1 **Election Amendments**

2025 SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Scott D. Sandall

House Sponsor: Karen M. Peterson

2

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5   This bill modifies election provisions relating to qualifying for placement on a primary

6 election ballot.

7 **Highlighted Provisions:**

8   This bill:

9   ‣ for the 2026 election year only, in relation to the office of United States representative

10 only:

11   • permits an individual who desires to circulate a petition to gather signatures to qualify

12 for placement on the regular primary election ballot as a potential nominee of a

13 political party for United States representative (a congressional signature petition) to

14 file a notice of intent to gather signatures before filing as a candidate for United

15 States representative;

16   • until the deadline for filing a declaration of candidacy for United States representative,

17 permits an individual to circulate a congressional signature petition, regardless of

18 whether the individual is also running for an office other than United States

19 representative;

20   • requires that an individual who is running for an office other than United States

21 representative must withdraw as a candidate for that office before filing a declaration

22 of candidacy for United States representative;

23   • provides that the declaration of candidacy filing period is March 9, 2026, through

24 March 13, 2026; and

25   • permits an individual who circulates a congressional signature petition to collect

26 signatures from any resident of the state who is permitted by the political party to

27 vote for the political party's candidates in a primary election, rather than only a

28 resident of the congressional district for which the individual intends to run;

29   ▸ grants rulemaking authority to regulate the circumstances under which an individual may

30   submit a candidate signature packet; and

31   ▸ makes technical and conforming changes.

32   **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

33   None

34   **Other Special Clauses:**

35   This bill provides a special effective date.

36   **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

37   AMENDS:

38   **20A-1-509.1**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 16

39   **20A-2-107**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

40   **20A-9-201**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 39, 160 and 448

41   **20A-9-201.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

42   **20A-9-406**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 13

43   **20A-9-407**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 13

44   **20A-9-408**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 38, 448

45   **20A-9-410**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 17

46   **20A-9-502**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

47   **20A-14-203**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapters 13, 265

48   ══

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

50   Section 1. Section **20A-1-509.1** is amended to read:

51   **20A-1-509.1 . Procedure for filling midterm vacancy in county or district with 15**

52   **or more attorneys.**

53   (1) When a vacancy occurs in the office of county or district attorney in a county or district

54   having 15 or more attorneys who are licensed active members in good standing with the

55   Utah State Bar and registered voters, the vacancy shall be filled as provided in this

56   section.

57   (2)(a) The requirements of this Subsection (2) apply when the office of county attorney

58   or district attorney becomes vacant and:

59   (i) the vacant office has an unexpired term of two years or more; and

60   (ii) the vacancy occurs before the first day of the applicable declaration of candidacy

61   filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5.

62   (b) When the conditions established in Subsection (2)(a) are met, the county clerk shall

63   notify the public and each registered political party that the vacancy exists.

64   (c) All persons intending to become candidates for the vacant office shall:

65   (i) file a declaration of candidacy according to the procedures and requirements of

66   Chapter 9, Part 2, Candidate Qualifications and Declarations of Candidacy;

67   (ii) if nominated as a party candidate or qualified as an independent or write-in

68   candidate under Chapter 9, Candidate Qualifications and Nominating Procedures,

69   run in the regular general election; and

70   (iii) if elected, complete the unexpired term of the person who created the vacancy.

71   (d) If the vacancy occurs during the applicable declaration of candidacy filing period

72   described in Section 20A-9-201.5:

73   (i) the time for filing a declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-202 shall be

74   extended until 5 p.m. on the first business day that is no later than seven calendar

75   days after the last day of the applicable declaration of candidacy filing period

76   described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and

77   (ii) the county clerk shall notify the public and each registered political party that the

78   vacancy exists.

79 (3)(a) The requirements of this Subsection (3) apply when the office of county attorney

80   or district attorney becomes vacant and:

81   (i) the vacant office has an unexpired term of two years or more; and

82   (ii) the vacancy occurs after the third Thursday in March of the even-numbered year

83   but more than 75 calendar days before the regular primary election.

84   (b) When the conditions established in Subsection (3)(a) are met, the county clerk shall:

85   (i) notify the public and each registered political party that the vacancy exists; and

86   (ii) identify the date and time by which a person interested in becoming a candidate

87   shall file a declaration of candidacy.

88   (c) All persons intending to become candidates for the vacant office shall:

89   (i) no later than 5 p.m. on the first business day that is at least five calendar days after

90   the day on which the county clerk gives the notice described in Subsection (3)(b)(i),

91   file a declaration of candidacy for the vacant office as required by Chapter 9, Part

92   2, Candidate Qualifications and Declarations of Candidacy; and

93   (ii) if elected, complete the unexpired term of the person who created the vacancy.

94   (d) The county central committee of each party shall:

95   (i) select a candidate or candidates from among those qualified candidates who have

96   filed declarations of candidacy; and

97   (ii) certify the name of the candidate or candidates to the county clerk:

98   (A) no later than 5 p.m. on the last business day that is at least 60 calendar days

99   before the day of the regular primary election; or

100   (B) electronically, before midnight no later than 60 calendar days before the day

101   of the regular primary election.

102   (4)(a) The requirements of this Subsection (4) apply when the office of county attorney

103   or district attorney becomes vacant and:

104   (i) the vacant office has an unexpired term of two years or more; and

105   (ii) 75 calendar days or less remain before the regular primary election but more than

106   65 calendar days remain before the regular general election.

107   (b) When the conditions established in Subsection (4)(a) are met, the county central

108   committees of each registered political party that wishes to submit a candidate for the

109   office shall, not later than five calendar days after the day on which the vacancy

110   occurs, certify the name of one candidate to the county clerk for placement on the

111   regular general election ballot.

112   (c) The candidate elected shall complete the unexpired term of the person who created

113   the vacancy.

114   (5)(a) The requirements of this Subsection (5) apply when the office of county attorney

115   or district attorney becomes vacant and:

116   (i) the vacant office has an unexpired term of less than two years; or

117   (ii) the vacant office has an unexpired term of two years or more but 65 calendar days

118   or less remain before the next regular general election.

