

**Lisa Shepherd** proposes the following substitute bill:

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## **Candidate Petition Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Lisa Shepherd**

Senate Sponsor: Daniel McCay

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### **LONG TITLE**

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#### **General Description:**

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This bill amends provisions related to candidate nomination petitions.

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#### **Highlighted Provisions:**

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This bill:

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- requires a candidate seeking the nomination for an elective office by gathering signatures

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to submit the signatures to the county clerk of the county in which a majority of the

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signatures are collected;

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- requires the lieutenant governor to establish rules to reimburse counties for verifying

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signatures for federal, constitutional, and multicounty offices;

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- makes a reimbursement described above subject to legislative appropriations for that

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purpose; and

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- makes technical and conforming changes.

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#### **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

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None

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#### **Other Special Clauses:**

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This bill provides a special effective date.

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#### **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

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AMENDS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29           **20A-9-406**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2  
 30           **20A-9-408**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2  
 31           **20A-9-502**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2  
 32           **20A-9-701**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 296

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

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

36           **20A-1-501 . Candidate vacancies -- Procedure for filling.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 63 a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and
- 64 (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate
- 65 to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor
- 66 makes the certification described in Section 20A-5-409; or
- 67 (c) for a registered political party with a candidate certified as winning a primary
- 68 election:
- 69 (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing
- 70 through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor makes the
- 71 certification described in Section 20A-5-409, the party's candidate dies, resigns as a
- 72 candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and
- 73 (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate
- 74 to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor
- 75 makes the certification described in Section 20A-5-409.
- 76 (3) If no more than two candidates from a political party have filed a declaration of
- 77 candidacy for an office elected at a regular general election and one resigns to become
- 78 the party candidate for another position, the central committee of that political party may
- 79 certify the name of another candidate to the appropriate election officer.
- 80 (4) Each replacement candidate shall file a declaration of candidacy as required by Chapter
- 81 9, Part 2, Candidate Qualifications and Declarations of Candidacy.
- 82 (5)(a) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(a) after the
- 83 deadline described in Subsection (2)(a)(ii) may not appear on the primary election
- 84 ballot.
- 85 (b) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(b) after the deadline
- 86 described in Subsection (2)(b)(ii) may not appear on the general election ballot.
- 87 (c) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(c) after the deadline
- 88 described in Subsection (2)(c)(ii) may not appear on the general election ballot.
- 89 (6) A political party may not replace a candidate who is disqualified for failure to timely
- 90 file a campaign disclosure financial report under Chapter 11, Campaign and Financial
- 91 Reporting Requirements, or Section 17-70-403.
- 92 (7) This section does not apply to a candidate vacancy for a nonpartisan office.

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

94 **20A-3a-106 . Rulemaking authority relating to conducting an election.**

95 The director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, may make rules,

96 in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, establishing

97 requirements for:

- 98 (1) a return envelope, to ensure uniformity and security of the envelopes;
- 99 (2) complying with the signature comparison audit requirements described in Section  
100 20A-3a-402.5;
- 101 (3) conducting and documenting the identity verification process described in Subsection  
102 20A-3a-401(7)(b); or
- 103 (4) establishing specific requirements and procedures for an election officer to:
- 104 (a) perform the signature comparison audits described in Subsection [~~20A-9-408(9)(e)~~]  
105 20A-9-408(9)(f); or
- 106 (b) fulfill the chain of custody requirements described in Section 20A-9-408.3.

