the individual
- 705 notifying the individual that:

- 706 (i) the voter's nomination petition signature is verified;
 707 (ii) the voter's name and related voter information described in Subsection (6)(a) is
 708 posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and
 709 (iii) the voter has until the deadline described in Subsection (7)(a) to submit a
 710 statement to the county clerk in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(2)
 711 requesting that the voter's signature be removed from the nomination petition.
- 712 [(6)] (7)(a) A voter who signs a signature packet under this section may have the voter's
 713 signature removed from the signature packet by, no later than [three] five business
 714 days after the day on which the [candidate submits the signature packet to the county
 715 clerk] the county clerk makes the posting described in Subsection (6)(a), submitting to
 716 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.
- 717 (b) A statement described in Subsection [(6)(a)] (7)(a) shall comply with the
 718 requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
- 719 (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to
 720 determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a signature packet after
 721 receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.
- 722 (8)(a) If a county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under
 723 Subsection (7)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed under
 724 Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the county clerk shall:
- 725 (i) ensure that the voter's name, voter identification number, voter precinct number,
 726 and date of signature are not included in the posting described in Subsection (6)(a);
 727 and
 728 (ii) remove the voter's signature from the nomination petition and the nomination
 729 petition signature totals.
- 730 (b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection (8)(a) no later than five business days
 731 after the day on which the county clerk receives a statement requesting signature
 732 removal under Subsection (7)(a).

733 **Section 5. Effective Date.**

734 This bill takes effect on January 1, 2026.