

HB0033S01 compared with HB0033

{Omitted text} shows text that was in HB0033 but was omitted in HB0033S01

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0033 but was inserted into HB0033S01

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

Political Signs Amendments
2026 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Jordan D. Teuscher
Senate Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers



2

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill amends provisions related to political signs.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

- 11 ▶ defines terms;
- 12 ▶ specifies the form and placement of the disclosure statement for political advertisements;
- 10 ▶ **creates an exception to political advertising disclosure requirements for certain candidate-**
paid political signs;
- 13 ▶ reduces the size dimensions of a political sign that is exempt from disclosing, on the sign, the
person who paid for the sign;
- 15 ▶ prohibits a person from:
- 16 • attaching a political sign to a utility pole, light pole, an electric utility box, a traffic control
device, or any railroad sign or signal; or
- 18 • affixing an object to a political sign for the purpose of blocking, concealing, or
misrepresenting the message or image on the political sign;

HB0033 compared with HB0033S01

- 20 ▶ expands existing criminal penalties for defacing political signs to cover the conduct described
above, and specifies exceptions for:
- 22 • a person who removes a political sign that does not contain the disclosure described above;
- 24 • a person who removes a political sign that violates the prohibition on electioneering in or
near a polling place;
- 26 • a government employee who removes a political sign in the course of the government
employee's duties;
- 28 • a person who removes an object that blocks or conceals a political sign; or
- 29 • a person who removes a political sign that is attached to a utility pole, light pole, an electric
utility box, a traffic control device, or any railroad sign or signal;
- 31 ▶ requires each county and municipality to designate one or more locations where a person who
removes a political sign may deposit the political sign for safekeeping or disposal;
- 33 ▶ requires a person who removes a political sign under specified circumstances to deposit the sign
at a designated location described above;
- 35 ▶ for a county or municipality that receives a political sign, requires the county or municipality to:
- 37 • contact the owner of the political sign; and
- 38 • notify the owner to take possession of the political sign;
- 39 ▶ authorizes a county or municipality to, in certain circumstances:
- 40 • dispose of a political sign; and
- 41 • seek reimbursement from the owner of the political sign for the sign's safekeeping or
disposal; {and}
- 42 ▶ prohibits a county or municipality from prohibiting a property owner or lawful occupant
of property adjacent to a park strip from posting a political sign on the park strip; and
- 43 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

45 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

46 None

47 **Other Special Clauses:**

48 This bill provides a special effective date.

49 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

50 AMENDS:

51 **20A-11-901 (Effective 01/01/27)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 18

HB0033 compared with HB0033S01

52 **20A-17-102 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 238
53 **20A-17-103 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 15

54 ENACTS:

55 **20A-17-101.5 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

56 **20A-17-104 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

57

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

59 Section 1. Section **20A-11-901** is amended to read:

60 **20A-11-901. Political advertisements -- Requirement that ads designate responsibility and
61 authorization -- Report to lieutenant governor -- Unauthorized use of endorsements.**

62 (1)

(a) Whenever any person makes an expenditure for the purpose of financing an advertisement expressly
advocating for the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, or solicits any contribution
through any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, direct mailing,
or any other type of general public political advertising, the advertisement:

67 (i) if paid for and authorized by a candidate or the candidate's campaign committee, shall {clearly
state{}} disclose that the advertisement has been paid for by the candidate or the campaign
committee;

70 (ii) if paid for by another person but authorized by a candidate or the candidate's campaign
committee, shall {clearly state{}} disclose who paid for the advertisement and that the
candidate or the campaign committee authorized the advertisement; or

73 (iii) if not authorized by a candidate or a candidate's campaign committee, shall {clearly
state{}} disclose the name of the person who paid for the advertisement and state that the
advertisement is not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

77 (2)

(a) A person that makes an expenditure for the purpose of financing an advertisement related to a ballot
proposition shall ensure that the advertisement complies with Subsection (2)(b) if the advertisement
expressly advocates:

80 (i) for placing a ballot proposition on the ballot;

81 (ii) for keeping a ballot proposition off the ballot;