119   (b) When the conditions established in Subsection (5)(a) are met, the county legislative

120   body shall give notice of the vacancy to:

121   (i) the county clerk; and

122   (ii) the county central committee of the same political party of the prior officeholder.

123   (c) The county legislative body shall invite the committee described in Subsection

124   (5)(b)(ii) to submit the names of three nominees to fill the vacancy.

125   (d) The county central committee shall, within 30 calendar days after the day on which

126   the county legislative body gives the notice described in Subsection (5)(b)(ii), submit

127   to the county legislative body the names of three nominees to fill the vacancy.

128   (e) The county legislative body shall, within 45 calendar days after the vacancy occurs,

129   appoint one of those nominees to serve out the unexpired term.

130   (f) If the county legislative body fails to appoint a person to fill the vacancy within 45

131   calendar days, the county clerk shall send to the governor a letter that:

132   (i) informs the governor that the county legislative body has failed to appoint a

133   person to fill the vacancy within the statutory time period; and

134   (ii) contains the list of nominees submitted by the party central committee.

135   (g) The governor shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy from that list of nominees

136   within 30 calendar days after the day on which the governor receives the letter

137   described in Subsection (5)(f).

138   (h) A person appointed to fill the vacancy under this Subsection (5) shall complete the

139   unexpired term of the person who created the vacancy.

140   (6) A person seeking appointment to fill a vacancy described in Subsection (5)(a) shall, no

141   later than the deadline for the person to file a financial report under Section 17-70-403:

142   (a) complete a conflict of interest disclosure statement in accordance with Section

143   17-70-304; and

144   (b) submit the conflict of interest disclosure statement to the county legislative body and

145   the county clerk.

146   (7)(a) The county clerk shall make each conflict of interest disclosure statement made by

147   a person described in Subsection (6) available for public inspection by posting an

148   electronic copy of the statement on the county's website for at least 10 calendar days

149   after the day on which the county legislative body appoints a person to fill the

150   vacancy.

151   (b) The county clerk shall post the electronic statement described in Subsection (7)(a) no

152   later than two business days after the day on which the county clerk receives the

153   statement.

154   (8) A vacancy in the office described in Subsection (1) does not occur unless the person

155   occupying the office:

156   (a) has left the office; or

157   (b) submits an irrevocable letter of resignation to the county legislative body.

158   (9) Nothing in this section prevents or prohibits independent candidates from filing a

159   declaration of candidacy for the office within the required time limits.

160   Section 2. Section **20A-2-107** is amended to read:

161   **20A-2-107 . Designating or changing party affiliation -- Times permitted.**

162   (1) As used in this section, "change of affiliation deadline" means:

163   (a) for an election held in an even-numbered year in which a presidential election will be

164   held, the day after the declaration of candidacy deadline described in Subsection [

165   ~~20A-9-201.5(2)(b)~~] 20A-9-201.5(1); or

166   (b)   for an election held in an even-numbered year in which a presidential election will

167   not be held, April 1.

168   (2)   The county clerk shall:

169   (a)   except as provided in Subsection (6) or 20A-2-107.5(3), record the party affiliation

170   designated by the voter on the voter registration form as the voter's party affiliation; or

171   (b)   if no political party affiliation is designated by the voter on the voter registration

172   form:

173   (i)   except as provided in Subsection (2)(b)(ii), record the voter's party affiliation as

174   the party that the voter designated the last time that the voter designated a party on

175   a voter registration form, unless the voter more recently registered as

176   "unaffiliated"; or

177   (ii)   record the voter's party affiliation as "unaffiliated" if the voter:

178   (A)   did not previously designate a party;

179   (B)   most recently designated the voter's party affiliation as "unaffiliated"; or

180   (C)   did not previously register.

181   (3)(a)   Any registered voter may designate or change the voter's political party affiliation

182   by complying with the procedures and requirements of this Subsection (3).

183   (b)   A registered voter may designate or change the voter's political party affiliation by

184   filing with the county clerk, the municipal clerk, or the lieutenant governor a voter

185   registration form or another signed form that identifies the registered political party

186   with which the voter chooses to affiliate.

187   (c)   Except as provided in Subsection (3)(d), a voter registration form or another signed

188   form designating or changing a voter's political party affiliation takes effect when the

189   county clerk receives the signed form.

190   (d)   The party affiliation of a voter who changes party affiliation, or who becomes

191   unaffiliated from a political party, at any time on or after the change of affiliation

192   deadline and on or before the date of the regular primary election, takes effect the day

193   after the statewide canvass for the regular primary election.

194   (4)   For purposes of Subsection (3)(d), a form described in Subsection (3)(c) is received by

195   the county clerk before the change of affiliation deadline if:

196   (a)   the individual submits the form in person at the county clerk's office no later than 5

197   p.m. on the last business day before the change of affiliation deadline;

198   (b)   the individual submits the form electronically through the system described in

199   Section 20A-2-206, at or before 11:59 p.m. before the day of the change of affiliation

200   deadline; or

201   (c) the individual's form is clearly postmarked before the change of affiliation deadline.

202 (5) Subsection (3)(d) does not apply to the party affiliation designated by a voter on a voter

203   registration form if:

204   (a) the voter has not previously been registered to vote in the state; or

205   (b) the voter's most recent party affiliation was changed to "unaffiliated" by a county

206   clerk under Subsection (6).

207 (6) If the most recent party affiliation designated by a voter is for a political party that is no

208   longer a registered political party, the county clerk shall:

209   (a) change the voter's party affiliation to "unaffiliated"; and

210   (b) notify the voter electronically or by mail:

211   (i) that the voter's affiliation has been changed to "unaffiliated" because the most

212   recent party affiliation designated by the voter is for a political party that is no

213   longer a registered political party; and

214   (ii) of the methods and deadlines for changing the voter's party affiliation.

215   Section 3. Section **20A-9-201** is amended to read:

216   **20A-9-201 . Declarations of candidacy -- Candidacy for more than one office or**

217 **of more than one political party prohibited with exceptions -- General filing and form**

218 **requirements -- Affidavit of impecuniosity.**

219 (1) Before filing a declaration of candidacy for election to any office, an individual shall:

220   (a) be a United States citizen;

221   (b) meet the legal requirements of that office; and

222   (c) if seeking a registered political party's nomination as a candidate for elective office,

223   state:

224   (i) the registered political party of which the individual is a member; or

225   (ii) that the individual is not a member of a registered political party.

