

Lisa Shepherd proposes the following substitute bill:

Candidate Petition Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Lisa Shepherd

Senate Sponsor: Daniel McCay

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to candidate nomination petitions.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- requires a candidate seeking the nomination for an elective office by gathering signatures submit the signatures to the county clerk of the county in which a majority of the signatures are collected;

- ▶ for a signature gathering candidate seeking an office where the officeholder is elected by the voters from more than one county, requires each county clerk to which the candidate submits signatures to:

- verify and count the number of valid signatures submitted by the candidate; and
 - certify the number of valid signatures to the lieutenant governor;

for an elective office described above, requires the lieutenant governor to:

 - count the total number of valid signatures received from each county clerk; and
 - if the aggregate number of valid signatures is sufficient for the candidate to qualify for

ent on the ballot, certify the signatures;

- ▶ for a candidate for elective office seeking the nomination of a qualified political party through signature-gathering, moves the deadline for the candidate to submit signatures to an election official from 14 to 21 days before the day on which the party holds a convention to nominate a candidate for the same elective office; and

- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

29 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

30 AMENDS:

31 **20A-1-501**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 16

32 **20A-3a-106**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 381, 448

33 **20A-6-301**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 39

34 **20A-6-302**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 39, 448

35 **20A-6-304**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 136

36 **20A-9-403**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 39, 448

37 **20A-9-405**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 38

38 **20A-9-406**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2

39 **20A-9-408**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2

40 **20A-9-502**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2

41 **20A-9-701**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 296

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

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

44 **20A-1-501 . Candidate vacancies -- Procedure for filling.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

58 (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing
59 through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor provides the list
60 described in Subsection [20A-9-403(4)(a)] 20A-9-403(9)(a), only one or two
61 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

- (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(9)(a);
 - (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:
 - (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
 - (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
 - (c) for a registered political party with a candidate certified as winning a primary election:
 - (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
 - (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.

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.

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

 - (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

97 described in Subsection (2)(c)(ii) may not appear on the general election ballot.

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

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

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

103 **20A-3a-106 . Rulemaking authority relating to conducting an election.**

104 The director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, may make rules,
105 in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, establishing
106 requirements for:

107 (1) a return envelope, to ensure uniformity and security of the envelopes;

108 (2) complying with the signature comparison audit requirements described in Section
109 20A-3a-402.5;

110 (3) conducting and documenting the identity verification process described in Subsection
111 20A-3a-401(7)(b); or

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

113 (a) perform the signature comparison audits described in Subsection [20A-9-408(9)(e)]
114 20A-9-408(9)(h); or

115 (b) fulfill the chain of custody requirements described in Section 20A-9-408.3.

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

117 **20A-6-301 . Manual ballots -- Regular general election.**

118 (1) Each election officer shall ensure that:

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

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

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

124 (iii) no indication that a candidate for elective office has been nominated by, or has
125 been endorsed by, or is in any way affiliated with a political party or group, unless
126 the candidate has been nominated by a registered political party in accordance
127 with Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(10);

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

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

130 (ii) the date of the election; and

- (iii) the words "certified by the Clerk of _____ County" or, as applicable, the name of a combined office that includes the duties of a county clerk;
 - (c) unaffiliated candidates, candidates not affiliated with a registered political party, and all other candidates for elective office who were not nominated by a registered political party in accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(10), are listed with the other candidates for the same office in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110, without a party name or title;
 - (d) each ticket containing the lists of candidates, including the party name and device, are separated by heavy parallel lines;
 - (e) the offices to be filled are plainly printed immediately above the names of the candidates for those offices;
 - (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
 - (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:
 - (i) the ballot includes a space for a write-in candidate immediately following the last candidate listed on that ticket; or
 - (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.

An election officer shall ensure that:

 - (a) each individual nominated by any registered political party under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(10), and no other individual, is placed on the ballot:
 - (i) under the registered political party's name, if any; or
 - (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;
 - (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;
 - (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

165 (d) the ballots contain no other names.

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

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

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

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

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

174 (e) the names in each group are placed in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and
175 20A-6-110, with the surnames last; and

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

179 (4) Each election officer shall ensure that:

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

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

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

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

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

190 **20A-6-302 . Manual ballots -- Placement of candidates' names.**

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

192 (a) each candidate is listed by party, if nominated by a registered political party under
193 Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(10);

