

HB0027S01 compared with HB0027

{Omitted text} shows text that was in HB0027 but was omitted in HB0027S01

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0027 but was inserted into HB0027S01

DISCLAIMER: This document is provided to assist you in your comparison of the two bills. Sometimes this automated comparison will NOT be completely accurate. Therefore, you need to read the actual bills. This automatically generated document could contain inaccuracies caused by: limitations of the compare program; bad input data; or other causes.

1

Signature Verification Revisions

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Lisa Shepherd

Senate Sponsor:

2

LONG TITLE

Committee Note:

5 The Government Operations Interim Committee recommended this bill.

6 Legislative Vote: 6 voting for 5 voting against 6 absent

General Description:

8 This bill amends provisions related to candidate nomination petitions.

Highlighted Provisions:

10 This bill:

11 ▶ requires an election official to post the name, voter precinct number, and date of signature of a registered voter who signs a candidate nomination petition on the lieutenant governor's website for at least 90 days after the date of an election;

14 ▶ requires an election official to send an email notice to a registered voter described above informing the voter that:

16 • the voter's name and voter-related information is posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and

18 •

HB0027

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

the voter may request to have the voter's signature removed from the candidate nomination petition by submitting a written statement to the election official requesting removal of the signature;

- 21 ▶ requires an election official to make the website posting described above regardless of whether the voter's voter registration record is classified as a private record;
- 23 ▶ amends candidate nomination petition forms to include information notifying a voter of the posting and signature removal processes described above;
- 25 ▶ for a candidate seeking the nomination of a qualified political party to an elective office through signature gathering, shortens the deadline for the candidate to submit signatures to an election official from 14 to 21 days before the day on which the qualified political party holds a convention to nominate a candidate for the same elective office; and
- 29 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

31 None

Other Special Clauses:

33 This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

35 AMENDS:

36 **20A-1-501** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 16

37 **20A-3a-106** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 381, 448

38 **20A-6-301** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 39

39 **20A-6-302** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 39, 448

40 **20A-6-304** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 136

41 **20A-9-403** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 39, 448

42 **20A-9-405** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 38

43 **20A-9-406** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2

43 **{20A-9-406, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 13}**

44 **20A-9-408** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2

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

45 **20A-9-502** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2

45 **{20A-9-502, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448}**

46 **20A-9-701** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 296

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

47
48 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

49 Section 1. Section **20A-1-501** is amended to read:

50 **20A-1-501. Candidate vacancies -- Procedure for filling.**

51 (1) As used in this section, "central committee" means:

52 (a) the state central committee of a political party, for a candidate for:

53 (i) United States senator, United States representative, governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, state treasurer, or state auditor; or

55 (ii) state legislator if the legislative district encompasses all or a portion of more than one county; or

57 (b) the county central committee of a political party, for a party candidate seeking an office, other than an office described in Subsection (1)(a), elected at an election held in an even-numbered year.

60 (2) Except as provided in Subsection (6), the central committee may certify the name of another candidate to the appropriate election officer if:

62 (a) for a registered political party that will have a candidate on a ballot in a primary election:

64 (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor provides the list described in Subsection [20A-9-403(4)(a)] 20A-9-403(8)(a), only one or two candidates from that party have filed a declaration of candidacy for that office and one or both dies, resigns as a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and

69 (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor provides the list described in Subsection [20A-9-403(4)(a)] 20A-9-403(8)(a);

72 (b) for a registered political party that does not have a candidate on the ballot in a primary, but will have a candidate on the ballot for a regular general election:

74 (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor makes the certification described in Section 20A-5-409, the party's candidate dies, resigns as a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and

78 (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor makes the certification described in Section 20A-5-409; or

81 (c) for a registered political party with a candidate certified as winning a primary election:

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

83 (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing through the day
before the day on which the lieutenant governor makes the certification described in Section
20A-5-409, the party's candidate dies, resigns as a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and

87 (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate to the appropriate
election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor makes the certification described in
Section 20A-5-409.

90 (3) If no more than two candidates from a political party have filed a declaration of candidacy for an
office elected at a regular general election and one resigns to become the party candidate for another
position, the central committee of that political party may certify the name of another candidate to
the appropriate election officer.

94 (4) Each replacement candidate shall file a declaration of candidacy as required by Chapter 9, Part 2,
Candidate Qualifications and Declarations of Candidacy.

96 (5)
(a) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(a) after the deadline described in
Subsection (2)(a)(ii) may not appear on the primary election ballot.
(b) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(b) after the deadline described in
Subsection (2)(b)(ii) may not appear on the general election ballot.
(c) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(c) after the deadline described in
Subsection (2)(c)(ii) may not appear on the general election ballot.

103 (6) A political party may not replace a candidate who is disqualified for failure to timely file a
campaign disclosure financial report under Chapter 11, Campaign and Financial Reporting
Requirements, or Section 17-70-403.

106 (7) This section does not apply to a candidate vacancy for a nonpartisan office.

107 Section 2. Section **20A-3a-106** is amended to read:

108 **20A-3a-106. Rulemaking authority relating to conducting an election.**
The director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, may make rules,
in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, establishing
requirements for:
(1) a return envelope, to ensure uniformity and security of the envelopes;
(2) complying with the signature comparison audit requirements described in Section 20A-3a-402.5;

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

(3) conducting and documenting the identity verification process described in Subsection 20A-3a-401(7)(b); or

117 (4) establishing specific requirements and procedures for an election officer to:

118 (a) perform the signature comparison audits described in Subsection [20A-9-408(9)(e)] 20A-9-408(9)
120 (b) fulfill the chain of custody requirements described in Section 20A-9-408.3.