82 (iii) that a voter refrain from voting on a ballot proposition; or

HB0033 compared with HB0033S01

- 83 (iv) that a voter vote for or against a ballot proposition.
- 84 (b) An advertisement described in Subsection (2)(a) shall:
- 85 (i) if paid for by a political issues committee, {clearly state{}} disclose that the advertisement was
paid for by the political issues committee;
- 87 (ii) if paid for by another person but authorized by a political issues committee, {clearly state{}}
disclose who paid for the advertisement and that the political issues committee authorized the
advertisement; or
- 90 (iii) if not authorized by a political issues committee, {clearly state{}} disclose the name of the
person who paid for the advertisement and state that the advertisement is not authorized by any
political issues committee.
- 93 ~~{(3)}~~
- 94 (a){(3)} The disclosure statement described in Subsections (1) and (2) shall:
- 94 (i){(a)} clearly and conspicuously identify for the reader, observer, or listener the person who paid
for the advertisement and, where required, the authorization related to the advertisement; and
- 97 ~~{(ii) {as it relates to a printed advertisement:}}~~
- 97 (b) if the advertisement is a billboard or outdoor advertising facility, include text that is large enough to
be easily readable by an ordinary observer at a reasonable distance from which the advertisement is
intended to be viewed.
- 100 ~~[(3)] (4) {if the advertisement is a billboard or outdoor advertising facility, include text that is large~~
~~enough to be easily readable by an ordinary observer at a reasonable distance from which the~~
~~advertisement is intended to be viewed; or}~~
- 101 ~~{(B)} {if the advertisement is a political sign that is not a billboard or outdoor advertising facility,~~
~~include text that is reasonably legible to a individual standing near the political sign;}~~
- 104 ~~{(b)} {The text described in Subsection (3)(a)(ii)(B) may be printed in small type or affixed to the back~~
~~of the advertisement.}~~
- 106 ~~{(3)}(4)~~ The requirements of Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to:
- 107 (a) ~~[lawn signs with dimensions of four by eight feet or smaller]~~ an advertisement that is a political
sign, as that term is defined in Section 20A-17-101.5, ~~{with dimensions that are less than 24 by 18~~
~~inches} that:~~
- 103 (i) is less than 24 by 18 inches;
- 110 ~~{(b)}~~ or

HB0033 compared with HB0033S01

- 104 (ii)
(A) is paid for and authorized by a candidate or the candidate's campaign committee; and
106 (B) clearly and conspicuously identifies that candidate by name;
107 (b) bumper stickers;
111 (c) campaign pins, buttons, and pens; or
112 (d) similar small items upon which the [disclaimer] disclosure statement cannot be conveniently
printed.
- 113 [(4)] (5)
(a) A person who is not a reporting entity and pays for an electioneering communication shall file
a report with the lieutenant governor within 24 hours of making the payment or entering into a
contract to make the payment.
- 116 (b) The report shall include:
117 (i) the name and address of the person described in Subsection [(4)(a)] (5)(a);
118 (ii) the name and address of each person contributing at least \$100 to the person described in Subsection
[(4)(a)] (5)(a) for the purpose of disseminating the electioneering communication;
121 (iii) the amount spent on the electioneering communication;
122 (iv) the name of the identified referenced candidate; and
123 (v) the medium used to disseminate the electioneering communication.
- 124 [(5)] (6) A person may not, in order to promote the success of any candidate for nomination or election
to any public office, or in connection with any question submitted to the voters, include or cause to
be included the name of any person as endorser or supporter in any political advertisement, circular,
poster, or publication without the express consent of that person.
- 129 [(6)] (7)
(a) It is unlawful for a person to pay the owner, editor, publisher, or agent of any newspaper or other
periodical to induce the owner, editor, publisher, or agent to advocate or oppose editorially any
candidate for nomination or election.
- 132 (b) It is unlawful for any owner, editor, publisher, or agent to accept any payment to advocate or oppose
editorially any candidate for nomination or election.
- 132 Section 2. Section 2 is enacted to read:
133 **20A-17-101.5. Definitions.**
As used in this chapter:

HB0033 compared with HB0033S01

- 137 (1) "Contact information" means:
- 138 (a) as it relates to a candidate for public office or the candidate's personal campaign committee:
- 140 (i) the address and telephone number for the candidate that the candidate designates on a declaration
of candidacy as the address and telephone number where the candidate may be contacted to receive
official election notices; or
- 143 (ii) if the address or telephone number described in Subsection (1)(a) is a protected record under
Section 63G-2-305, the alternative address or telephone number that the candidate filing the
declaration of candidacy provides to the election officer; and
- 147 (b) as it relates to a filing entity other than a filing entity who is a candidate for public office, the name,
address, and telephone number of an officer for the filing entity that the filing entity provides to the
lieutenant governor in a statement of organization or financial statement filed under Chapter 11,
Campaign and Financial Reporting Requirements.
- 152 (2) "Filing entity" means the same as that term is defined in Section 20A-11-101.
- 151 (3) "Local government entity" means:
- 152 (a) a county, municipality, or other political subdivision;
- 153 (b) a special district, as defined in Section 17B-1-102;
- 154 (c) a special service district, as defined in Section 17D-1-102;
- 155 (d) a local building authority, as defined in Section 17D-2-102;
- 156 (e) a conservation district, as defined in Section 17D-3-102;
- 157 (f) an independent entity, as defined in Section 63E-1-102;
- 158 (g) a public corporation, as defined in Section 63E-1-102;
- 159 (h) a public transit district, organized under Title 17B, Chapter 2a, Part 8, Public Transit District Act;
- 161 (i) a school district;
- 162 (j) a public school, including a charter school or other publicly funded school;
- 163 (k) a state institution of higher education;
- 164 (l) an entity that expends public funds; and
- 165 (m) each office, agency, or other division of an entity described in Subsections (3)(a) through (l).
- 167 (4) "Park strip" means the area of land located between a roadway and an adjacent sidewalk.
- 153 (3){(5)} "Political sign" means any sign {or document} that advocates:
- 154 (a) the election or defeat of a candidate for public office; or
- 155 (b) the approval or defeat of a ballot proposition.

HB0033 compared with HB0033S01

- 171 (6)
- (a) "Public property" means any real property, building, or structure owned or leased by a local government entity.
- 173 (b) "Public property" does not include any real property, building, or structure during a period of time that the real property, building, or structure is rented out by a government entity to a private party for a meeting, convention, or similar event.
- 156 (4){(7)} "Railroad sign or signal" means the same as that term is defined in Section 41-6a-102.
- 157 (5){(8)}
- (a) "Roadway" means:
- 158 (i) a state highway, as described in Section 72-3-102;
- 159 (ii) a county road, as described in Section 72-3-103;
- 160 (iii) a city street, as described in Section 72-3-104;
- 161 (iv) a class D road, as described in Section 72-3-105; or
- 162 (v) a rail-based fixed guideway operated by a large public transit district.
- 163 (b) {~~Roadway~~} "Roadway" includes:
- 164 (i) the right-of-way for a roadway; and
- 165 (ii) infrastructure appurtenant to a roadway that is owned, maintained, or controlled by:
- 167 (A) a county or municipality;
- 168 (B) a large public transit district organized under Title 17B, Chapter 2a, Part 8, Public Transit District Act; or
- 170 (C) the Department of Transportation created in Title 72, Chapter 1, Part 2, Department of Transportation.
- 172 (6){(9)} "Sign owner" means a person who owns a political sign and, under Subsection 20A-11-901(1) or (2), is required to {make-} include a disclosure {~~described in Subsection 20A-11-901(1) or (2) on a political sign because the person paid for~~} statement on the political sign.
- 194 Section 3. Section **20A-17-102** is amended to read:
- 195 **20A-17-102. Political signs -- Prohibition on vandalism -- Exceptions.**
- 178 [(1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), a person is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if the person knowingly removes, alters, defaces, or otherwise vandalizes a sign:]
- 180 [(a) advocating the election or defeat of a candidate for public office; or]
- 181 [(b) advocating the approval or defeat of a ballot proposition.]