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

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

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

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

- 199 (2)(a) When there is only one candidate for county attorney at the regular general
200 election in counties that have three or fewer registered voters of the county who are
201 licensed active members in good standing of the Utah State Bar, the county clerk
202 shall cause that candidate's name and party affiliation, if any, to be placed on a
203 separate section of the ballot with the following question: "Shall (name of candidate)
204 be elected to the office of county attorney? Yes ____ No ____.".
- 205 (b) If the number of "Yes" votes exceeds the number of "No" votes, the candidate is
206 elected to the office of county attorney.
- 207 (c) If the number of "No" votes exceeds the number of "Yes" votes, the candidate is not
208 elected and may not take office, nor may the candidate continue in the office past the
209 end of the term resulting from any prior election or appointment.
- 210 (d) When the name of only one candidate for county attorney is printed on the ballot
211 under authority of this Subsection (2), the county clerk may not count any write-in
212 votes received for the office of county attorney.
- 213 (e) If no qualified individual files for the office of county attorney or if the candidate is
214 not elected by the voters, the county legislative body shall appoint the county
215 attorney as provided in Section 20A-1-509.2.
- 216 (f) If the candidate whose name would, except for this Subsection (2)(f), be placed on
217 the ballot under Subsection (2)(a) has been elected on a ballot under Subsection (2)(a)
218 to the two consecutive terms immediately preceding the term for which the candidate
219 is seeking election, Subsection (2)(a) does not apply and that candidate shall be
220 considered to be an unopposed candidate the same as any other unopposed candidate
221 for another office, unless a petition is filed with the county clerk before 5 p.m. no
222 later than the day before that year's primary election that:
223 (i) requests the procedure set forth in Subsection (2)(a) to be followed; and
224 (ii) contains the signatures of registered voters in the county representing in number
225 at least 25% of all votes cast in the county for all candidates for governor at the
226 last election at which a governor was elected.
- 227 (3)(a) When there is only one candidate for district attorney at the regular general
228 election in a prosecution district that has three or fewer registered voters of the
229 district who are licensed active members in good standing of the Utah State Bar, the
230 county clerk shall cause that candidate's name and party affiliation, if any, to be
231 placed on a separate section of the ballot with the following question: "Shall (name of
232 candidate) be elected to the office of district attorney? Yes ____ No ____.".

- 233 (b) If the number of "Yes" votes exceeds the number of "No" votes, the candidate is
234 elected to the office of district attorney.
- 235 (c) If the number of "No" votes exceeds the number of "Yes" votes, the candidate is not
236 elected and may not take office, nor may the candidate continue in the office past the
237 end of the term resulting from any prior election or appointment.
- 238 (d) When the name of only one candidate for district attorney is printed on the ballot
239 under authority of this Subsection (3), the county clerk may not count any write-in
240 votes received for the office of district attorney.
- 241 (e) If no qualified individual files for the office of district attorney, or if the only
242 candidate is not elected by the voters under this subsection, the county legislative
243 body shall appoint a new district attorney for a four-year term as provided in Section
244 20A-1-509.2.
- 245 (f) If the candidate whose name would, except for this Subsection (3)(f), be placed on
246 the ballot under Subsection (3)(a) has been elected on a ballot under Subsection (3)(a)
247 to the two consecutive terms immediately preceding the term for which the candidate
248 is seeking election, Subsection (3)(a) does not apply and that candidate shall be
249 considered to be an unopposed candidate the same as any other unopposed candidate
250 for another office, unless a petition is filed with the county clerk before 5 p.m. no
251 later than the day before that year's primary election that:
252 (i) requests the procedure set forth in Subsection (3)(a) to be followed; and
253 (ii) contains the signatures of registered voters in the county representing in number
254 at least 25% of all votes cast in the county for all candidates for governor at the
255 last election at which a governor was elected.

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

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

- 257 (1) Each election officer shall ensure that:
- 258 (a) the format and content of a mechanical ballot is arranged in approximately the same
259 order as manual ballots;
- 260 (b) the titles of offices and the names of candidates are displayed in vertical columns or
261 in a series of separate displays;
- 262 (c) the mechanical ballot is of sufficient length to include, after the list of candidates:
263 (i) the names of candidates for judicial offices and any other nonpartisan offices; and
264 (ii) any ballot propositions submitted to the voters for their approval or rejection;
- 265 (d) the office titles are displayed above or at the side of the names of candidates so as to

- 267 indicate clearly the candidates for each office and the number to be elected;
- 268 (e) the party designation of each candidate who has been nominated by a registered
- 269 political party under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)]
- 270 20A-9-403(10) is displayed adjacent to the candidate's name; and
- 271 (f) if possible, all candidates for one office are grouped in one column or upon one
- 272 display screen.
- 273 (2) Each election officer shall ensure that:
- 274 (a) proposed amendments to the Utah Constitution are displayed in accordance with
- 275 Section 20A-6-107;
- 276 (b) ballot propositions submitted to the voters are displayed in accordance with Section
- 277 20A-6-107;
- 278 (c) bond propositions that have qualified for the ballot are displayed under the title
- 279 assigned to each bond proposition under Section 11-14-206; and
- 280 (d) the judicial retention section of the ballot includes a statement at the beginning
- 281 directing voters to the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's website in
- 282 accordance with Subsection 20A-12-201(4).