121 Section 3. Section **20A-6-301** is amended to read:

122 **20A-6-301. Manual ballots -- Regular general election.**

123 (1) Each election officer shall ensure that:

124 (a) all manual ballots furnished for use at the regular general election contain:

125 (i) no captions or other endorsements except as provided in this section;

126 (ii) no symbols, markings, or other descriptions of a political party or group, except for a registered
127 political party that has chosen to nominate its candidates in accordance with Section 20A-9-403; and

129 (iii) no indication that a candidate for elective office has been nominated by, or has been endorsed
130 by, or is in any way affiliated with a political party or group, unless the candidate has been
131 nominated by a registered political party in accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection
132 [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(9);

133 (b) at the top of the ballot, the following endorsements are printed in 18 point bold type:

134 (i) "Official Ballot for ____ County, Utah";

135 (ii) the date of the election; and

136 (iii) the words "certified by the Clerk of _____ County" or, as applicable, the name of a combined
137 office that includes the duties of a county clerk;

138 (c) unaffiliated candidates, candidates not affiliated with a registered political party, and all other
139 candidates for elective office who were not nominated by a registered political party in accordance
140 with Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(9), are listed with the other
141 candidates for the same office in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110, without a
142 party name or title;

143 (d) each ticket containing the lists of candidates, including the party name and device, are separated by
144 heavy parallel lines;

145 (e) the offices to be filled are plainly printed immediately above the names of the candidates for those
146 offices;

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

147 (f) the names of candidates are printed in capital letters, not less than one-eighth nor more than one-fourth of an inch high in heavy-faced type not smaller than 10 point, between lines or rules three-eighths of an inch apart; and

150 (g) on a ticket for a race in which a voter is authorized to cast a write-in vote and in which a write-in candidate is qualified under Section 20A-9-601:

152 (i) the ballot includes a space for a write-in candidate immediately following the last candidate listed on that ticket; or

154 (ii) for the offices of president and vice president and governor and lieutenant governor, the ballot includes two spaces for write-in candidates immediately following the last candidates on that ticket, one placed above the other, to enable the entry of two valid write-in candidates.

158 (2) An election officer shall ensure that:

159 (a) each individual nominated by any registered political party under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(9), and no other individual, is placed on the ballot:

162 (i) under the registered political party's name, if any; or

163 (ii) under the title of the registered political party as designated by them in their certificates of nomination or petition, or, if none is designated, then under some suitable title;

166 (b) the names of all unaffiliated candidates that qualify as required in Chapter 9, Part 5, Candidates not Affiliated with a Party, are placed on the ballot;

168 (c) the names of the candidates for president and vice president are used on the ballot instead of the names of the presidential electors; and

170 (d) the ballots contain no other names.

171 (3) When the ballot contains a nonpartisan section, the election officer shall ensure that:

172 (a) the designation of the office to be filled in the election and the number of candidates to be elected are printed in type not smaller than eight point;

174 (b) the words designating the office are printed flush with the left-hand margin;

175 (c) the words, "Vote for one" or "Vote for up to _____ (the number of candidates for which the voter may vote)" extend to the extreme right of the column;

177 (d) the nonpartisan candidates are grouped according to the office for which they are candidates;

179 (e) the names in each group are placed in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110, with the surnames last; and

181

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

(f) each group is preceded by the designation of the office for which the candidates seek election, and the words, "Vote for one" or "Vote for up to _____ (the number of candidates for which the voter may vote)," according to the number to be elected.

184 (4) Each election officer shall ensure that:

185 (a) proposed amendments to the Utah Constitution are listed on the ballot in accordance with Section 20A-6-107;

187 (b) ballot propositions submitted to the voters are listed on the ballot in accordance with Section 20A-6-107;

189 (c) bond propositions that have qualified for the ballot are listed on the ballot under the title assigned to each bond proposition under Section 11-14-206; and

191 (d) the judicial retention section of the ballot includes a statement at the beginning directing voters to the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's website in accordance with Subsection 20A-12-201(4).

194 Section 4. Section **20A-6-302** is amended to read:

20A-6-302. Manual ballots -- Placement of candidates' names.

196 (1) An election officer shall ensure, for manual ballots in regular general elections, that:

197 (a) each candidate is listed by party, if nominated by a registered political party under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(9);

199 (b) candidates' surnames are listed in alphabetical order on the ballots when two or more candidates' names are required to be listed on a ticket under the title of an office; and

201 (c) the names of candidates are placed on the ballot in:

202 (i) the manner described in Section 20A-6-109; and

203 (ii) the order described in Section 20A-6-110.

204 (2)

(a) When there is only one candidate for county attorney at the regular general election in counties that have three or fewer registered voters of the county who are licensed active members in good standing of the Utah State Bar, the county clerk shall cause that candidate's name and party affiliation, if any, to be placed on a separate section of the ballot with the following question: "Shall (name of candidate) be elected to the office of county attorney? Yes ____ No ____.".

210 (b) If the number of "Yes" votes exceeds the number of "No" votes, the candidate is elected to the office of county attorney.

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

212 (c) If the number of "No" votes exceeds the number of "Yes" votes, the candidate is not elected and
may not take office, nor may the candidate continue in the office past the end of the term resulting
from any prior election or appointment.

215 (d) When the name of only one candidate for county attorney is printed on the ballot under authority
of this Subsection (2), the county clerk may not count any write-in votes received for the office of
county attorney.

218 (e) If no qualified individual files for the office of county attorney or if the candidate is not elected
by the voters, the county legislative body shall appoint the county attorney as provided in Section
20A-1-509.2.

221 (f) If the candidate whose name would, except for this Subsection (2)(f), be placed on the ballot under
Subsection (2)(a) has been elected on a ballot under Subsection (2)(a) to the two consecutive terms
immediately preceding the term for which the candidate is seeking election, Subsection (2)(a) does
not apply and that candidate shall be considered to be an unopposed candidate the same as any other
unopposed candidate for another office, unless a petition is filed with the county clerk before 5 p.m.
no later than the day before that year's primary election that:

228 (i) requests the procedure set forth in Subsection (2)(a) to be followed; and

229 (ii) contains the signatures of registered voters in the county representing in number at least 25% of all
votes cast in the county for all candidates for governor at the last election at which a governor was
elected.

232 (3)

(a) When there is only one candidate for district attorney at the regular general election in a prosecution
district that has three or fewer registered voters of the district who are licensed active members in
good standing of the Utah State Bar, the county clerk shall cause that candidate's name and party
affiliation, if any, to be placed on a separate section of the ballot with the following question: "Shall
(name of candidate) be elected to the office of district attorney? Yes ____ No ____.".

238 (b) If the number of "Yes" votes exceeds the number of "No" votes, the candidate is elected to the office
of district attorney.

240 (c) If the number of "No" votes exceeds the number of "Yes" votes, the candidate is not elected and
may not take office, nor may the candidate continue in the office past the end of the term resulting
from any prior election or appointment.