226 (2)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), an individual may not:

227   (i) file a declaration of candidacy for, or be a candidate for, more than one office in

228   Utah during any election year;

229   (ii) appear on the ballot as the candidate of more than one political party; or

230   (iii) file a declaration of candidacy for a registered political party of which the

231   individual is not a member, except to the extent that the registered political party

232   permits otherwise in the registered political party's bylaws.

233   (b)(i) An individual may file a declaration of candidacy for, or be a candidate for,

234   president or vice president of the United States and another office, if the

235   individual resigns the individual's candidacy for the other office after the

236   individual is officially nominated for president or vice president of the United

237   States.

238   (ii) An individual may file a declaration of candidacy for, or be a candidate for, more

239   than one justice court judge office.

240   (iii) An individual may file a declaration of candidacy for lieutenant governor even if

241   the individual filed a declaration of candidacy for another office in the same

242   election year if the individual withdraws as a candidate for the other office in

243   accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(6) before filing the declaration of

244   candidacy for lieutenant governor.

245   (iv) For the 2026 election year only, an individual who files a declaration of

246   candidacy to seek the nomination of a qualified political party for constitutional

247   office, multicounty office, or county office:

248   (A) may also be a candidate for United States representative;

249   (B) may, if the individual desires to use the signature-gathering process to qualify

250   for the primary election ballot for the office of United States representative, file

251   a notice of intent to gather signatures for, and gather signatures for, that office;

252   and

253   (C) shall, before filing a declaration of candidacy for the office of United States

254   representative, withdraw as a candidate for the constitutional office,

255   multicounty office, or county office for which the individual filed a declaration

256   of candidacy.

257 (3)(a) Except for a candidate for president or vice president of the United States, before

258   the filing officer may accept any declaration of candidacy, the filing officer shall:

259   (i) read to the individual the constitutional and statutory qualification requirements

260   for the office that the individual is seeking;

261   (ii) require the individual to state whether the individual meets the requirements

262   described in Subsection (3)(a)(i);

263   (iii) if the declaration of candidacy is for a county office, inform the individual that

264   an individual who holds a county elected office may not, at the same time, hold a

265   municipal elected office; and

266   (iv) if the declaration of candidacy is for a legislative office, inform the individual

267   that Utah Constitution, Article VI, Section 6, prohibits a person who holds a

268   public office of profit or trust, under authority of the United States or Utah, from

269   being a member of the Legislature.

270   (b)(i) Before accepting a declaration of candidacy for the office of county attorney,

271   the county clerk shall ensure that the individual filing that declaration of

272   candidacy is:

273   (A) a United States citizen;

274   (B) an attorney licensed to practice law in the state who is an active member in

275   good standing of the Utah State Bar;

276   (C) a registered voter in the county in which the individual is seeking office; and

277   (D) a current resident of the county in which the individual is seeking office and

278   either has been a resident of that county for at least one year before the date of

279   the election or was appointed and is currently serving as county attorney and

280   became a resident of the county within 30 calendar days after appointment to

281   the office.

282   (ii) An individual filing a declaration of candidacy for the office of county attorney

283   shall submit with the individual's declaration:

284   (A) a letter from the Utah Supreme Court, affirming that the individual is an

285   attorney in good standing;

286   (B) proof of the individual's application with the Utah State Bar, with an affidavit

287   describing the status of the individual's application; or

288   (C) an affidavit describing how the individual intends to comply with the

289   requirements for office of county attorney described in Subsection (3)(b)(i),

290   prior to taking office.

291   (iii) In addition to the requirements described in Subsection (3)(b)(ii), an individual

292   shall also provide the filing officer with the individual's license number with:

293   (A) the Utah State Bar, if the individual is a member; or

294   (B) any other state bar association, if the individual is a member.

295   (c)(i) Before accepting a declaration of candidacy for the office of district attorney,

296   the county clerk shall ensure that, as of the date of the election, the individual

297   filing that declaration of candidacy is:

298   (A) a United States citizen;

299   (B) an attorney licensed to practice law in the state who is an active member in

300   good standing of the Utah State Bar;

301   (C) a registered voter in the prosecution district in which the individual is seeking

302   office; and

303   (D) a current resident of the prosecution district in which the individual is seeking

304   office and either will have been a resident of that prosecution district for at

305   least one year before the date of the election or was appointed and is currently

306   serving as district attorney or county attorney and became a resident of the

307   prosecution district within 30 calendar days after receiving appointment to the

308   office.

309   (ii) An individual filing a declaration of candidacy for the office of district attorney

310   shall submit with the individual's declaration:

311   (A) a letter from the Utah Supreme Court, affirming that the individual is an

312   attorney in good standing;

313   (B) proof of the individual's application with the Utah State Bar, with an affidavit

314   describing the status of the individual's application; or

315   (C) an affidavit describing how the individual intends to comply with the

316   requirements for office of district attorney described in Subsection (3)(c)(i),

317   prior to taking office.

318   (iii) In addition to the requirements described in Subsection (3)(c)(ii), an individual

319   shall also provide the filing officer with the individual's license number with:

320   (A) the Utah State Bar, if the individual is a member; or

321   (B) any other state bar association, if the individual is a member.

322   (d) Before accepting a declaration of candidacy for the office of county sheriff, the

323   county clerk shall ensure that the individual filing the declaration:

324   (i) is a United States citizen;

325   (ii) is a registered voter in the county in which the individual seeks office;

326   (iii)(A) has successfully met the standards and training requirements established

327   for law enforcement officers under Title 53, Chapter 6, Part 2, Peace Officer

328   Training and Certification Act; or

329   (B) has met the waiver requirements in Section 53-6-206;

330   (iv) is qualified to be certified as a law enforcement officer, as defined in Section

331   53-13-103; and

332   (v) before the date of the election, will have been a resident of the county in which

333   the individual seeks office for at least one year.