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

284 **20A-9-403 . Regular primary elections.**

- 285 (1)(a) Candidates for elective office that are to be filled at the next regular general
- 286 election shall be nominated in a regular primary election by direct vote of the people
- 287 in the manner prescribed in this section. The regular primary election is held on the
- 288 date specified in Section 20A-1-201.5. Nothing in this section shall affect a
- 289 candidate's ability to qualify for a regular general election's ballot as an unaffiliated
- 290 candidate under Section 20A-9-501 or to participate in a regular general election as a
- 291 write-in candidate under Section 20A-9-601.
- 292 (b) Each registered political party that chooses to have the names of the registered
- 293 political party's candidates for elective office featured with party affiliation on the
- 294 ballot at a regular general election shall comply with the requirements of this section
- 295 and shall nominate the registered political party's candidates for elective office in the
- 296 manner described in this section.
- 297 (c) A filing officer may not permit an official ballot at a regular general election to be
- 298 produced or used if the ballot denotes affiliation between a registered political party
- 299 or any other political group and a candidate for elective office who is not nominated
- 300 in the manner prescribed in this section or in Subsection 20A-9-202(4).

- 301 (d) Unless noted otherwise, the dates in this section refer to those that occur in each
302 even-numbered year in which a regular general election will be held.
- 303 (2)(a) Each registered political party, in a statement filed with the lieutenant governor,
304 shall:
- 305 (i) either declare the registered political party's intent to participate in the next regular
306 primary election or declare that the registered political party chooses not to have
307 the names of the registered political party's candidates for elective office featured
308 on the ballot at the next regular general election; and
309 (ii) if the registered political party participates in the upcoming regular primary
310 election, identify one or more registered political parties whose members may
311 vote for the registered political party's candidates and whether individuals
312 identified as unaffiliated with a political party may vote for the registered political
313 party's candidates.
- 314 (b)(i) A registered political party that is a continuing political party shall file the
315 statement described in Subsection (2)(a) with the lieutenant governor no later than
316 5 p.m. on November 30 of each odd-numbered year.
317 (ii) An organization that is seeking to become a registered political party under
318 Section 20A-8-103 shall file the statement described in Subsection (2)(a) at the
319 time that the registered political party files the petition described in Section
320 20A-8-103.
- 321 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection [3](e) (6), an individual who submits a
322 declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-202 shall appear as a candidate for
323 elective office on the regular primary ballot of the registered political party listed on
324 the declaration of candidacy only if the individual is certified by the appropriate
325 filing officer as having submitted a nomination petition that was:
326 (i) circulated and completed in accordance with Section 20A-9-405; and
327 (ii) signed by at least 2% of the registered political party's members who reside in the
328 political division of the office that the individual seeks.
- 329 (b)(i) A candidate for elective office shall, in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3,
330 submit ~~[signatures for a nomination petition to the appropriate filing officer for
331 verification and certification]~~ each signature packet for a nomination petition to the
332 county clerk where the majority of the signatures in the packet were collected, no
333 later than 5 p.m. on March 31.
334 (ii) A candidate may supplement the candidate's submissions at any time on or before

335 the filing deadline.

336 (c)(i) The lieutenant governor shall determine for each elective office the total
337 number of signatures that must be submitted under Subsection (3)(a)(ii) or
338 20A-9-408(8) by counting the aggregate number of individuals residing in each
339 elective office's political division who have designated a particular registered
340 political party on the individuals' voter registration forms on or before November
341 15 of each odd-numbered year.

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

344 (d) The county clerk shall:

345 (i) consider an active and inactive voter eligible to sign a nomination petition;
346 (ii) consider an individual who signs a nomination petition a member of a registered
347 political party for purposes of Subsection (3)(a)(ii) if the individual has designated
348 the registered political party as the individual's party membership on the
349 individual's voter registration form;

350 (iii) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201, and in accordance with
351 Section 20A-9-408.3, use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to
352 verify submitted nomination petition signatures in a transparent and orderly
353 manner, or use statistical sampling procedures to verify submitted nomination
354 petition signatures in accordance with rules made under Subsection (7), no later
355 than 14 calendar days after the day on which a candidate submits the signatures to
356 the county clerk; and

357 (iv) except as provided in Subsection (5), for each qualifying candidate for elective
358 office who submits a nomination petition to the county clerk, issue the
359 certification described in Subsection (3)(a) no later than the deadline described in
360 Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b).