243

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

(d) When the name of only one candidate for district attorney is printed on the ballot under authority of this Subsection (3), the county clerk may not count any write-in votes received for the office of district attorney.

246 (e) If no qualified individual files for the office of district attorney, or if the only candidate is not elected by the voters under this subsection, the county legislative body shall appoint a new district attorney for a four-year term as provided in Section 20A-1-509.2.

250 (f) If the candidate whose name would, except for this Subsection (3)(f), be placed on the ballot under Subsection (3)(a) has been elected on a ballot under Subsection (3)(a) to the two consecutive terms immediately preceding the term for which the candidate is seeking election, Subsection (3)(a) does not apply and that candidate shall be considered to be an unopposed candidate the same as any other unopposed candidate for another office, unless a petition is filed with the county clerk before 5 p.m. no later than the day before that year's primary election that:

257 (i) requests the procedure set forth in Subsection (3)(a) to be followed; and

258 (ii) contains the signatures of registered voters in the county representing in number at least 25% of all votes cast in the county for all candidates for governor at the last election at which a governor was elected.

261 Section 5. Section **20A-6-304** is amended to read:

20A-6-304. Regular general election -- Mechanical ballots.

263 (1) Each election officer shall ensure that:

264 (a) the format and content of a mechanical ballot is arranged in approximately the same order as manual ballots;

266 (b) the titles of offices and the names of candidates are displayed in vertical columns or in a series of separate displays;

268 (c) the mechanical ballot is of sufficient length to include, after the list of candidates:

269 (i) the names of candidates for judicial offices and any other nonpartisan offices; and

270 (ii) any ballot propositions submitted to the voters for their approval or rejection;

271 (d) the office titles are displayed above or at the side of the names of candidates so as to indicate clearly the candidates for each office and the number to be elected;

273 (e) the party designation of each candidate who has been nominated by a registered political party under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(9) is displayed adjacent to the candidate's name; and

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

276 (f) if possible, all candidates for one office are grouped in one column or upon one display screen.

278 (2) Each election officer shall ensure that:

279 (a) proposed amendments to the Utah Constitution are displayed in accordance with Section 20A-6-107;

281 (b) ballot propositions submitted to the voters are displayed in accordance with Section 20A-6-107;

283 (c) bond propositions that have qualified for the ballot are displayed under the title assigned to each bond proposition under Section 11-14-206; and

285 (d) the judicial retention section of the ballot includes a statement at the beginning directing voters to the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's website in accordance with Subsection 20A-12-201(4).

288 Section 6. Section **20A-9-403** is amended to read:

289 **20A-9-403. Regular primary elections.**

290 (1)

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

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

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

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

308 (2)

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

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

- (i) either declare the registered political party's intent to participate in the next regular primary election or declare that the registered political party chooses not to have the names of the registered political party's candidates for elective office featured on the ballot at the next regular general election; and
- 314 (ii) if the registered political party participates in the upcoming regular primary election, identify one or more registered political parties whose members may vote for the registered political party's candidates and whether individuals identified as unaffiliated with a political party may vote for the registered political party's candidates.
- 319 (b)
 - (i) A registered political party that is a continuing political party shall file the statement described in Subsection (2)(a) with the lieutenant governor no later than 5 p.m. on November 30 of each odd-numbered year.
 - 322 (ii) An organization that is seeking to become a registered political party under Section 20A-8-103 shall file the statement described in Subsection (2)(a) at the time that the registered political party files the petition described in Section 20A-8-103.
- 326 (3)
 - (a) Except as provided in Subsection ~~(3)(e)~~ (5), an individual who submits a declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-202 shall appear as a candidate for elective office on the regular primary ballot of the registered political party listed on the declaration of candidacy only if the individual is certified by the appropriate filing officer as having submitted a nomination petition that was:
 - 331 (i) circulated and completed in accordance with Section 20A-9-405; and
 - 332 (ii) signed by at least 2% of the registered political party's members who reside in the political division of the office that the individual seeks.
- 334 (b)
 - (i) A candidate for elective office shall, in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, submit signatures for a nomination petition to the appropriate filing officer for verification and certification no later than 5 p.m. on March 31.
 - 337 (ii) A candidate may supplement the candidate's submissions at any time on or before the filing deadline.
- 339 (c)

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

- (i) The lieutenant governor shall determine for each elective office the total number of signatures that must be submitted under Subsection (3)(a)(ii) or 20A-9-408(8) by counting the aggregate number of individuals residing in each elective office's political division who have designated a particular registered political party on the individuals' voter registration forms on or before November 15 of each odd-numbered year.
- 345 (ii) The lieutenant governor shall publish the determination for each elective office no later than November 30 of each odd-numbered year.
- 347 (d) The filing officer shall:
 - 348 (i) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201, and in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, verify signatures on nomination petitions in a transparent and orderly manner, no later than 14 calendar days after the day on which a candidate submits the signatures to the filing officer;
 - 352 (ii) for [all qualifying candidates for elective office who submit nomination petitions to the filing officer, issue certifications referenced] each qualifying candidate for elective office who submits a nomination petition to the filing officer, issue the certification described in Subsection (3)(a) no later than the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b);
 - 357 (iii) consider [active and inactive voters eligible to sign nomination petitions] an active and inactive voter eligible to sign a nomination petition;
 - 359 (iv) consider an individual who signs a nomination petition a member of a registered political party for purposes of Subsection (3)(a)(ii) if the individual has designated [that] the registered political party as the individual's party membership on the individual's voter registration form; and
 - 363 (v) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201 and with the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to verify submitted nomination petition signatures, or use statistical sampling procedures to verify submitted nomination petition signatures in accordance with rules made under Subsection [(3)(f)] (6).
- 368 (4) Subject to Subsection 20A-9-405(11)(a)(i), and notwithstanding Section 20A-2-104, the filing officer shall, no later than one business day after the day on which the signature of an individual who signs a nomination petition is verified under Subsection (3)(d) or Section 20A-1-201:
 - 372 (a) post the individual's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 calendar days after the date of the primary election; and

375

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

(b) if the individual's voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email notice to the individual, informing the individual that:

378 (i) the individual's nomination petition signature is verified;

379 (ii) the individual's name and voter information described in Subsection (4)(a) is posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and

381 (iii) the individual has until the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-405(10)(a) to submit a statement to the filing officer, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(2), requesting that the individual's signature be removed from the nomination petition.