HB0033 compared with HB0033S01

- 182 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (3) or (5), a person is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if the
183 person knowingly:
- 184 (a) removes, disposes of, alters, defaces, or otherwise vandalizes a political sign; or
185 (b) attaches or affixes any object to a political sign, including another political sign, and the object:
186 (i) hides, blocks, obscures, or otherwise substantially conceals from view the message or image on the
187 political sign; or
188 (ii) changes or misrepresents the intent of the message on the political sign.
- 189 (2) A person is guilty of an infraction if the person knowingly attaches or affixes a political sign to a
190 utility pole, light pole, an electric utility box, a traffic control device, or any railroad sign or signal.
- 191 ~~(2)~~ (3) A person is not guilty of a violation of Subsection (1) if the person who engages in the conduct
192 described in Subsection (1) is:
- 193 (a) ~~[as it relates to a sign described in Subsection (1)(a), the candidate or an agent of the candidate]~~ the
194 sign owner;
- 195 (b) ~~[as it relates to a sign described in Subsection (1)(b),]~~the person who placed the political sign, the
196 person who directed the placement of the political sign, or an agent of either;
- 197 (c) a property owner of property or of a right-of-way adjacent to property on which the political sign is
198 placed, or the property owner's agent; or
- 199 (d) a public official ~~[who removes the sign in accordance with an official duty of the public official]~~ or
200 government employee who removes the political sign in accordance with the duties of the public
201 official or government employee.
- 202 (4) A sign owner that posts or displays a political sign on a roadway shall ensure that the political sign
203 is removed from the roadway no later than 14 calendar days after the day of the election to which
204 the political sign relates.
- 205 (5) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(a), any person may:
- 206 (a) in response to another person engaging in the conduct described in Subsection (1)(b), remove the
207 object that is attached or affixed to the political sign;
- 208 (b) in response to another person engaging in the conduct described in Subsection (2), remove the
209 political sign that is attached or affixed to a utility pole, light pole, an electric utility box, a traffic
210 control device, or any railroad sign or signal;
- 211 (c) remove a political sign that is posted or displayed on a roadway for longer than the time period
212 described in Subsection; or

HB0033 compared with HB0033S01

- 216 (d) remove a political sign because:
217 (i)
(A) the size dimensions of the political sign are equal to or greater than the size dimensions described in
Subsection 20A-11-901(4)(a); and
219 (B) the political sign does not contain the disclosure statement described in Subsection 20A-11-901(1)
or (2); or
221 (ii) the political sign is posted or displayed in a location that violates the prohibition against
electioneering described in Subsection 20A-3a-501(2)(a)(i).
223 (6) A person who removes a political sign under Subsection (3)(d) or (5)(d) shall deposit the political
sign at a location described in Subsection 20A-17-104(1).
225 (7) Nothing in this section limits the prosecution or sentencing of a person who, while removing a
political sign or an object attached or affixed to a political sign under Subsection (3) or (5), commits
an offense under Title 76, Utah Criminal Code.

247 Section 4. Section **20A-17-103** is amended to read:

248 **20A-17-103. Posting political signs on public property.**

230 [(1) As used in this section:]

231 [(a) "Local government entity" means:]

232 [(i) a county, municipality, or other political subdivision;]

233 [(ii) a special district, as defined in Section 17B-1-102;]

234 [(iii) a special service district, as defined in Section 17D-1-102;]

235 [(iv) a local building authority, as defined in Section 17D-2-102;]

236 [(v) a conservation district, as defined in Section 17D-3-102;]

237 [(vi) an independent entity, as defined in Section 63E-1-102;]

238 [(vii) a public corporation, as defined in Section 63E-1-102;]

239 [(viii) a public transit district, organized under Title 17B, Chapter 2a, Part 8, Public Transit District
Act;]

241 [(ix) a school district;]

242 [(x) a public school, including a charter school or other publicly funded school;]

243 [(xi) a state institution of higher education;]

244 [(xii) an entity that expends public funds; and]

245

HB0033 compared with HB0033S01

~~[(xiii) each office, agency, or other division of an entity described in Subsections (1)(a)(i) through (xii).]~~

247 [(b) "Political sign" means any sign or document that advocates:]

248 [(i) the election or defeat of a candidate for public office; or]

249 [(ii) the approval or defeat of a ballot proposition.]

250 [(e){1} {~~(b)~~}]

(i) ~~"Public property" means any real property, building, or structure owned or leased by a local government entity.~~

252 ~~[(ii) "Public property" does not include any real property, building, or structure during a period of time that the real property, building, or structure is rented out by a government entity to a private party for a meeting, convention, or similar event.]~~

255 ~~[(2)]~~ (1) A local government entity, a local government officer, a local government employee, or another person with authority or control over public property that posts or permits a person to post a political sign on public property:

258 (a) shall permit any other person to post a political sign on the public property, subject to the same requirements and restrictions imposed on all other political signs permitted to be posted on the public property; and

261 (b) may not impose a requirement or restriction on the posting of a political sign if the requirement or restriction is not politically neutral and content neutral.

283 (2) A local government entity may not prohibit a person from posting a political sign on a park strip if the person:

285 (a)

(i) is the owner or lawful occupant of property that is adjacent to the park strip; and

286 (ii) is required by a local ordinance or an agreement to maintain the park strip; or

287 (b) obtains consent to post the political sign from the person described in Subsection (2)(a).

