

Signature Verification Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Lisa Shepherd

Senate Sponsor: Heidi Balderree

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill amends provision related to signature verification.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

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

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

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

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 [
- 162 ~~those names~~] 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.

- (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]~~ words:
 - (i) "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."; and
 - (ii) "Notice" followed by the following statement in no 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.";
 - (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 notice:

"Notice: 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."; and

[~~(b)~~] (c) 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) A voter who signs a nomination petition may have the voter's signature removed from the petition by, no later than five business days after the day on which the filing

officer makes the posting described in Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(e)(i), 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) If a filing officer timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection (10)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the filing officer shall:

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

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

(b) The filing officer shall comply with Subsection (11)(a) no later than five business days after the day on which the filing officer receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection (10)(a).

~~[(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]~~ 21 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

- 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

- signature packet.
- (d) Except as provided in Subsection (12), the election officer shall:
- (i) no later than one business day after the day on which each signature of an individual who signs a petition is verified under Subsection (9)(c)(iii), post the name, voter identification number, voter precinct number, and date of signature of each individual on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 days; and
- (ii) notwithstanding Subsections 20A-2-104(4)(d) and 20A-2-104(7), on the same day the filing officer makes the posting described in Subsection (9)(d)(i), for each individual whose voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email to the individual notifying the individual that:
- (A) the individual's petition signature is verified;
- (B) the individual's name and related voter information described in Subsection (9)(d)(i) is posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and
- (C) the individual has until the deadline described in Subsection (11)(a) to submit a statement to the election officer in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(2) requesting that the individual's signature be removed from the petition.
- ~~[(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]~~ 21 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]~~ seven days 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 (12), the election officer shall:

(i) no later than one business day after the day on which each signature of an individual who signs a petition is verified under Section 20A-21-201, post the name, voter identification number, voter precinct number, and date of signature of each individual on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 days; and

(ii) notwithstanding Subsections 20A-2-104(4)(d) and 20A-2-104(7), on the same day the filing officer makes the posting described in Subsection (10)(d)(i), for each individual whose voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email to the individual notifying the individual that:

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

(B) the individual's name and related voter information described in Subsection (10)(d)(i) is posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and

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

- (11)(a) 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 days after the day on which the election officer makes the posting described in Subsection (9)(d) or Subsection (10)(d), 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 after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.
- (12)(a) If an election officer timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection (11)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the election officer shall:
- (i) ensure that the voter's name, voter identification number, voter precinct number, and date of signature are not included in the posting described in Subsection (9)(d)(i) or Subsection (10)(d)(i); and
- (ii) remove the voter's signature from the petition and the petition signature totals.
- (b) The election officer shall comply with Subsection (12)(a) no later than one day before the day of the convention described in Subsection (13)(c).
- [H] (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 [(H)(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.

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

Notary Public (or other officer

- 571
qualified to administer oaths)";
- 572 (b) for each signature packet, bind signature sheets to a copy of the certificate of
573 nomination and the circulator verification, that:
- 574 (i) are printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
- 575 (ii) are ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space above that
576 line blank for the purpose of binding;
- 577 (iii) contain the name of the proposed candidate and the words "Unaffiliated
578 Candidate Certificate of Nomination Petition" printed directly below the
579 horizontal line;
- 580 (iv) contain the word "Warning" printed directly under the words described in
581 Subsection (1)(b)(iii);
- 582 (v) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed in not less than
583 eight-point, single leaded type:
- 584 "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a certificate of nomination
585 signature sheet with any name other than the person's own name or more than once for the
586 same candidate or if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
587 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the signatures.";
- 588 (vi) contain the word "Notice" printed directly under the words described in
589 Subsection (1)(b)(v);
- 590 (vii) contain, to the right of the word "Notice," the following statement printed in not
591 less than eight-point, single leaded type:
- 592 "By signing this petition, you are consenting to the public posting of your
593 name, voter identification number, voter precinct number, and date of signature on
594 the lieutenant governor's website, regardless of any voter privacy designation that
595 may apply to you. If your voter registration information includes a valid email
596 address, you will receive an email notifying you of the posting, as well as
597 information on how to remove your name and voter information from this
598 petition. To ensure your voter registration information contains a valid email
599 address, please visit vote.utah.gov or the office of your county clerk.";
- 600 [(vi)] (viii) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in
601 Subsection [(1)(b)(v)] (1)(b)(vii):
- 602 "Each signer says:
- 603 I have personally signed this petition with a holographic signature;

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

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

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

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

~~[(viii)]~~ (x) 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

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

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

(i) is at least 18 years old; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

(C) 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; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(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.