385 [(e)] (5) Notwithstanding any other provision in [this Subsection (3)] Subsection (3), (4), (6), or (7), a candidate for lieutenant governor may appear on the regular primary ballot of a registered political party without submitting nomination petitions if the candidate files a declaration of candidacy and complies with Subsection 20A-9-202(3).

389 [(f)] (6) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, may make rules that:

391 [(i)] (a) provide for the use of statistical sampling procedures that:

392 [(A)] (i) filing officers are required to use to verify signatures under Subsection (3)(d); and

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

396 [(ii)] (b) provide for the transparent, orderly, and timely submission, verification, and certification of nomination petition signatures.

398 [(g)] (7) The county clerk shall:

399 [(i)] (a) review the declarations of candidacy filed by candidates for local boards of education to determine if more than two candidates have filed for the same seat;

401 [(ii)] (b) place the names of all candidates who have filed a declaration of candidacy for a local board of education seat on the nonpartisan section of the ballot if more than two candidates have filed for the same seat; and

404 [(iii)] (c) place the local board of education candidates' names on the ballot in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110.

406 [(4)] (8)

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

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

408 (i) a list of the names of all candidates for federal, constitutional, multi-county, single county, and county offices who have received certifications under Subsection ~~(3)~~ (3)(a), along with instructions on how those names shall appear on the primary election ballot in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110; and

412 (ii) a list of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by a registered political party under Subsection (5)(c) and instruct the county clerks to exclude the unopposed candidates from the primary election ballot.

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

417 (c) After the county clerk receives the certified list from the lieutenant governor under Subsection ~~(4)(a)~~ (8)(a), the county clerk shall post or publish a primary election notice in substantially the following form:

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

425 ~~(5)~~ (9)

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

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

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

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

433 (c)

(i) As used in this Subsection ~~(5)(e)~~ (9)(c), a candidate is "unopposed" if:

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

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

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

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

445 [6] (10) The expense of providing all ballots, blanks, or other supplies to be used at any primary
election provided for by this section, and all expenses necessarily incurred in the preparation for or
the conduct of that primary election shall be paid out of the treasury of the county or state, in the
same manner as for the regular general elections.

449 [7] (11) 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.

452 Section 7. Section **20A-9-405** is amended to read:

453 **20A-9-405. Nomination petitions for regular primary elections.**

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

456 (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).

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

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

462 (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;

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

466 (d) the petition shall feature the [word "Warning" followed by the] following [statement] {s} statements
in no less than eight-point, single leaded type:

468

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

(i) "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

472 (ii) "NOTICE: Your name, voter precinct number, and date of signature may be publicly disclosed on the lieutenant governor's website if you sign this petition. This disclosure may occur even if your voter registration record has been classified as a private record at your request. If your voter registration information includes a valid email address, you will receive an email notifying you of the disclosure as well as information on how to remove your name from this petition. To ensure your voter registration information includes a valid email address, please visit vote.utah.gov or the office of your county clerk.";

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

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

484 (i) Registered Voter's Printed Name;

485 (ii) Signature of Registered Voter;

486 (iii) Party Affiliation of Registered Voter;

487 (iv) Birth Date or Age (Optional);

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

489 (vi) Date of Signature; and

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

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

493 (a) the following warning:

494 ["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]

497 (b) the following notice:

498 "NOTICE: Your name, voter precinct number, and date of signature may be publicly disclosed on the lieutenant governor's website if you sign this petition. This disclosure may occur even if your voter registration record has been classified as a private record at your request. If your voter registration information includes a valid email address, you will receive an email notifying you of

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

the disclosure as well as information on how to remove your name from this petition. To ensure your voter registration information includes a valid email address, please visit vote.utah.gov or the office of your county clerk."; and

506 [f(b)] (c) the following information for each individual who signs the petition:

507 (i) name;

508 (ii) party affiliation;

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

510 (iv) street address, city, zip code;

511 (v) date of signature;

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

513 (vii) other information required by the lieutenant governor.

514 (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:

517 "Verification

518 State of Utah, County of ____

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

520 I am at least 18 years old;

521 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;

525 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."

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

529 (7) A nomination petition circulator:

530 (a) must be at least 18 years old; and

531 (b) may affiliate with any political party.

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

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

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

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

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

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

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

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

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

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

544 (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.

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

548 (10)

549 (a) A voter who signs a nomination petition may have the voter's signature removed from the petition
by, no later than 5 p.m. three business days after the day on which ~~[the candidate files the petition
with the appropriate filing officer]~~ the filing officer makes the posting described in Subsection
20A-9-403(4)(a), submitting to the filing officer a statement requesting that the voter's signature be
removed.

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

555 (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.

558 (11)

559 (a) If a filing officer timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection (10)(a)
and determines that the signature should be removed from the nomination petition under Subsection
20A-1-1003(3), the filing officer shall:

561 (i) remove the voter's name from the nomination petition;

562 (ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the posting
described in Subsection 20A-9-403(4)(a); and

564 (iii) update the nomination petition signature totals.

565

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

567 (b) The filing officer shall comply with Subsection (11)(a) no later than 5 p.m. the day before the day of
568 the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b).

567 Section 8. Section 20A-9-406 is amended to read:

568 **20A-9-406. Qualified political party -- Requirements and exemptions.**

570 The following provisions apply to a qualified political party:

570 (1) the qualified political party shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the first Monday of October of each
571 odd-numbered year, certify to the lieutenant governor the identity of one or more registered
572 political parties whose members may vote for the qualified political party's candidates and whether
573 unaffiliated voters may vote for the qualified political party's candidates;

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

576 (a) Subsections 20A-9-403(1) through (3)(b) and Subsections (3)(d)(ii) through [(4)(a)] (8)(a);

578 (b) Subsection [20A-9-403(5)(e)] 20A-9-403(9)(c); and

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

580 (3) an individual may only seek the nomination of the qualified political party by using a method
581 described in Section 20A-9-407, Section 20A-9-408, or both;

582 (4) the qualified political party shall comply with the provisions of Sections 20A-9-407, 20A-9-408,
583 and 20A-9-409;