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

108 **20A-6-301 . Manual ballots -- Regular general election.**

- 109 (1) Each election officer shall ensure that:
- 110 (a) all manual ballots furnished for use at the regular general election contain:
- 111 (i) no captions or other endorsements except as provided in this section;
- 112 (ii) no symbols, markings, or other descriptions of a political party or group, except  
113 for a registered political party that has chosen to nominate its candidates in  
114 accordance with Section 20A-9-403; and
- 115 (iii) no indication that a candidate for elective office has been nominated by, or has  
116 been endorsed by, or is in any way affiliated with a political party or group, unless  
117 the candidate has been nominated by a registered political party in accordance  
118 with Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)~~] 20A-9-403(9);
- 119 (b) at the top of the ballot, the following endorsements are printed in 18 point bold type:
- 120 (i) "Official Ballot for \_\_\_\_ County, Utah";
- 121 (ii) the date of the election; and
- 122 (iii) the words "certified by the Clerk of \_\_\_\_\_ County" or, as applicable, the  
123 name of a combined office that includes the duties of a county clerk;
- 124 (c) unaffiliated candidates, candidates not affiliated with a registered political party, and  
125 all other candidates for elective office who were not nominated by a registered  
126 political party in accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [  
127 ~~20A-9-403(5)~~] 20A-9-403(9), are listed with the other candidates for the same office  
128 in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110, without a party name or title;
- 129 (d) each ticket containing the lists of candidates, including the party name and device,  
130 are separated by heavy parallel lines;

- 131 (e) the offices to be filled are plainly printed immediately above the names of the  
132 candidates for those offices;
- 133 (f) the names of candidates are printed in capital letters, not less than one-eighth nor  
134 more than one-fourth of an inch high in heavy-faced type not smaller than 10 point,  
135 between lines or rules three-eighths of an inch apart; and
- 136 (g) on a ticket for a race in which a voter is authorized to cast a write-in vote and in  
137 which a write-in candidate is qualified under Section 20A-9-601:
- 138 (i) the ballot includes a space for a write-in candidate immediately following the last  
139 candidate listed on that ticket; or
- 140 (ii) for the offices of president and vice president and governor and lieutenant  
141 governor, the ballot includes two spaces for write-in candidates immediately  
142 following the last candidates on that ticket, one placed above the other, to enable  
143 the entry of two valid write-in candidates.
- 144 (2) An election officer shall ensure that:
- 145 (a) each individual nominated by any registered political party under Subsection  
146 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)~~] 20A-9-403(9), and no other individual, is  
147 placed on the ballot:
- 148 (i) under the registered political party's name, if any; or
- 149 (ii) under the title of the registered political party as designated by them in their  
150 certificates of nomination or petition, or, if none is designated, then under some  
151 suitable title;
- 152 (b) the names of all unaffiliated candidates that qualify as required in Chapter 9, Part 5,  
153 Candidates not Affiliated with a Party, are placed on the ballot;
- 154 (c) the names of the candidates for president and vice president are used on the ballot  
155 instead of the names of the presidential electors; and
- 156 (d) the ballots contain no other names.
- 157 (3) When the ballot contains a nonpartisan section, the election officer shall ensure that:
- 158 (a) the designation of the office to be filled in the election and the number of candidates  
159 to be elected are printed in type not smaller than eight point;
- 160 (b) the words designating the office are printed flush with the left-hand margin;
- 161 (c) the words, "Vote for one" or "Vote for up to \_\_\_\_ (the number of candidates for  
162 which the voter may vote)" extend to the extreme right of the column;
- 163 (d) the nonpartisan candidates are grouped according to the office for which they are  
164 candidates;

- 165 (e) the names in each group are placed in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and  
 166 20A-6-110, with the surnames last; and
- 167 (f) each group is preceded by the designation of the office for which the candidates seek  
 168 election, and the words, "Vote for one" or "Vote for up to \_\_\_\_ (the number of  
 169 candidates for which the voter may vote)," according to the number to be elected.
- 170 (4) Each election officer shall ensure that:
- 171 (a) proposed amendments to the Utah Constitution are listed on the ballot in accordance  
 172 with Section 20A-6-107;
- 173 (b) ballot propositions submitted to the voters are listed on the ballot in accordance with  
 174 Section 20A-6-107;
- 175 (c) bond propositions that have qualified for the ballot are listed on the ballot under the  
 176 title assigned to each bond proposition under Section 11-14-206; and
- 177 (d) the judicial retention section of the ballot includes a statement at the beginning  
 178 directing voters to the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's website in  
 179 accordance with Subsection 20A-12-201(4).