361 [(d) The filing officer shall:]

362 [(i) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201, and in accordance with
363 Section 20A-9-408.3, verify signatures on nomination petitions in a transparent
364 and orderly manner, no later than 14 calendar days after the day on which a
365 candidate submits the signatures to the filing officer;]

366 [(ii) for all qualifying candidates for elective office who submit nomination petitions
367 to the filing officer, issue certifications referenced in Subsection (3)(a) no later
368 than the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b);]

369 [~~(iii) consider active and inactive voters eligible to sign nomination petitions;~~]
370 [~~(iv) consider an individual who signs a nomination petition a member of a registered~~
371 ~~political party for purposes of Subsektion (3)(a)(ii) if the individual has designated~~
372 ~~that registered political party as the individual's party membership on the~~
373 ~~individual's voter registration form; and~~]
374 [~~(v) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201 and with the assistance of~~
375 ~~the county clerk as applicable, use the proeedures described in Section 20A-1-1002~~
376 ~~to verify submitted nomination petition signatures, or use statistical sampling~~
377 ~~procedures to verify submitted nomination petition signatures in accordance with~~
378 ~~rules made under Subsektion (3)(f).~~]

379 (4) In reviewing each signature packet, the county clerk shall count and certify only an
380 individual who signed with a holographic signature, who:

- 381 (a) is a registered voter and a resident of the political division for the office that the
382 candidate seeks to represent; and
- 383 (b) did not sign any other nomination petition for that office.

384 (5)(a) In an election for federal office, constitutional office, or multicounty office, the
385 county clerk shall, instead of taking the action described in Subsection (3)(d)(iv):

- 386 (i) count the number of valid nomination petition signatures submitted by the
387 candidate; and
- 388 (ii) no later than seven calendar days before the day of the deadline described in
389 Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b), certify the number of valid signatures to the
390 lieutenant governor.

391 (b) The lieutenant governor shall, upon receiving the certification described in
392 Subsection (5)(a)(ii) from the county clerk of each county where the candidate
393 submits a signature packet:

- 394 (i) add together the total number of signatures declared valid by each county clerk;
395 and
- 396 (ii) if the aggregate number of valid signatures is equal to or more than the total
397 number of signatures required for the candidate to qualify for placement on the
398 primary election ballot, issue the certification described in Subsection (3)(a) no
399 later than the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b).

400 (6)[(e)] Notwithstanding any other provision in [this Subsektion (3)] Subsection (3), (4),
401 (5), (7), or (8), a candidate for lieutenant governor may appear on the regular primary
402 ballot of a registered political party without submitting nomination petitions if the

403 candidate files a declaration of candidacy and complies with Subsection 20A-9-202
404 (3).

405 [f] (7) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
406 director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, may make rules that:

407 [f] (a) provide for the use of statistical sampling procedures that:

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

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

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

414 [f] (8) The county clerk shall:

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

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

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

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

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

428 (ii) a list of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by a
429 registered political party under Subsection [5](e) (10)(c) and instruct the county
430 clerks to exclude the unopposed candidates from the primary election ballot.

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

433 (c) After the county clerk receives the certified list from the lieutenant governor under
434 Subsection [4](a) (9)(a), the county clerk shall post or publish a primary election notice in
435 substantially the following form:

436 "Notice is given that a primary election will be held Tuesday, June ____,

437 _____ (year), to nominate party candidates for the parties and candidates for nonpartisan
438 local school board positions listed on the primary ballot. The polling place for voting precinct
439 _____ is _____. The polls will open at 7 a.m. and continue open until 8 p.m. of the same day.
440 Attest: county clerk."

441 [(5)] (10)(a) A candidate who, at the regular primary election, receives the highest
442 number of votes cast for the office sought by the candidate is:

- 443 (i) nominated for that office by the candidate's registered political party; or
444 (ii) for a nonpartisan local school board position, nominated for that office.
- 445 (b) If two or more candidates are to be elected to the office at the regular general
446 election, those party candidates equal in number to positions to be filled who receive
447 the highest number of votes at the regular primary election are the nominees of the
448 candidates' party for those positions.

449 (c)(i) As used in this Subsection [(5)(e)] (10)(c), a candidate is "unopposed" if:

- 450 (A) no individual other than the candidate receives a certification under
451 Subsection [(3)] (3)(a) for the regular primary election ballot of the candidate's
452 registered political party for a particular elective office; or
 - 453 (B) for an office where more than one individual is to be elected or nominated, the
454 number of candidates who receive certification under Subsection [(3)] (3)(a) for
455 the regular primary election of the candidate's registered political party does
456 not exceed the total number of candidates to be elected or nominated for that
457 office.
- 458 (ii) A candidate who is unopposed for an elective office in the regular primary
459 election of a registered political party is nominated by the party for that office
460 without appearing on the primary election ballot.

461 [(6)] (11) The expense of providing all ballots, blanks, or other supplies to be used at any
462 primary election provided for by this section, and all expenses necessarily incurred in
463 the preparation for or the conduct of that primary election shall be paid out of the
464 treasury of the county or state, in the same manner as for the regular general elections.

465 [(7)] (12) An individual may not file a declaration of candidacy for a registered political
466 party of which the individual is not a member, except to the extent that the registered
467 political party permits otherwise under the registered political party's bylaws.

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

469 **20A-9-405 . Nomination petitions for regular primary elections.**

470 (1) This section applies to the form and circulation of nomination petitions for regular

471 primary elections described in Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(a).