334   (e)(i) An individual filing a declaration of candidacy for the office of attorney general

335   shall submit with the individual's declaration:

336   (A) a letter from the Utah Supreme Court, affirming that the individual is an

337   attorney in good standing;

338   (B) proof of the individual's application with the Utah State Bar, with an affidavit

339   describing the status of the individual's application; or

340   (C) an affidavit describing how the individual intends to comply with the

341   requirements for office of attorney general, described in Article VII, Sec. 3,

342   Utah Constitution, prior to taking office.

343   (ii) In addition to the requirements described in Subsection (3)(e)(i), an individual

344   shall also provide the filing officer with the individual's license number with:

345   (A) the Utah State Bar, if the individual is a member; or

346   (B) any other state bar association, if the individual is a member.

347   (iii) An individual filing the declaration of candidacy for the office of attorney

348   general shall also make the conflict of interest disclosure described in Section

349   20A-11-1603.

350   (f) Before accepting a declaration of candidacy for the office of governor, lieutenant

351   governor, state auditor, state treasurer, state legislator, or State Board of Education

352   member, the filing officer shall ensure that the individual filing the declaration of

353   candidacy also makes the conflict of interest disclosure described in Section

354   20A-11-1603.

355   (4) If an individual who files a declaration of candidacy does not meet the qualification

356   requirements for the office the individual is seeking, the filing officer may not accept the

357   individual's declaration of candidacy.

358   (5) If an individual who files a declaration of candidacy meets the requirements described

359   in Subsection (3), the filing officer shall:

360   (a) inform the individual that:

361   (i) subject to Section 20A-6-109, the individual's name will appear on the ballot as

362   the individual's name is written on the individual's declaration of candidacy;

363   (ii) the individual may be required to comply with state or local campaign finance

364   disclosure laws; and

365   (iii) the individual is required to file a financial statement before the individual's

366   political convention under:

367   (A) Section 20A-11-204 for a candidate for constitutional office;

368   (B) Section 20A-11-303 for a candidate for the Legislature; or

369   (C) local campaign finance disclosure laws, if applicable;

370   (b) except for a presidential candidate, provide the individual with a copy of the current

371   campaign financial disclosure laws for the office the individual is seeking and inform

372   the individual that failure to comply will result in disqualification as a candidate and

373   removal of the individual's name from the ballot;

374   (c)(i) provide the individual with a copy of Section 20A-7-801 regarding the

375   Statewide Electronic Voter Information Website Program and inform the

376   individual of the submission deadline under Subsection 20A-7-801(4)(a);

377   (ii) inform the individual that the individual must provide the filing officer with an

378   email address that the individual actively monitors:

379   (A) to receive a communication from a filing officer or an election officer; and

380   (B) if the individual wishes to display a candidate profile on the Statewide

381   Electronic Voter Information Website, to submit to the website the

382   biographical and other information described in Subsection 20A-7-801

383   (4)(a)(ii);

384   (iii) inform the individual that the email address described in Subsection (5)(c)(ii) is

385   not a record under Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and

386   Management Act; and

387   (iv) obtain from the individual the email address described in Subsection (5)(c)(ii);

388   (d) provide the candidate with a copy of the pledge of fair campaign practices described

389   under Section 20A-9-206 and inform the candidate that:

390   (i) signing the pledge is voluntary; and

391   (ii) signed pledges shall be filed with the filing officer;

392   (e) accept the individual's declaration of candidacy; and

393   (f) if the individual has filed for a partisan office, provide a certified copy of the

394   declaration of candidacy to the chair of the county or state political party of which the

395   individual is a member.

396   (6) If the candidate elects to sign the pledge of fair campaign practices, the filing officer

397   shall:

398   (a) accept the candidate's pledge; and

399   (b) if the candidate has filed for a partisan office, provide a certified copy of the

400   candidate's pledge to the chair of the county or state political party of which the

401   candidate is a member.

402   (7)(a) Except for a candidate for president or vice president of the United States, the

403   form of the declaration of candidacy shall:

404   (i) be substantially as follows:

405   "State of Utah, County of _____

406   I, _____, declare my candidacy for the office of _____, seeking the

407   nomination of the _____ party. I do solemnly swear, under penalty of perjury, that: I will meet

408   the qualifications to hold the office, both legally and constitutionally, if selected; I reside at

409   _____ in the City or Town of _____, Utah, Zip Code _____ Phone No. _____; I will not

410   knowingly violate any law governing campaigns and elections; if filing via a designated agent,

411   I will be out of the state of Utah during the entire candidate filing period; I will file all

412   campaign financial disclosure reports as required by law; and I understand that failure to do so

413   will result in my disqualification as a candidate for this office and removal of my name from

414   the ballot. The mailing address that I designate for receiving official election notices is

415   _____.

416   _____

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

418

                                              Notary Public (or other officer qualified to administer oath)."; and

419   (ii) require the candidate to state, in the sworn statement described in Subsection

420   (7)(a)(i):

421   (A) the registered political party of which the candidate is a member; or

422   (B) that the candidate is not a member of a registered political party.

423   (b) An agent designated under Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c) to file a declaration of

424   candidacy may not sign the form described in Subsection (7)(a) or Section

425   20A-9-408.5.

426   (8)(a) Except for a candidate for president or vice president of the United States, the fee

427   for filing a declaration of candidacy is:

428   (i) $50 for candidates for the local school district board; and

429   (ii) $50 plus 1/8 of 1% of the total salary for the full term of office legally paid to the

430   person holding the office for all other federal, state, and county offices.

431   (b) Except for presidential candidates, the filing officer shall refund the filing fee to any

432   candidate:

433   (i) who is disqualified; or

434   (ii) who the filing officer determines has filed improperly.

435   (c)(i) The county clerk shall immediately pay to the county treasurer all fees received

436   from candidates.

437   (ii) The lieutenant governor shall:

438   (A) apportion to and pay to the county treasurers of the various counties all fees

439   received for filing of nomination certificates or acceptances; and

440   (B) ensure that each county receives that proportion of the total amount paid to the

441   lieutenant governor from the congressional district that the total vote of that

442   county for all candidates for representative in Congress bears to the total vote

443   of all counties within the congressional district for all candidates for

444   representative in Congress.