584 (5) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-301(1)(a), (1)(e), or (2)(a), each election officer shall ensure that
585 a ballot described in Section 20A-6-301 includes each individual nominated by a qualified political
586 party:

587 (a) under the qualified political party's name, if any; or

588 (b) under the title of the qualified registered political party as designated by the qualified political party
589 in the certification described in Subsection (1), or, if none is designated, then under some suitable
590 title;

591 (6) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-302(1)(a), each election officer shall ensure, for ballots in
592 regular general elections, that each candidate who is nominated by the qualified political party is
593 listed by party;

594 (7) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-304(1)(e), each election officer shall ensure that the party
595 designation of each candidate who is nominated by the qualified political party is displayed adjacent
596 to the candidate's name on a mechanical ballot;

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

(8) "candidates for elective office," defined in Subsection 20A-9-101(1)(a), also includes an individual who files a declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-407 or 20A-9-408 to run in a regular general election for a federal office, constitutional office, multicounty office, or county office;

601 (9) an individual who is nominated by, or seeking the nomination of, the qualified political party is not required to comply with Subsection 20A-9-201(1)(c);

603 (10) notwithstanding [Subseetion 20A-9-403(3)] Subsections 20A-9-403(3) through (7), the qualified political party is entitled to have each of the qualified political party's candidates for elective office appear on the primary ballot of the qualified political party with an indication that each candidate is a candidate for the qualified political party;

607 (11) notwithstanding Subsection [20A-9-403(4)(a)] 20A-9-403(8)(a), the lieutenant governor shall include on the list provided by the lieutenant governor to the county clerks:

610 (a) the names of all candidates of the qualified political party for federal, constitutional, multicounty, and county offices; and

612 (b) the names of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by the qualified political party and instruct the county clerks to exclude such candidates from the primary-election ballot;

615 (12) notwithstanding Subsection [20A-9-403(5)(e)] 20A-9-403(9)(c), a candidate who is unopposed for an elective office in the regular primary election of the qualified political party is nominated by the party for that office without appearing on the primary ballot; and

619 (13) notwithstanding the provisions of Subsections 20A-9-403(1) and (2) and Section 20A-9-405, the qualified political party is entitled to have the names of [its] the qualified political party's candidates for elective office featured with party affiliation on the ballot at a regular general election.

{Section 8. Section 20A-9-406 is amended to read: }

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

The following provisions apply to a qualified political party:

570 (1) the qualified political party shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the first Monday of October of each odd-numbered year, certify to the lieutenant governor the identity of one or more registered political parties whose members may vote for the qualified political party's candidates and whether unaffiliated voters may vote for the qualified political party's candidates;

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

576 (a) Subsections 20A-9-403(1) through (3)(b) and (3)(d) through [(4)(a)] (8)(a);

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

577 (b) Subsection [20A-9-403(5)(e)] 20A-9-403(9)(c); and

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

579 (3) an individual may only seek the nomination of the qualified political party by using a method
described in Section 20A-9-407, Section 20A-9-408, or both;

581 (4) the qualified political party shall comply with the provisions of Sections 20A-9-407, 20A-9-408,
and 20A-9-409;

583 (5) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-301(1)(a), (1)(e), or (2)(a), each election officer shall ensure that
a ballot described in Section 20A-6-301 includes each individual nominated by a qualified political
party:

586 (a) under the qualified political party's name , if any; or

587 (b) under the title of the qualified registered political party as designated by the qualified political party
in the certification described in Subsection (1), or, if none is designated, then under some suitable
title;

590 (6) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-302(1)(a), each election officer shall ensure, for ballots in
regular general elections, that each candidate who is nominated by the qualified political party is
listed by party;

593 (7) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-304(1)(e), each election officer shall ensure that the party
designation of each candidate who is nominated by the qualified political party is displayed adjacent
to the candidate's name on a mechanical ballot;

596 (8) "candidates for elective office," defined in Subsection 20A-9-101(1)(a), also includes an individual
who files a declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-407 or 20A-9-408 to run in a regular
general election for a federal office, constitutional office, multicounty office, or county office;

600 (9) an individual who is nominated by, or seeking the nomination of, the qualified political party is not
required to comply with Subsection 20A-9-201(1)(c);

602 (10) notwithstanding [Subsection 20A-9-403(3)] Subsections 20A-9-403(3) through (7), the qualified
political party is entitled to have each of the qualified political party's candidates for elective office
appear on the primary ballot of the qualified political party with an indication that each candidate is
a candidate for the qualified political party;

606 (11) notwithstanding Subsection [20A-9-403(4)(a)] 20A-9-403(8)(a), the lieutenant governor shall
include on the list provided by the lieutenant governor to the county clerks:

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

- (a) the names of all candidates of the qualified political party for federal, constitutional, multicounty, and county offices; and
- 611 (b) the names of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by the qualified political party and instruct the county clerks to exclude such candidates from the primary-election ballot;
- 614 (12) notwithstanding Subsection [20A-9-403(5)(e)] 20A-9-403(9)(c), a candidate who is unopposed for an elective office in the regular primary election of the qualified political party is nominated by the party for that office without appearing on the primary ballot; and
- 618 (13) notwithstanding the provisions of Subsections 20A-9-403(1) and (2) and Section 20A-9-405, the qualified political party is entitled to have the names of its candidates for elective office featured with party affiliation on the ballot at a regular general election.

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

624 **20A-9-408. Signature-gathering process to seek the nomination of a qualified political party**

-- **Removal of signature.**

- 626 (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.
- 629 (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.
- 633 (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:
 - 637 (a) except to the extent otherwise provided in Subsection [(13)(a)] (16)(a), during the applicable 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:
 - 642 (i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a registered political party under this section;
 - 644 (ii) the name of the registered political party for which the member is seeking nomination;

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

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

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

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

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

652 (c) pay the filing fee.

653 (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:

657 (a) during the applicable 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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

671 (c) pay the filing fee.

672 (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 applicable 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.

678 (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.

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

681 (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.

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

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

687 (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 the applicable deadline described in Subsection ~~(12)~~ (15), in the
following amounts:

691 (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;

694 (ii) except as provided in Subsection ~~(13)(b)~~ (16)(b), 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;

698 (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;

701 (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;

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

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

708 (B) 3% of the registered voters of the qualified political party who are residents of the applicable State
Board of Education district; and

710 (vi) for a county office race, signatures of 3% of the registered voters who are residents of the area
permitted to vote for the county office and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for
the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election.