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

181 **20A-6-302 . Manual ballots -- Placement of candidates' names.**

- 182 (1) An election officer shall ensure, for manual ballots in regular general elections, that:
- 183 (a) each candidate is listed by party, if nominated by a registered political party under  
 184 Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)~~] 20A-9-403(9);
- 185 (b) candidates' surnames are listed in alphabetical order on the ballots when two or more  
 186 candidates' names are required to be listed on a ticket under the title of an office; and
- 187 (c) the names of candidates are placed on the ballot in:
- 188 (i) the manner described in Section 20A-6-109; and
- 189 (ii) the order described in Section 20A-6-110.
- 190 (2)(a) When there is only one candidate for county attorney at the regular general  
 191 election in counties that have three or fewer registered voters of the county who are  
 192 licensed active members in good standing of the Utah State Bar, the county clerk  
 193 shall cause that candidate's name and party affiliation, if any, to be placed on a  
 194 separate section of the ballot with the following question: "Shall (name of candidate)  
 195 be elected to the office of county attorney? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_."
- 196 (b) If the number of "Yes" votes exceeds the number of "No" votes, the candidate is  
 197 elected to the office of county attorney.
- 198 (c) If the number of "No" votes exceeds the number of "Yes" votes, the candidate is not

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

233 candidate is not elected by the voters under this subsection, the county legislative  
 234 body shall appoint a new district attorney for a four-year term as provided in Section  
 235 20A-1-509.2.

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

- 243 (i) requests the procedure set forth in Subsection (3)(a) to be followed; and
- 244 (ii) contains the signatures of registered voters in the county representing in number  
 245 at least 25% of all votes cast in the county for all candidates for governor at the  
 246 last election at which a governor was elected.

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

248 **20A-6-304 . Regular general election -- Mechanical ballots.**

- 249 (1) Each election officer shall ensure that:
  - 250 (a) the format and content of a mechanical ballot is arranged in approximately the same  
 251 order as manual ballots;
  - 252 (b) the titles of offices and the names of candidates are displayed in vertical columns or  
 253 in a series of separate displays;
  - 254 (c) the mechanical ballot is of sufficient length to include, after the list of candidates:
    - 255 (i) the names of candidates for judicial offices and any other nonpartisan offices; and
    - 256 (ii) any ballot propositions submitted to the voters for their approval or rejection;
  - 257 (d) the office titles are displayed above or at the side of the names of candidates so as to  
 258 indicate clearly the candidates for each office and the number to be elected;
  - 259 (e) the party designation of each candidate who has been nominated by a registered  
 260 political party under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)~~]  
 261 20A-9-403(9) is displayed adjacent to the candidate's name; and
  - 262 (f) if possible, all candidates for one office are grouped in one column or upon one  
 263 display screen.
- 264 (2) Each election officer shall ensure that:
  - 265 (a) proposed amendments to the Utah Constitution are displayed in accordance with  
 266 Section 20A-6-107;

- 267 (b) ballot propositions submitted to the voters are displayed in accordance with Section  
268 20A-6-107;
- 269 (c) bond propositions that have qualified for the ballot are displayed under the title  
270 assigned to each bond proposition under Section 11-14-206; and
- 271 (d) the judicial retention section of the ballot includes a statement at the beginning  
272 directing voters to the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's website in  
273 accordance with Subsection 20A-12-201(4).