- 472 (2) A candidate for elective office, ~~[and the agents]~~ or an agent of the candidate, may not
473 circulate nomination petitions until the candidate has submitted a declaration of
474 candidacy in accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(1).
- 475 (3) For the manual candidate qualification process, the nomination petitions shall be in
476 substantially the following form:
- 477 (a) the petition shall be printed on paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
- 478 (b) the petition shall be ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space
479 above that line blank for purposes of binding;
- 480 (c) the petition shall be headed by a caption stating the purpose of the petition and the
481 name of the proposed candidate;
- 482 (d) the petition shall feature the word "Warning" followed by the following statement in
483 no less than eight-point, single leaded type: "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone
484 to knowingly sign a nomination petition with any name other than the person's own
485 name, or more than once for the same candidate, or if the person is not registered to
486 vote in this state.";
- 487 (e) the petition shall feature 10 lines spaced one-half inch apart and consecutively
488 numbered one through 10;
- 489 (f) the signature portion of the petition shall be divided into columns headed by the
490 following titles:
- 491 (i) Registered Voter's Printed Name;
- 492 (ii) Signature of Registered Voter;
- 493 (iii) Party Affiliation of Registered Voter;
- 494 (iv) Birth Date or Age (Optional);
- 495 (v) Street Address, City, Zip Code; and
- 496 (vi) Date of Signature; and
- 497 (g) a photograph of the candidate may appear on the nomination petition.

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

- 500 (a) the following warning:

501 "Warning: It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a nomination
502 petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more than once for the same
503 candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this state."; and

- 504 (b) the following information for each individual who signs the petition:

- (i) name;
 - (ii) party affiliation;
 - (iii) date of birth or age, (optional);
 - (iv) street address, city, zip code;
 - (v) date of signature;
 - (vi) other information required under Section 20A-21-201; and
 - (vii) other information required by the lieutenant governor.

(5) For the manual candidate qualification process, if one or more nomination petitions are bound together, a page shall be bound to the nomination petition(s) that features the following printed verification statement to be signed and dated by the petition circulator:

"Verification

State of Utah, County of _____

I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:

I am at least 18 years old;

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

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

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

(7) A nomination petition circulator:

 - (a) must be at least 18 years old; and
 - (b) may affiliate with any political party.

(8) It is unlawful for any person to:

 - (a) knowingly sign the nomination petition described in this section or Section 20A-9-408:
 - (i) with any name other than the person's own name;
 - (ii) more than once for the same candidate; or
 - (iii) if the person is not registered to vote in this state;
 - (b) sign the verification of a signature for a nomination petition if the person:
 - (i) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the nomination petition; or

- (ii) knows that a person whose signature appears on the nomination petition is not registered to vote in this state;
 - (c) pay compensation to any person to sign a nomination petition; or
 - (d) pay compensation to any person to circulate a nomination petition, if the compensation is based directly on the number of signatures submitted to a [filing officer] county clerk rather than on the number of signatures verified or on some other basis.

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

 - (a) A voter who signs a nomination petition may have the voter's signature removed from the petition by, no later than three business days after the day on which the candidate files the petition with the [appropriate filing officer] county clerk, submitting to the [filing officer] county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.
 - (b) A statement described in Subsection (10)(a) shall comply with the requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
 - (c) The [filing officer] county clerk 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.

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:

- (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;
 - (2) the following provisions do not apply to a nomination for the qualified political party:
 - (a) Subsections 20A-9-403(1) through (3)(b) and Subsections (3)(d)(ii) through [(4)(a)](9)(a);
 - (b) Subsection [20A-9-403(5)(e)] 20A-9-403(10)(c); and
 - (c) Section 20A-9-405;
 - (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;

- 573 (4) the qualified political party shall comply with the provisions of Sections 20A-9-407,
574 20A-9-408, and 20A-9-409;
- 575 (5) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-301(1)(a), (1)(e), or (2)(a), each election officer shall
576 ensure that a ballot described in Section 20A-6-301 includes each individual nominated
577 by a qualified political party:
- 578 (a) under the qualified political party's name, if any; or
- 579 (b) under the title of the qualified registered political party as designated by the qualified
580 political party in the certification described in Subsection (1), or, if none is
581 designated, then under some suitable title;
- 582 (6) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-302(1)(a), each election officer shall ensure, for
583 ballots in regular general elections, that each candidate who is nominated by the
584 qualified political party is listed by party;
- 585 (7) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-304(1)(e), each election officer shall ensure that the
586 party designation of each candidate who is nominated by the qualified political party is
587 displayed adjacent to the candidate's name on a mechanical ballot;
- 588 (8) "candidates for elective office," defined in Subsection 20A-9-101(1)(a), also includes an
589 individual who files a declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-407 or 20A-9-408
590 to run in a regular general election for a federal office, constitutional office, multicounty
591 office, or county office;
- 592 (9) an individual who is nominated by, or seeking the nomination of, the qualified political
593 party is not required to comply with Subsection 20A-9-201(1)(c);
- 594 (10) notwithstanding [Subsection 20A-9-403(3)] Subsections 20A-9-403(3) through (8), the
595 qualified political party is entitled to have each of the qualified political party's
596 candidates for elective office appear on the primary ballot of the qualified political party
597 with an indication that each candidate is a candidate for the qualified political party;
- 598 (11) notwithstanding Subsection [20A-9-403(4)(a)] 20A-9-403(9)(a), the lieutenant
599 governor shall include on the list provided by the lieutenant governor to the county
600 clerks:
- 601 (a) the names of all candidates of the qualified political party for federal, constitutional,
602 multicounty, and county offices; and
- 603 (b) the names of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by
604 the qualified political party and instruct the county clerks to exclude such candidates
605 from the primary-election ballot;
- 606 (12) notwithstanding Subsection [20A-9-403(5)(e)] 20A-9-403(10)(c), a candidate who is