714 (9)

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

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

715 (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, using the manual candidate qualification process, the member shall:

718 (i) collect the signatures on a form approved by the lieutenant governor, using the same circulation and verification requirements described in Sections 20A-7-105 and 20A-7-204; and

721 (ii) in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, submit the signatures to the election officer before the applicable deadline described in Subsection [(12)] (15).

723 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), and in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, the election officer shall, no later than the earlier of 14 calendar days after the day on which the election officer receives the signatures, or [one day] seven calendar 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:

729 (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature packet to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old;

731 (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (9)(c)(i) who is not at least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney;

733 (iii) with the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, determine whether each signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the petition, using the same method, described in Section 20A-1-1002, used to verify a signature on a petition; and

737 (iv) certify whether each name is that of a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature packet.

739 [(d)]

744 (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 5 p.m. 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.]~~

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

746 [(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.]~~

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

750 [e] (d)

(i) An election officer shall, in accordance with this Subsection [(9)(e)] (9)(d) and rules made under Section 20A-3a-106, conduct regular audits of signature comparisons made between signatures gathered under this section and voter signatures maintained by the election officer.

754 (ii) An individual who conducts an audit of signature comparisons under this section may not audit the individual's own work.

756 (iii) The election officer shall:

757 (A) audit 1% of all signature comparisons described in Subsection [(9)(e)(i)] (9)(d)(i) to determine the accuracy of the comparisons made;

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

760 (C) record the audit results;

761 (D) provide additional training or staff reassignments, as needed, based on the results of an audit described in Subsection [(9)(e)(i)] (9)(d)(i); and

763 (E) record any remedial action taken.

764 (iv) The audit results described in Subsection [(9)(e)(iii)(C)] (9)(d)(iii)(C) are a public record.

766 [f] (e) An election officer who certifies signatures under Subsection (9)(c) or 20A-9-403(3)(d) shall, after certifying enough signatures to establish that a candidate has reached the applicable signature threshold described in Subsection (8) or 20A-9-403(3)(a), as applicable, continue to certify signatures submitted for the candidate in excess of the number of signatures required, until the election officer either:

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

773 (ii) has reviewed all signatures submitted for the candidate before reaching an amount equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold.

775 (10)

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

777 (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 the deadline described in Subsection [(12)] (15), collect signatures electronically:

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

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

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

784 (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 calendar days after the day on which the election officer
receives the signatures, or [one day] seven calendar 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:

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

791 (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (10)(c)(i) who is not at least 18 years
old to the attorney general and the county attorney.

793 (11) Subject to Subsection (13)(a)(i), and notwithstanding Section 20A-2-104, an election officer shall,
no later than one business day after the day on which the signature of an individual who signs a
petition is verified under Subsection (9)(c) or Section 20A-21-201:

796 (a) post the individual's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the lieutenant governor's
website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 calendar
days after the date of the primary election; and

799 (b) if the individual's voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid email address,
use an electronic notification system to send an email notice to the individual, informing the
individual that:

802 (i) the individual's petition signature is verified;

803 (ii) the individual's name and voter information described in Subsection (11)(a) is posted on the
lieutenant governor's website; and

805 (iii) the individual has until the deadline described in Subsection (12)(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.

808 (12)

(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 5 p.m. three business days after the day on which the
election officer makes the posting described in Subsection (11)(a), submitting to the election officer
a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

814

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

(b) A statement described in Subsection (12)(a) shall comply with the requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

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

820 (13)

(a) If an election officer timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection (12)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from the petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the election officer shall:

823 (i) remove the voter's name from the petition;

824 (ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the posting described in Subsection (11)(a); and

826 (iii) update the petition signature totals.

827 (b) The election officer shall comply with Subsection (13)(a) no later than 5 p.m. the day before the day of the convention described in Subsection (14)(c).

829 [(11)] (14)

(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.

832 (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:

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

837 (ii) subject to the same enforcement provisions, and civil and criminal penalties, that apply to a candidate for office in relation to the reporting requirements described in Subsection [(11)(b)] (14)(b)(i).

840 (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 the 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

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

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.

847 (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.

851 [(12)] (15) The deadline before which a member of a qualified political party must collect and submit signatures to the election officer under this section is 5 p.m. on the last business day that is at least [+] 21 calendar days before the day on which the qualified political party's convention for the office begins.

855 [(13)] (16) For the 2026 election year only, an individual who desires to gather signatures to seek the nomination of a qualified political party for the office of United States representative shall:

858 (a) in accordance with Subsection (3)(a), file a notice of intent to gather signatures during the period beginning at 8 a.m. on the first business day of January and ending at 5 p.m. on March 13, 2026; and

861 (b) during the period beginning on the day on which the individual files the notice of intent to gather signatures and ending at 5 p.m. on March 13, 2026, on a form approved by the lieutenant governor that complies with Subsection 20A-9-405(3), collect 7,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the state and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election.

621 {Section 9. 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.

624 (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.

627 (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.

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

(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;

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

(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

668 (c) pay the filing fee.

669 (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.

675 (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.

678 (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.

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

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

684 (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 the deadline described in Subsection (12) (15), in the following amounts:

688 (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;

691 (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;

694 (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;

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

(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;

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

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

(B) 3% of the registered voters of the qualified political party who are residents of the applicable State
704 Board of Education district; and

706 (vi) for a county office race, signatures of 3% of the registered voters who are residents of the area
710 permitted to vote for the county office and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for
711 the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election.

(9)

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

711 (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the qualified
714 political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, using the manual candidate
717 qualification process, the member shall:

(i) collect the signatures on a form approved by the lieutenant governor, using the same circulation and
714 verification requirements described in Sections 20A-7-105 and 20A-7-204; and

(ii) in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, submit the signatures to the election officer before the
717 deadline described in Subsection [(+2)] (15).