445   (d)(i) A person who is unable to pay the filing fee may file a declaration of candidacy

446   without payment of the filing fee upon a prima facie showing of impecuniosity as

447   evidenced by an affidavit of impecuniosity filed with the filing officer and, if

448   requested by the filing officer, a financial statement filed at the time the affidavit

449   is submitted.

450   (ii) A person who is able to pay the filing fee may not claim impecuniosity.

451   (iii)(A) False statements made on an affidavit of impecuniosity or a financial

452   statement filed under this section shall be subject to the criminal penalties

453   provided under Sections 76-8-503 and 76-8-504 and any other applicable

454   criminal provision.

455   (B) Conviction of a criminal offense under Subsection (8)(d)(iii)(A) shall be

456   considered an offense under this title for the purposes of assessing the penalties

457   provided in Subsection 20A-1-609(2).

458   (iv) The filing officer shall ensure that the affidavit of impecuniosity is printed in substantially

459   the following form:

460   "Affidavit of Impecuniosity

461   Individual Name

462   _____Address_____

463   Phone Number _____

464   I,_____(name), do solemnly [swear] [affirm], under penalty of

465   law for false statements, that, owing to my poverty, I am unable to pay the filing fee required

466   by law.

467   Date _____

468   Signature_____ Affiant

469   Subscribed and sworn to before me on _____ (month\day\year)

470

_____

471

<div align="right">(signature)</div>

472   Name and Title of Officer Authorized to Administer Oath   _____ ".

473   (v) The filing officer shall provide to a person who requests an affidavit of impecuniosity a

474   statement printed in substantially the following form, which may be included on the affidavit

475   of impecuniosity:

476   "Filing a false statement is a criminal offense. In accordance with Section 20A-1-609, a

477   candidate who is found guilty of filing a false statement, in addition to being subject to

478   criminal penalties, will be removed from the ballot."

479   (vi) The filing officer may request that a person who makes a claim of impecuniosity

480   under this Subsection (8)(d) file a financial statement on a form prepared by the

481   election official.

482   (9) An individual who fails to file a declaration of candidacy or certificate of nomination

483   within the time provided in this chapter is ineligible for nomination to office.

484   (10) A declaration of candidacy filed under this section may not be amended or modified

485   after the final date established for filing a declaration of candidacy.

486   Section 4. Section **20A-9-201.5** is amended to read:

487   **20A-9-201.5 . Declaration of candidacy filing period for a qualified political**

488   **party.**

489   For a qualified political party[,] :

490   (1) except as provided in Subsection (2), the filing period to file a declaration of candidacy

491   for an elective office that is to be filled at the next regular general election:

492   [(1)] (a) begins at 8 a.m. on the [later of:]

493   [(a) January 2 of the year in which the next regular general election is held; or]

494   [(b) if January 2 is not a business day, the first business day after January 2] first

495   business day in January of an even-numbered year; and

496   [(2)] (b) ends at 5 p.m. on the [fourth] fifth business day [after the day on which the filing

497   period begins.] in January of an even-numbered year; and

498   (2) for the 2026 election year only, the filing period to file a declaration of candidacy for

499   the office of United States representative:

500   (a) begins at 8 a.m. on March 9, 2026; and

501   (b) ends at 5 p.m. on March 13, 2026.

502   Section 5. Section **20A-9-406** is amended to read:

503   **20A-9-406 . Qualified political party -- Requirements and exemptions.**

504   The following provisions apply to a qualified political party:

505   (1) the qualified political party shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the first Monday of October of

506   each odd-numbered year, certify to the lieutenant governor the identity of one or more

507   registered political parties whose members may vote for the qualified political party's

508   candidates and whether unaffiliated voters may vote for the qualified political party's

509   candidates;

510   (2) the following provisions do not apply to a nomination for the qualified political party:

511   (a) Subsections 20A-9-403(1) through (3)(b) and [(3)(d)] Subsections (3)(d)(ii) through

512   (4)(a);

513   (b) Subsection 20A-9-403(5)(c); and

514   (c) Section 20A-9-405;

515   (3) an individual may only seek the nomination of the qualified political party by using a

516   method described in Section 20A-9-407, Section 20A-9-408, or both;

517   (4) the qualified political party shall comply with the provisions of Sections 20A-9-407,

518   20A-9-408, and 20A-9-409;

519   (5) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-301(1)(a), (1)(e), or (2)(a), each election officer shall

520   ensure that a ballot described in Section 20A-6-301 includes each individual nominated

521   by a qualified political party:

522   (a) under the qualified political party's name[−], if any; or

523   (b) under the title of the qualified registered political party as designated by the qualified

524   political party in the certification described in Subsection (1), or, if none is

525   designated, then under some suitable title;

526   (6) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-302(1)(a), each election officer shall ensure, for

527   ballots in regular general elections, that each candidate who is nominated by the

528   qualified political party is listed by party;

529   (7) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-304(1)(e), each election officer shall ensure that the

530   party designation of each candidate who is nominated by the qualified political party is

531   displayed adjacent to the candidate's name on a mechanical ballot;

532   (8) "candidates for elective office," defined in Subsection 20A-9-101(1)(a), also includes an

533   individual who files a declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-407 or 20A-9-408

534   to run in a regular general election for a federal office, constitutional office, multicounty

535   office, or county office;

536 (9) an individual who is nominated by, or seeking the nomination of, the qualified political

537   party is not required to comply with Subsection 20A-9-201(1)(c);

538 (10) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-403(3), the qualified political party is entitled to

539   have each of the qualified political party's candidates for elective office appear on the

540   primary ballot of the qualified political party with an indication that each candidate is a

541   candidate for the qualified political party;

542 (11) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-403(4)(a), the lieutenant governor shall include on

543   the list provided by the lieutenant governor to the county clerks:

544   (a) the names of all candidates of the qualified political party for federal, constitutional,

545   multicounty, and county offices; and

546   (b) the names of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by

547   the qualified political party and instruct the county clerks to exclude such candidates

548   from the primary-election ballot;

549 (12) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-403(5)(c), a candidate who is unopposed for an

550   elective office in the regular primary election of the qualified political party is

551   nominated by the party for that office without appearing on the primary ballot; and

552 (13) notwithstanding the provisions of Subsections 20A-9-403(1) and (2) and Section

553   20A-9-405, the qualified political party is entitled to have the names of its candidates for

554   elective office featured with party affiliation on the ballot at a regular general election.