607 unopposed for an elective office in the regular primary election of the qualified political
608 party is nominated by the party for that office without appearing on the primary ballot;
609 and

610 (13) notwithstanding the provisions of Subsections 20A-9-403(1) and (2) and Section
611 20A-9-405, the qualified political party is entitled to have the names of [its] the qualified
612 political party's candidates for elective office featured with party affiliation on the ballot
613 at a regular general election.

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

615 **20A-9-408 . Signature-gathering process to seek the nomination of a qualified**
616 **political party -- Removal of signature.**

617 (1) This section describes the requirements for a member of a qualified political party who
618 is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office through
619 the signature-gathering process described in this section.

620 (2) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-201(7)(a), the form of the declaration of candidacy
621 for a member of a qualified political party who is nominated by, or who is seeking the
622 nomination of, the qualified political party under this section shall be substantially as
623 described in Section 20A-9-408.5.

624 (3) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(a), and except as provided in Subsection
625 20A-9-202(4), a member of a qualified political party who, under this section, is seeking
626 the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office that is to be filled at
627 the next general election shall:

628 (a) except to the extent otherwise provided in Subsection (13)(a), during the applicable
629 declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, and before
630 gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing officer on a form approved
631 by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy that
632 includes:

- 633 (i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a [registered]
634 qualified political party under this section;
635 (ii) the name of the [registered] qualified political party for which the member is
636 seeking nomination;
637 (iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;
638 (iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and
639 (v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;
- 640 (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

(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 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:

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

(c) pay the filing fee.

(5) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(3)(a)(iii), a lieutenant governor candidate who files as the joint-ticket running mate of an individual who is nominated by a qualified political party, under this section, for the office of governor shall, during the 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.

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

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

- 675 (8) A member of a qualified political party may seek the nomination of the qualified
676 political party for an elective office by:
677 (a) complying with the requirements described in this section; and
678 (b) collecting signatures, on a form approved by the lieutenant governor that complies
679 with Subsection 20A-9-405(3), during the period beginning on the day on which the
680 member files a notice of intent to gather signatures and ending at the applicable
681 deadline described in Subsection (12), in the following amounts:
682 (i) for a statewide race, 28,000 signatures of registered voters in the state who are
683 permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's
684 candidates in a primary election;
685 (ii) except as provided in Subsection (13)(b), for a congressional district race, 7,000
686 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the congressional district and
687 are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political
688 party's candidates in a primary election;
689 (iii) for a state Senate district race, 2,000 signatures of registered voters who are
690 residents of the state Senate district and are permitted by the qualified political
691 party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;
692 (iv) for a state House district race, 1,000 signatures of registered voters who are
693 residents of the state House district and are permitted by the qualified political
694 party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;
695 (v) for a State Board of Education race, the lesser of:
696 (A) 2,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the State Board of
697 Education district and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for
698 the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election; or
699 (B) 3% of the registered voters of the qualified political party who are residents of
700 the applicable State Board of Education district; and
701 (vi) for a county office race, signatures of 3% of the registered voters who are
702 residents of the area permitted to vote for the county office and are permitted by
703 the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in
704 a primary election.