719 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), and in accordance
722 with Section 20A-9-408.3, the election officer shall, no later than the earlier of 14 calendar days
725 after the day on which the election officer receives the signatures, or [one day] seven calendar days
727 before the day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee for the
729 elective office to which the signature packets relate:

(i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature packet to determine
725 whether each individual is at least 18 years old;

(ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (9)(c)(i) who is not at least 18 years old
727 to the attorney general and the county attorney;

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

(iii) with the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, determine whether each signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the petition, using the same method, described in Section 20A-1-1002, used to verify a signature on a petition; and

733 (iv) certify whether each name is that of a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature packet.

735 [~~(d)~~

736 (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 5 p.m. 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.]~~

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

742 [~~(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.~~]

746 [~~(e)~~] (d)

747 (i) An election officer shall, in accordance with this Subsection [~~(9)(e)~~] (9)(d) and rules made under Section 20A-3a-106, conduct regular audits of signature comparisons made between signatures gathered under this section and voter signatures maintained by the election officer.

750 (ii) An individual who conducts an audit of signature comparisons under this section may not audit the individual's own work.

752 (iii) The election officer shall:

753 (A) audit 1% of all signature comparisons described in Subsection [~~(9)(e)(i)~~] (9)(d)(i) to determine the accuracy of the comparisons made;

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

756 (C) record the audit results;

757 (D) provide additional training or staff reassignments, as needed, based on the results of an audit described in Subsection [~~(9)(e)(i)~~] (9)(d)(i); and

759 (E) record any remedial action taken.

760 (iv) The audit results described in Subsection [~~(9)(e)(iii)(C)~~] (9)(d)(iii)(C) are a public record.

762 [~~(f)~~] (e) An election officer who certifies signatures under Subsection (9)(c) or 20A-9-403(3)(d) shall, after certifying enough signatures to establish that a candidate has reached the applicable

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

signature threshold described in Subsection (8) or 20A-9-403(3)(a), as applicable, continue to certify signatures submitted for the candidate in excess of the number of signatures required, until the election officer either:

- 768 (i) certifies signatures equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold; or
- 769 (ii) has reviewed all signatures submitted for the candidate before reaching an amount equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold.

771 (10)

- (a) This Subsection (10) applies only to the electronic candidate qualification process.
- 773 (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 the deadline described in Subsection [(12)] (15), collect signatures electronically:

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

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

780 (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 calendar days after the day on which the election officer receives the signatures, or [one day] seven calendar 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:

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

787 (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (10)(c)(i) who is not at least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney.

789 (11) Subject to Subsection (13)(a)(i), and notwithstanding Section 20A-2-104, an election officer shall, no later than one business day after the day on which the signature of an individual who signs a petition is verified under Subsection (9)(c) or Section 20A-21-201:

792 (a) post the individual's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 calendar days after the date of the primary election; and

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

(b) if the individual's voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email notice to the individual, informing the individual that:

798 (i) the individual's petition signature is verified;

799 (ii) the individual's name and voter information described in Subsection (11)(a) is posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and

801 (iii) the individual has until the deadline described in Subsection (12)(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.

804 (12)

(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 5 p.m. three business days after the day on which the election officer makes the posting described in Subsection (11)(a), submitting to the election officer a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

810 (b) A statement described in Subsection (12)(a) shall comply with the requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

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

816 (13)

(a) If an election officer timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection (12)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from the petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the election officer shall:

819 (i) remove the voter's name from the petition;

820 (ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the posting described in Subsection (11)(a); and

822 (iii) update the petition signature totals.

823 (b) The election officer shall comply with Subsection (13)(a) no later than 5 p.m. the day before the day of the convention described in Subsection (14)(c).

825 [(11)] (14)

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

(a) An individual may not gather signatures under this section until after the individual files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this section.

(b) An individual who files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy, described in Subsection (3)(a) or (4)(a), is, beginning on the day on which the individual files the notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy:

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

(ii) subject to the same enforcement provisions, and civil and criminal penalties, that apply to a candidate for office in relation to the reporting requirements described in Subsection [(11)(b)(i)] (14)(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 the 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.

[{(12)}] (15) The deadline before which a member of a qualified political party must collect and submit signatures to the election officer under this section is 5 p.m. on the last business day that is at least [14] 21 calendar days before the day on which the qualified political party's convention for the office begins.

Section 10. 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 _____

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

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.

884

885

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

886

887

Notary Public (or other officer
qualified to administer oaths");

889

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

891

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

892

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

894

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

897

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

899

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

901

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

905

(vi) contain the word "Notice" printed directly beneath the words described in Subsection (1)(b)(v);

907

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

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

"Your name, voter precinct number, and date of signature may be publicly disclosed on the lieutenant governor's website if you sign this petition. This disclosure may occur even if your voter registration record has been classified as a private record at your request. If your voter registration information includes a valid email address, you will receive an email notifying you of the disclosure as well as information on how to remove your name from this petition. To ensure your voter registration information contains a valid email address, please visit vote.utah.gov or the office of your county clerk.";

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

"Each signer says:

I have personally signed this petition with a holographic signature;

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

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

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

946 "Verification

947 State of Utah, County of ____

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

949 I am at least 18 years old;

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

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

956 _____
957 (Signature) (Residence Address) (Date)["]."

958 (2) An agent designated to file a certificate of nomination under Subsection 20A-9-503(2)(b) or (4)(b)
959 may not sign the form described in Subsection (1)(a).

960 (3)

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

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

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

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

968 (4)

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

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

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

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

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

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

- (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 applicable 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 is for an office to be filled by the voters of the entire state; or
 - (B) at least 300 registered voters residing within a political division or at least 5% of the registered voters residing within a political division, whichever is less, when the nomination is for an office to be filled by the voters of any political division smaller than the state.
- (b) A candidate has not complied with Subsection (5)(a)(ii), unless the county clerks verify that each required signature is a valid signature of a registered voter who is eligible to sign the signature packet and has not signed a signature packet to nominate another candidate for the same office.
- (c) In reviewing the signature packets, the county clerk shall count and certify only those persons who signed with a holographic signature, who:
 - (i) are registered voters within the political division that the candidate seeks to represent; and
 - (ii) did not sign any other certificate of nomination for that office.
- (d) The county clerk shall count and certify the number of registered voters who validly signed a signature packet, no later than 30 calendar days after the day on which the candidate submits the signature packet.
- (e) The candidate may supplement the signatures or amend the certificate of nomination or declaration of candidacy at any time on or before 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in which the election will be held.