555   Section 6. Section **20A-9-407** is amended to read:

556   **20A-9-407 . Convention process to seek the nomination of a qualified political**

557 **party.**

558 (1) This section describes the requirements for a member of a qualified political party who

559   is seeking the nomination of a qualified political party for an elective office through the

560   qualified political party's convention process.

561 (2) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-201(7)(a), the form of the declaration of candidacy

562   for a member of a qualified political party who is nominated by, or who is seeking the

563   nomination of, the qualified political party under this section shall be substantially as

564   described in Section 20A-9-408.5.

565 (3) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(a), and except as provided in Subsection

566   20A-9-202(4), a member of a qualified political party who, under this section, is seeking

567   the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office that is to be filled at

568   the next general election, shall:

569   (a) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy in

570   person with the filing officer during the <u>applicable </u>declaration of candidacy filing

571   period described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and

572   (b) pay the filing fee.

573 (4) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(2)(a), a member of a qualified political party

574   who, under this section, is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for the

575   office of district attorney within a multicounty prosecution district that is to be filled at

576   the next general election, shall:

577   (a) file a declaration of candidacy with the county clerk designated in the interlocal

578   agreement creating the prosecution district during the <u>applicable </u>declaration of

579   candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and

580   (b) pay the filing fee.

581 (5) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(3)(a)(iii), a lieutenant governor candidate who

582   files as the joint-ticket running mate of an individual who is nominated by a qualified

583   political party, under this section, for the office of governor shall, during the <u>applicable</u>

584   declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, file a

585   declaration of candidacy and submit a letter from the candidate for governor that names

586   the lieutenant governor candidate as a joint-ticket running mate.

587 (6)(a) A qualified political party that nominates a candidate under this section shall

588   certify the name of the candidate to the lieutenant governor before the deadline

589   described in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b).

590   (b) The lieutenant governor shall include, in the primary ballot certification or, for a race

591   where a primary is not held because the candidate is unopposed, in the general

592   election ballot certification, the name of each candidate nominated by a qualified

593   political party under this section.

594 (7) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-701(2), the ballot shall, for each candidate who is

595   nominated by a qualified political party under this section, designate the qualified

596   political party that nominated the candidate.

597   Section 7. Section **20A-9-408** is amended to read:

598   **20A-9-408 . Signature-gathering process to seek the nomination of a qualified**

599 **political party -- Removal of signature.**

600 (1) This section describes the requirements for a member of a qualified political party who

601   is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office through

602   the signature-gathering process described in this section.

603 (2) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-201(7)(a), the form of the declaration of candidacy

604 for a member of a qualified political party who is nominated by, or who is seeking the

605 nomination of, the qualified political party under this section shall be substantially as

606 described in Section 20A-9-408.5.

607 (3) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(a), and except as provided in Subsection

608 20A-9-202(4), a member of a qualified political party who, under this section, is seeking

609 the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office that is to be filled at

610 the next general election shall:

611 (a) except to the extent otherwise provided in Subsection (13)(a), during the applicable

612   declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, and before

613   gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing officer on a form approved

614   by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy that

615   includes:

616   (i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a registered

617   political party under this section;

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

619   nomination;

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

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

622   (v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;

623 (b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in

624   person, with the filing officer during the applicable declaration of candidacy filing

625   period described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and

626 (c) pay the filing fee.

627 (4) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(2)(a), a member of a qualified political party

628 who, under this section, is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for the

629 office of district attorney within a multicounty prosecution district that is to be filled at

630 the next general election shall:

631 (a) during the applicable declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section

632   20A-9-201.5, and before gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing

633   officer on a form approved by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather

634   signatures for candidacy that includes:

635   (i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a registered

636   political party under this section;

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

638   nomination;

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

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

641   (v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;

642   (b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in

643   person, with the filing officer during the applicable declaration of candidacy filing

644   period described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and

645   (c) pay the filing fee.

646 (5) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(3)(a)(iii), a lieutenant governor candidate who

647   files as the joint-ticket running mate of an individual who is nominated by a qualified

648   political party, under this section, for the office of governor shall, during the applicable

649   declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, file a

650   declaration of candidacy and submit a letter from the candidate for governor that names

651   the lieutenant governor candidate as a joint-ticket running mate.

652 (6) The lieutenant governor shall ensure that the certification described in Subsection

653   20A-9-701(1) also includes the name of each candidate nominated by a qualified

654   political party under this section.

655 (7) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-701(2), the ballot shall, for each candidate who is

656   nominated by a qualified political party under this section, designate the qualified

657   political party that nominated the candidate.

658 (8) A member of a qualified political party may seek the nomination of the qualified

659   political party for an elective office by:

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

661   (b) collecting signatures, on a form approved by the lieutenant governor that complies

662   with Subsection 20A-9-405(3), during the period beginning on the day on which the

663   member files a notice of intent to gather signatures and ending at the applicable

664   deadline described in Subsection (12), in the following amounts:

665   (i) for a statewide race, 28,000 signatures of registered voters in the state who are

666   permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's

667   candidates in a primary election;

668   (ii) except as provided in Subsection (13)(b), for a congressional district race, 7,000

669   signatures of registered voters who are residents of the congressional district and

670   are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political

671   party's candidates in a primary election;

672   (iii) for a state Senate district race, 2,000 signatures of registered voters who are

673   residents of the state Senate district and are permitted by the qualified political

674   party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;

675   (iv) for a state House district race, 1,000 signatures of registered voters who are

676   residents of the state House district and are permitted by the qualified political

677   party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;

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

679   (A) 2,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the State Board of

680   Education district and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for

681   the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election; or

682   (B) 3% of the registered voters of the qualified political party who are residents of

683   the applicable State Board of Education district; and

684   (vi) for a county office race, signatures of 3% of the registered voters who are

685   residents of the area permitted to vote for the county office and are permitted by

686   the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in

687   a primary election.

688   (9)(a) This Subsection (9) applies only to the manual candidate qualification process.