- 705 (9)(a) This Subsection (9) applies only to the manual candidate qualification process.
706 (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the
707 qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, using
708 the manual candidate qualification process, the member shall:

- 709 (i) collect the signatures on a form approved by the lieutenant governor, using the
710 same circulation and verification requirements described in Sections 20A-7-105
711 and 20A-7-204; and
- 712 (ii) in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, submit [the signatures to the election
713 officer] each signature packet to the county clerk where the majority of the
714 signatures in the packet were collected, before the applicable deadline described in
715 Subsection (12).
- 716 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), and in
717 accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, the [election officer] county clerk shall, no
718 later than the earlier of 14 calendar days after the day on which the [election officer]
719 county clerk receives the signatures, or [one day] seven calendar days before the day
720 on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee for the
721 elective office to which the signature packets relate:
- 722 (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature
723 packet to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old;
- 724 (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (9)(c)(i) who is not at
725 least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney;
- 726 (iii) [with the assistance of the county clerk as applicable,] determine whether each
727 signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the petition, using the same
728 method, described in Section 20A-1-1002, used to verify a signature on a petition;
729 and
- 730 (iv) except as provided in Subsection (9)(e), certify whether each name is that of a
731 registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature packet.
- 732 (d) In reviewing each signature packet, the county clerk shall count and certify only an
733 individual who signed with a holographic signature, who:
- 734 (i) is a registered voter and a resident of the political division for the office that the
735 candidate seeks to represent; and
- 736 (ii) did not sign any other petition for that office.
- 737 (e) In an election for federal office, constitutional office, or multicounty office, the
738 county clerk shall, instead of taking the action described in Subsection (9)(c)(iv):
- 739 (i) count the number of valid petition signatures submitted by the candidate; and
- 740 (ii) no later than seven calendar days before the day of the convention described in
741 Subsection (11)(c), certify the number of valid signatures to the lieutenant
742 governor.

- 743 (f) The lieutenant governor shall, upon receiving the certification described in
744 Subsection (9)(e)(ii) from the county clerk of each county where the candidate
745 submits a signature packet:
- 746 (i) add together the total number of signatures declared valid by each county clerk;
747 and
- 748 (ii) if the aggregate number of valid signatures is equal to or more than the total
749 number of signatures required for the candidate to qualify for placement on the
750 primary election ballot, certify the signatures no later than the day before the day
751 of the convention described in Subsection (11)(c).
- 752 [(d)] (g)(i) A registered voter who physically signs a form under Subsections (8) and
753 (9)(b) may have the voter's signature removed from the form by, no later than 5
754 p.m. three business days after the day on which the member submits the signature
755 form to the [election officer] county clerk, submitting to the [election officer]
756 county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.
- 757 (ii) A statement described in Subsection [(9)(d)(i)] (9)(g)(i) shall comply with the
758 requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
- 759 (iii) [With the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, the election officer] The
760 county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to
761 determine whether to remove an individual's signature after receiving a timely,
762 valid statement requesting removal of the signature.
- 763 [(e)] (h)(i) [An election officer] A county clerk shall, in accordance with this
764 Subsection [(9)(e)] (9)(h) and rules made under Section 20A-3a-106, conduct
765 regular audits of signature comparisons made between signatures gathered under
766 this section and voter signatures maintained by the [election officer] county clerk.
- 767 (ii) An individual who conducts an audit of signature comparisons under this section
768 may not audit the individual's own work.
- 769 (iii) The [election officer] county clerk shall:
- 770 (A) audit 1% of all signature comparisons described in Subsection [(9)(e)(i)]
771 (9)(h)(i) to determine the accuracy of the comparisons made;
- 772 (B) record the individuals who conducted the audit;
- 773 (C) record the audit results;
- 774 (D) provide additional training or staff reassessments, as needed, based on the
775 results of an audit described in Subsection [(9)(e)(i)] (9)(h)(i); and
- 776 (E) record any remedial action taken.

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

779 [(f)] (i) ~~An election officer who certifies signatures under Subsection (9)(c) or~~
780 ~~20A-9-403(3)(d)~~ A county clerk who verifies signatures under Subsection (9)(c),
781 Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(d), or Subsection 20A-9-502(5)(b) shall, after ~~certifying~~
782 ~~enough signatures~~ declaring valid enough signatures to establish that a candidate has
783 reached the applicable signature threshold described in ~~[Subseetion (8)]~~ or
784 ~~20A-9-403(3)(a)~~ Subsection (8), Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(a), or Subsection
785 20A-9-502(5)(a), as applicable, continue to ~~[certify]~~ verify signatures submitted for
786 the candidate in excess of the number of signatures required, until the ~~[election officer]~~
787 county clerk either:
788 (i) in a race for federal office, constitutional office, or multicounty office, declares
789 valid signatures equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold;
790 (ii) in a race other than a race described in Subsection (9)(i)(i), certifies signatures
791 equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold; or
792 [(iii)] (iii) has reviewed all signatures submitted for the candidate before reaching an
793 amount equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold.

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

796 (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the
797 qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, the
798 member shall, before the deadline described in Subsection (12), collect signatures
799 electronically:
800 (i) in accordance with Section 20A-21-201; and
801 (ii) using progressive screens, in a format approved by the lieutenant governor, that
802 complies with Subsection 20A-9-405(4).