289 (3) Nothing in this section prohibits a local government entity from regulating the posting of a political sign under this section to prevent a traffic, pedestrian, or line-of-sight hazard.

292 Section 5. Section 5 is enacted to read:

293 **20A-17-104. Safeguarding and disposing of political signs -- County and municipal locations**
-- Reimbursement from sign owner.

266

HB0033 compared with HB0033S01

- 270 (1) Each county and each municipality shall designate one or more locations within the county or
272 municipality where an individual who removes a political sign under Subsection 20A-17-102(3)(d)
273 or (5)(d) may deposit the political sign for safekeeping or disposal in accordance with this section.
- 274 (2) Subject to Subsection (3), and except as provided in Subsection (4), a county or municipality that
275 receives a political sign at a location described in Subsection (1) shall:
- 276 (a) safeguard the political sign;
- 277 (b) use reasonable efforts to obtain contact information for the sign owner:
- 278 (i) from the election officer for the election to which the political sign relates, if the sign owner is a
279 candidate for public office or the candidate's personal campaign committee;
- 280 (ii) from the lieutenant governor, if the sign owner is a filing entity other than a filing entity who is a
281 candidate for public office or the candidate's personal campaign committee; or
- 282 (iii) using any other lawful means available to the county or municipality;
- 283 (c) make a reasonable attempt to contact the sign owner by telephone; and
- 284 (d) notify the sign owner, either during a direct conversation or in a voicemail, that the sign owner has
285 five business days after the date of the notice to take possession of the political sign.
- 286 (3) If a sign owner receives the notice described in Subsection (2)(d) but does not take possession of the
287 political sign by the deadline described in Subsection (2)(d), or, if a county or municipality is unable
288 to contact a sign owner under Subsection (2)(c), the county or municipality may:
- 289 (a) dispose of the political sign; and
- 290 (b) seek reimbursement from the sign owner in accordance with Subsection (5) for the cost of
291 safekeeping or disposing of the political sign, if, during the same election cycle:
- 292 (i) the county or municipality has, on three or more previous occasions, received a political sign
293 belonging to the same sign owner at a location described in Subsection (1); and
- 294 (ii) on each occasion:
- 295 (A) the sign owner did not take possession of the political sign after receiving the notice described in
296 Subsection (2)(d); or
- 297 (B) the county or municipality was unable to contact the sign owner under Subsection (2)(c).
- 300 (4) A county or municipality that receives a political sign at a location described in Subsection (1) may
301 dispose of the political sign if the county or municipality:
- 302 (a) cannot identify the sign owner; or
- 303 (b) cannot obtain contact information for the sign owner under Subsection (2)(b).

HB0033 compared with HB0033S01

- 305 (5)
- (a) A county or municipality that seeks reimbursement under Subsection (3)(b) shall mail a reimbursement notice to the sign owner using the contact information that the county or municipality obtains under Subsection (2)(b).
- 308 (b) A reimbursement notice shall include:
- 309 (i) the number of political signs safeguarded or disposed of by the county or municipality;
- 311 (ii) subject to Subsection (5)(c), the reimbursement amount; and
- 312 (iii) any other information deemed relevant by the county or municipality to obtain reimbursement for safeguarding or disposing of the political sign.
- 314 (c) The reimbursement amount that a county or municipality may seek for a political sign deposited at a location described in Subsection (1) may not exceed \$20 per deposit incident, regardless of the number of political signs belonging to the same sign owner that are included in that deposit.
- 318 (6)
- (a) Subject to Subsection (6)(b), a sign owner that receives a reimbursement notice under Subsection (5) shall pay the amount specified in the notice no later than 30 calendar days after the day on which the reimbursement notice is received in the mail.
- 321 (b) A county or municipality shall provide the sign owner a reasonable opportunity to establish, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the payment of reimbursement is not required.
- 324 (7) A sign owner that receives a reimbursement notice under this section may use campaign funds to pay the reimbursement amount specified in the notice.
- 355 Section 6. **Effective date.**
- Effective Date.
- 327 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), this bill takes effect May 6, 2026.
- 328 (2) The actions affecting Section 20A-11-901 (Effective 01/01/27) take effect on January 1, 2027.

2-10-26 11:17 AM