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

1009 (f) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to determine whether a signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature packet.

1012 (6) Subject to Subsection (8)(a)(i), and notwithstanding Section 20A-2-104, the county clerk shall, no later than one business day after the day on which the signature of a voter who signs a signature packet is verified under Subsection (5)(b):

1015 (a) post the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 calendar days after the date of the general election; and

1018 (b) if the voter's voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email notice to the voter, informing the voter that:

1021 (i) the voter's nomination petition signature is verified;

1022 (ii) the voter's name and voter information described in Subsection (6)(a) is posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and

1024 (iii) the voter has until the deadline described in Subsection (7)(a) to submit a statement to the county clerk, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(2), requesting that the voter's signature be removed from the petition.

1027 [(6)] (7)

(a) A voter who signs a signature packet under this section may have the voter's signature removed from the signature packet by, no later than 5 p.m. three business days after the day on which [the candidate submits the signature packet to the county clerk] the county clerk makes the posting described in Subsection (6)(a), submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

1032 (b) A statement described in Subsection [(6)(a)] (7)(a) shall comply with the requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

1034 (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a signature packet after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

1037 (8)

(a) If a county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection (7)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from the nomination petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the county clerk shall:

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

1040 (i) remove the voter's name from the nomination petition;
1041 (ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the posting
1043 described in Subsection (6)(a); and
1044 (iii) update the nomination petition signature totals.
(b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection (8)(a) no later than five business days after the day
 on which the county clerk receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection (7)
 (a).

851 {Section 10. Section 20A-9-502 is amended to read: }

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

854 (1) The candidate shall:
855 (a) prepare a certificate of nomination in substantially the following form:
856 "State of Utah, County of _____
857 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.

868 _____
869 Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____(month\day\year).
870 _____
871 Notary Public (or other officer
872 qualified to administer oaths");
873 (b) for each signature packet, bind signature sheets to a copy of the certificate of nomination and the
circulator verification, that:
875 (i) are printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

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

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

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

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

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

889 (vi) contain the word "Notice" printed directly beneath the words described in Subsection (1)(b)(v);

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

893 "Your name, voter precinct number, and date of signature may be publicly disclosed on the
lieutenant governor's website if you sign this petition. This disclosure may occur even if your voter
registration record has been classified as a private record at your request. If your voter registration
information includes a valid email address, you will receive an email notifying you of the disclosure
as well as information on how to remove your name 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."

901 [(vi)] (viii) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in Subsection [(1)(b)
(v)] (1)(v)(vii):

903 "Each signer says:

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

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

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

908 [(vii)] (ix) contain horizontally ruled lines, 3/8 inch apart under the statement described in Subsection
[(1)(b)(vi)] (1)(b)(viii); and

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

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

930 "Verification

931 State of Utah, County of ____

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

933 I am at least 18 years old;

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

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

940 _____ (Signature) (Residence Address) (Date)["]."

941 (2) An agent designated to file a certificate of nomination under Subsection 20A-9-503(2)(b) or (4)(b)
942 may not sign the form described in Subsection (1)(a).

944 (3)
(a) The candidate shall circulate the nomination petition and ensure that the person in whose presence
945 each signature sheet is signed:

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

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

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

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

951 (4)

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

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

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

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

956 (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

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

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

961 (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.

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

965 (5)

966 (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:

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

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

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

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

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

(b) A candidate has not complied with Subsection (5)(a)(ii), unless the county clerks verify that each required signature is a valid signature of a registered voter who is eligible to sign the signature packet and has not signed a signature packet to nominate another candidate for the same office.

(c) In reviewing the signature packets, the county clerk shall count and certify only those persons who signed with a holographic signature, who:

(i) are registered voters within the political division that the candidate seeks to represent; and

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

(d) The county clerk shall count and certify the number of registered voters who validly signed a signature packet, no later than 30 calendar days after the day on which the candidate submits the signature packet.

(e) The candidate may supplement the signatures or amend the certificate of nomination or declaration of candidacy at any time on or before 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in which the election will be held.

(f) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to determine whether a signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature packet.

(6) Subject to Subsection (8)(a)(i), and notwithstanding Section 20A-2-104, the county clerk shall, no later than one business day after the day on which the signature of a voter who signs a signature packet is verified under Subsection (5)(b):

(a) post the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 calendar days after the date of the general election; and

(b) if the voter's voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email notice to the voter, informing the voter that:

(i) the voter's nomination petition signature is verified;

(ii) the voter's name and voter information described in Subsection (6)(a) is posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and

(iii) the voter has until the deadline described in Subsection (7)(a) to submit a statement to the county clerk, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(2), requesting that the voter's signature be removed from the petition.

[{6}] (7)

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

(a) A voter who signs a signature packet under this section may have the voter's signature removed from the signature packet by, no later than 5 p.m. three business days after the day on which [the candidate submits the signature packet to the county clerk] the county clerk makes the posting described in Subsection (6)(a), submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

1016 (b) A statement described in Subsection [(6)(a)] (7)(a) shall comply with the requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

1018 (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a signature packet after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

1021 (8)

1024 (a) If a county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection (7)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from the nomination petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the county clerk shall:

1025 (i) remove the voter's name from the nomination petition;

1027 (ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the posting described in Subsection (7)(a); and

1028 (iii) update the nomination petition signature totals.

1047 (b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection (8)(a) no later than five business days after the day on which the county clerk receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection (7)(a).

1048 Section 11. Section **20A-9-701** is amended to read:

20A-9-701. Certification of party candidates to county clerks -- Display on ballot.

1033 (1) No later than August 31 of each regular general election year, the lieutenant governor shall certify to each county clerk, for offices to be voted upon at the regular general election in that county clerk's county:

1036 (a) the names of each candidate nominated under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(9); and

1038 (b) the names of the candidates for president and vice president that are certified by the registered political party as the party's nominees.

HB0027 compared with HB0027S01

(2) The names shall be certified by the lieutenant governor and shall be displayed on the ballot as they are provided on the candidate's declaration of candidacy. No other names may appear on the ballot as affiliated with, endorsed by, or nominated by any other registered political party, political party, or other political group.

1060

Section 12. Effective date.

Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on January 1, 2027.

1-17-26 2:12 PM