803 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and [(9)(b)] (10)(b),
804 the ~~[election officer]~~ county clerk shall, no later than the earlier of 14 calendar days
805 after the day on which the ~~[election officer]~~ county clerk receives the signatures, or [
806 one day] seven calendar days before the day on which the qualified political party
807 holds the convention to select a nominee for the elective office to which the signature
808 packets relate:
809 (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature
810 to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old; and

- (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.
 - (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).
 - (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.
 -) 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.
 -) 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:
 - (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

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

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

852 **20A-9-502 . Certificate of nomination -- Contents -- Circulation -- Verification --**

853 **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
858 political group designated as _____ for the office of _____. I do solemnly swear that I can
859 qualify to hold that office both legally and constitutionally if selected, and that I reside at _____
860 Street, in the city of _____, county of _____, state of _____, zip code _____, phone _____, and
861 that I am providing, or have provided, the required number of holographic signatures of
862 registered voters required by law; that as a candidate at the next election I will not knowingly
863 violate any election or campaign law; that, if filing via a designated agent for an office other
864 than president of the United States, I will be out of the state of Utah during the entire candidate
865 filing period; I will file all campaign financial disclosure reports as required by law; and I
866 understand that failure to do so will result in my disqualification as a candidate for this office
867 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 _____
873 qualified to administer oaths)";

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

874 nomination and the circulator verification, that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

889 (vi) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in Subsection
890 (1)(b)(v):

891 "Each signer says:

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

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

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

896 (vii) contain horizontally ruled lines, 3/8 inch apart under the statement described in
897 Subsection (1)(b)(vi); and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

918 "Verification

919 State of Utah, County of _____

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

921 I am at least 18 years old;

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

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

929 (Signature) (Residence Address) (Date). "[.]

930 (2) An agent designated to file a certificate of nomination under Subsection
931 20A-9-503(2)(b) or (4)(b) may not sign the form described in Subsection (1)(a).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 942 (B) more than once for the same candidate; or
943 (C) if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
944 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the
945 signatures; or
946 (ii) sign the verification of a certificate of nomination signature sheet if the person:
947 (A) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the
948 certificate of nomination signature sheet; or
949 (B) knows that a person whose signature appears on the certificate of nomination
950 signature sheet is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
951 become registered to vote in this state.

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

- 953 (5)(a) To qualify for placement on the general election ballot, the candidate shall, no
954 earlier than the start of the applicable declaration of candidacy period described in
955 Section 20A-9-201.5 and no later than 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in which the
956 election will be held:
957 (i) comply with Subsection 20A-9-503(1); and
958 (ii) submit each signature packet to the county clerk where the majority of the
959 signatures in the packet were collected, with signatures totaling:
960 (A) at least 1,000 registered voters residing within the state when the nomination
961 is for an office to be filled by the voters of the entire state; or
962 (B) at least 300 registered voters residing within a political division or at least 5%
963 of the registered voters residing within a political division, whichever is less,
964 when the nomination is for an office to be filled by the voters of any political
965 division smaller than the state.

- 966 (b) A candidate has not complied with Subsection (5)(a)(ii), unless the county clerks
967 verify that each required signature is a valid signature of a registered voter who is
968 eligible to sign the signature packet and has not signed a signature packet to nominate
969 another candidate for the same office.
970 (c) In reviewing the signature packets, the county clerk shall count and certify only those
971 persons who signed with a holographic signature, who:
972 (i) are registered voters within the political division for the office that the candidate
973 seeks to represent; and
974 (ii) did not sign any other certificate of nomination for that office.
975 (d) [The] Except as provided in Subsection (6), 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)(a) In an election for federal office, constitutional office, or multicounty office, the county clerk shall, instead of taking the action described in Subsection (5)(d):

- (i) count the number of valid nomination petition signatures submitted by the candidate; and
 - (ii) no later than the day of the deadline described in Subsection (5)(e), certify the number of valid signatures to the lieutenant governor.

(b) The lieutenant governor shall, upon receiving the certification described in Subsection (6)(a)(ii) from the county clerk of each county where the candidate submits a signature packet:

- (i) add together the total number of signatures declared valid by each county clerk;
and
 - (ii) if the aggregate number of valid signatures is equal to or more than the total
number of signatures required for the candidate to qualify for placement on the
general election ballot, certify the signatures no later than August 1 of the year
which the election will be held.

[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, submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

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

(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.

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

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

- 1011 (1) No later than August 31 of each regular general election year, the lieutenant governor
1012 shall certify to each county clerk, for offices to be voted upon at the regular general
1013 election in that county clerk's county:
 - 1014 (a) the names of each candidate nominated under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or
1015 Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(10); and
 - 1016 (b) the names of the candidates for president and vice president that are certified by the
1017 registered political party as the party's nominees.
- 1018 (2) The names shall be certified by the lieutenant governor and shall be displayed on the
1019 ballot as they are provided on the candidate's declaration of candidacy. No other names
1020 may appear on the ballot as affiliated with, endorsed by, or nominated by any other
1021 registered political party, political party, or other political group.

Section 12. Effective Date.

1023 This bill takes effect on January 1, 2027.