689   (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the

690   qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, using

691   the manual candidate qualification process, the member shall:

692   (i) collect the signatures on a form approved by the lieutenant governor, using the

693   same circulation and verification requirements described in Sections 20A-7-105

694   and 20A-7-204; and

695   (ii) in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, submit the signatures to the election

696   officer before the applicable deadline described in Subsection (12).

697   (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), and in

698   accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, the election officer shall, no later than the

699   earlier of 14 calendar days after the day on which the election officer receives the

700   signatures, or one day before the day on which the qualified political party holds the

701   convention to select a nominee for the elective office to which the signature packets

702   relate:

703   (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature

704   packet to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old;

705   (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (9)(c)(i) who is not at

706   least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney;

707   (iii) with the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, determine whether each

708   signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the petition, using the same

709   method, described in Section 20A-1-1002, used to verify a signature on a petition;

710   and

711   (iv) certify whether each name is that of a registered voter who is qualified to sign the

712   signature packet.

713   (d)(i) A registered voter who physically signs a form under Subsections (8) and (9)(b)

714   may have the voter's signature removed from the form by, no later than 5 p.m.

715   three business days after the day on which the member submits the signature form

716   to the election officer, submitting to the election officer a statement requesting

717   that the voter's signature be removed.

718   (ii) A statement described in Subsection (9)(d)(i) shall comply with the requirements

719   described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

720   (iii) With the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, the election officer shall

721   use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether

722   to remove an individual's signature after receiving a timely, valid statement

723   requesting removal of the signature.

724   (e)(i) An election officer shall, in accordance with this Subsection (9)(e) and rules

725   made under Section 20A-3a-106, conduct regular audits of signature comparisons

726   made between signatures gathered under this section and voter signatures

727   maintained by the election officer.

728   (ii) An individual who conducts an audit of signature comparisons under this section

729   may not audit the individual's own work.

730   (iii) The election officer shall:

731   (A) audit 1% of all signature comparisons described in Subsection (9)(e)(i) to

732   determine the accuracy of the comparisons made;

733   (B) record the individuals who conducted the audit;

734   (C) record the audit results;

735   (D) provide additional training or staff reassignments, as needed, based on the

736   results of an audit described in Subsection (9)(e)(i); and

737   (E) record any remedial action taken.

738   (iv) The audit results described in Subsection (9)(e)(iii)(C) are a public record.

739   (f) An election officer who certifies signatures under Subsection (9)(c) or

740   20A-9-403(3)(d) shall, after certifying enough signatures to establish that a candidate

741   has reached the applicable signature threshold described in Subsection (8) or

742   20A-9-403(3)(a), as applicable, continue to certify signatures submitted for the

743   candidate in excess of the number of signatures required, until the election officer

744   either:

745   (i) certifies signatures equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold; or

746   (ii) has reviewed all signatures submitted for the candidate before reaching an

747   amount equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold.

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

749   process.

750   (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the

751   qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, the

752   member shall, before the deadline described in Subsection (12), collect signatures

753   electronically:

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

755   (ii) using progressive screens, in a format approved by the lieutenant governor, that

756   complies with Subsection 20A-9-405(4).

757   (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), the

758   election officer shall, no later than the earlier of 14 calendar days after the day on

759   which the election officer receives the signatures, or one day before the day on which

760   the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee for the elective

761   office to which the signature packets relate:

762   (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature

763   to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old; and

764   (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (10)(c)(i) who is not

765   at least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney.

766   (11)(a) An individual may not gather signatures under this section until after the

767   individual files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this

768   section.

769   (b) An individual who files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy,

770   described in Subsection (3)(a) or (4)(a), is, beginning on the day on which the

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

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

773   required to comply with; and

774   (ii) subject to the same enforcement provisions, and civil and criminal penalties, that

775   apply to a candidate for office in relation to the reporting requirements described

776   in Subsection (11)(b)(i).

777   (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), or

778   Subsections (8) and (10)(b), the election officer shall, no later than the day before the

779   day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee

780   for the elective office to which the signature packets relate, notify the qualified

781   political party and the lieutenant governor of the name of each member of the

782   qualified political party who qualifies as a nominee of the qualified political party,

783   under this section, for the elective office to which the convention relates.

784   (d) Upon receipt of a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this

785   section, the lieutenant governor shall post the notice of intent to gather signatures for

786   candidacy on the lieutenant governor's website in the same location that the

787   lieutenant governor posts a declaration of candidacy.

788   (12) The deadline before which a member of a qualified political party must collect and

789   submit signatures to the election officer under this section is 5 p.m. on the last business

790   day that is at least 14 calendar days before the day on which the qualified political

791   party's convention for the office begins.

792   (13) For the 2026 election year only, an individual who desires to gather signatures to seek

793   the nomination of a qualified political party for the office of United States representative

794   shall:

795   (a) in accordance with Subsection (3)(a), file a notice of intent to gather signatures

796   during the period beginning at 8 a.m. on the first business day of January and ending

797   at 5 p.m. on March 13, 2026; and

798   (b) during the period beginning on the day on which the individual files the notice of

799   intent to gather signatures and ending at 5 p.m. on March 13, 2026, on a form

800   approved by the lieutenant governor that complies with Subsection 20A-9-405(3),

801   collect 7,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the state and are

802   permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's

803   candidates in a primary election.

804   Section 8. Section **20A-9-410** is amended to read:

805   **20A-9-410 . Rulemaking authority.**

806   The director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, shall make rules,

807   in accordance with the provisions of Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking

808   Act[,] :

809   (1) relating to procedures for complying with, and verifying compliance with, the candidate

810   nominating process described in this part[.] ; and

811   (2) that permit an individual to submit signatures to qualify as a candidate for placement on

812   the primary election ballot at least once each week during the signature gathering period,

813   regardless of whether the number of signatures gathered has reached the signature

814   threshold for the applicable office.

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

816   **20A-9-502 . Certificate of nomination -- Contents -- Circulation -- Verification --**

817   **Criminal penalty -- Removal of petition signature.**

818   (1) The candidate shall:

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

820   "State of Utah, County of _____

821   I, _____, declare my intention of becoming an unaffiliated candidate for the

822   political group designated as ____ for the office of ____. I do solemnly swear that I can

823   qualify to hold that office both legally and constitutionally if selected, and that I reside at ____

824   Street, in the city of ____, county of ____, state of _____, zip code ____, phone ____, and

825   that I am providing, or have provided, the required number of holographic signatures of

826   registered voters required by law; that as a candidate at the next election I will not knowingly

827   violate any election or campaign law; that, if filing via a designated agent for an office other

828   than president of the United States, I will be out of the state of Utah during the entire candidate

829   filing period; I will file all campaign financial disclosure reports as required by law; and I

830   understand that failure to do so will result in my disqualification as a candidate for this office

831   and removal of my name from the ballot.

832

                                                        _____

833

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

834

                                                        _____

835

                                                        Notary Public (or other officer

836

                                                        qualified to administer oaths)";

837   (b) for each signature packet, bind signature sheets to a copy of the certificate of

838   nomination and the circulator verification, that:

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

840   (ii) are ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space above that

841   line blank for the purpose of binding;

842   (iii) contain the name of the proposed candidate and the words "Unaffiliated

843   Candidate Certificate of Nomination Petition" printed directly below the

844   horizontal line;

845   (iv) contain the word "Warning" printed directly under the words described in

846   Subsection (1)(b)(iii);

847   (v) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed in not less than

848   eight-point, single leaded type:

849   "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a certificate of nomination

850   signature sheet with any name other than the person's own name or more than once for the

851   same candidate or if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to

852   become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the signatures.";

853   (vi) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in Subsection

854   (1)(b)(v):

855   "Each signer says:

856   I have personally signed this petition with a holographic signature;

857   I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the

858   county clerk certifies my signature; and

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

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

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

862   (viii) be vertically divided into columns as follows:

863   (A) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be 5/8 inch wide,

864   be headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical

865   line down the middle;

866   (B) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's

867   Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)";

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

869   Registered Voter";

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

871   (Optional)";

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

873   Code"; and

874   (F) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age

875   information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with

876   voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may

877   not be certified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition

878   signatures are certified or if the information you provide does not match your

879   voter registration records."; and

880   (c) bind a final page to one or more signature sheets that are bound together that contains,

881   except as provided by Subsection (3), the following printed statement:

882   "Verification

883   State of Utah, County of ____

884   I, _____, of ____, hereby state that:

885   I am at least 18 years old;

886   All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were signed by

887   persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear on the signature sheets, and each

888   of them signed the person's name on the signature sheets in my presence;

889   I believe that each has printed and signed the person's name and written the person's

890   street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah or will register to

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

892   _____

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

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

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

896   (3)(a) The candidate shall circulate the nomination petition and ensure that the person in

897   whose presence each signature sheet is signed:

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

899   (ii) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification bound to one or more

900   signature sheets that are bound together.

901   (b) A person may not sign the circulator verification if the person signed a signature

902   sheet bound to the verification.

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

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

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

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

907   (C) if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to

908   become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the

909   signatures; or

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

911   (A) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the

912   certificate of nomination signature sheet; or

913   (B) knows that a person whose signature appears on the certificate of nomination

914   signature sheet is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to

915   become registered to vote in this state.

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

917   (5)(a) To qualify for placement on the general election ballot, the candidate shall, no

918   earlier than the start of the applicable declaration of candidacy period described in

919   Section 20A-9-201.5 and no later than 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in which the

920   election will be held:

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

922   (ii) submit each signature packet to the county clerk where the majority of the

923   signatures in the packet were collected, with signatures totaling:

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

925   is for an office to be filled by the voters of the entire state; or

926   (B) at least 300 registered voters residing within a political division or at least 5%

927   of the registered voters residing within a political division, whichever is less,

928   when the nomination is for an office to be filled by the voters of any political

929   division smaller than the state.

930   (b) A candidate has not complied with Subsection (5)(a)(ii), unless the county clerks

931   verify that each required signature is a valid signature of a registered voter who is

932   eligible to sign the signature packet and has not signed a signature packet to nominate

933   another candidate for the same office.

934   (c) In reviewing the signature packets, the county clerk shall count and certify only those

935   persons who signed with a holographic signature, who:

936   (i) are registered voters within the political division that the candidate seeks to

937   represent; and

938   (ii) did not sign any other certificate of nomination for that office.

939   (d) The county clerk shall count and certify the number of registered voters who validly

940   signed a signature packet, no later than 30 calendar days after the day on which the

941   candidate submits the signature packet.

942   (e) The candidate may supplement the signatures or amend the certificate of nomination

943   or declaration of candidacy at any time on or before 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in

944   which the election will be held.

945   (f) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to

946   determine whether a signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature

947   packet.

948 (6)(a) A voter who signs a signature packet under this section may have the voter's

949   signature removed from the signature packet by, no later than 5 p.m. three business

950   days after the day on which the candidate submits the signature packet to the county

951   clerk, submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature

952   be removed.

953   (b) A statement described in Subsection (6)(a) shall comply with the requirements

954   described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

955   (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to

956   determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a signature packet after

957   receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

958   Section 10. Section **20A-14-203** is amended to read:

959   **20A-14-203 . Becoming a member of a local board of education -- Declaration of**

960 **candidacy -- Election.**

961 (1) An individual may become a candidate for a local school board by:

962   (a) filing a declaration of candidacy with the county clerk during the applicable

963   declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and

964   (b) paying the fee described in Section 20A-9-202.

965 (2)(a) The term of office for an individual elected to a local board of education is four

966   years, beginning on the first Monday in January after the election.

967   (b) A member of a local board of education shall serve until a successor is:

968   (i) elected; or

969   (ii) appointed and takes or signs the constitutional oath of office.

970   Section 11. **Effective Date.**

971 This bill takes effect:

972   (1) except as provided in Subsection (2), February 8, 2026; or

973   (2) if approved by two-thirds of all members elected to each house:

974   (a) upon approval by the governor;

975   (b) without the governor's signature, the day following the constitutional time limit of

976   Utah Constitution, Article VII, Section 8; or

977   (c) in the case of a veto, the date of veto override.