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

275 **20A-9-403 . Regular primary elections.**

- 276 (1)(a) Candidates for elective office that are to be filled at the next regular general  
277 election shall be nominated in a regular primary election by direct vote of the people  
278 in the manner prescribed in this section. The regular primary election is held on the  
279 date specified in Section 20A-1-201.5. Nothing in this section shall affect a  
280 candidate's ability to qualify for a regular general election's ballot as an unaffiliated  
281 candidate under Section 20A-9-501 or to participate in a regular general election as a  
282 write-in candidate under Section 20A-9-601.
- 283 (b) Each registered political party that chooses to have the names of the registered  
284 political party's candidates for elective office featured with party affiliation on the  
285 ballot at a regular general election shall comply with the requirements of this section  
286 and shall nominate the registered political party's candidates for elective office in the  
287 manner described in this section.
- 288 (c) A filing officer may not permit an official ballot at a regular general election to be  
289 produced or used if the ballot denotes affiliation between a registered political party  
290 or any other political group and a candidate for elective office who is not nominated  
291 in the manner prescribed in this section or in Subsection 20A-9-202(4).
- 292 (d) Unless noted otherwise, the dates in this section refer to those that occur in each  
293 even-numbered year in which a regular general election will be held.
- 294 (2)(a) Each registered political party, in a statement filed with the lieutenant governor,  
295 shall:
- 296 (i) either declare the registered political party's intent to participate in the next regular  
297 primary election or declare that the registered political party chooses not to have  
298 the names of the registered political party's candidates for elective office featured  
299 on the ballot at the next regular general election; and
- 300 (ii) if the registered political party participates in the upcoming regular primary

301 election, identify one or more registered political parties whose members may  
302 vote for the registered political party's candidates and whether individuals  
303 identified as unaffiliated with a political party may vote for the registered political  
304 party's candidates.

305 (b)(i) A registered political party that is a continuing political party shall file the  
306 statement described in Subsection (2)(a) with the lieutenant governor no later than  
307 5 p.m. on November 30 of each odd-numbered year.

308 (ii) An organization that is seeking to become a registered political party under  
309 Section 20A-8-103 shall file the statement described in Subsection (2)(a) at the  
310 time that the registered political party files the petition described in Section  
311 20A-8-103.

312 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection [~~(3)(e)~~] (5), an individual who submits a  
313 declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-202 shall appear as a candidate for  
314 elective office on the regular primary ballot of the registered political party listed on  
315 the declaration of candidacy only if the individual is certified by the appropriate  
316 filing officer as having submitted a nomination petition that was:

317 (i) circulated and completed in accordance with Section 20A-9-405; and

318 (ii) signed by at least 2% of the registered political party's members who reside in the  
319 political division of the office that the individual seeks.

320 (b)(i) A candidate for elective office shall, in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3,  
321 submit [~~signatures for a nomination petition to the appropriate filing officer for~~  
322 ~~verification and certification~~] each signature packet for a nomination petition to the  
323 county clerk where the majority of the signatures in the packet were collected, no  
324 later than 5 p.m. on March 31.

325 (ii) A candidate may supplement the candidate's submissions at any time on or before  
326 the filing deadline.

327 (c)(i) The lieutenant governor shall determine for each elective office the total  
328 number of signatures that must be submitted under Subsection (3)(a)(ii) or  
329 20A-9-408(8) by counting the aggregate number of individuals residing in each  
330 elective office's political division who have designated a particular registered  
331 political party on the individuals' voter registration forms on or before November  
332 15 of each odd-numbered year.

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

- 335 (d) The county clerk shall:
- 336 (i) consider an active and inactive voter eligible to sign a nomination petition;
- 337 (ii) consider an individual who signs a nomination petition a member of a registered
- 338 political party for purposes of Subsection (3)(a)(ii) if the individual has designated
- 339 the registered political party as the individual's party membership on the
- 340 individual's voter registration form;
- 341 (iii) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201, and in accordance with
- 342 Section 20A-9-408.3, use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to
- 343 verify submitted nomination petition signatures in a transparent and orderly
- 344 manner, or use statistical sampling procedures to verify submitted nomination
- 345 petition signatures in accordance with rules made under Subsection (6), no later
- 346 than 14 calendar days after the day on which a candidate submits the signatures to
- 347 the county clerk; and
- 348 (iv) for each qualifying candidate for elective office who submits a nomination
- 349 petition to the county clerk, issue the certification described in Subsection (3)(a)
- 350 no later than the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b).
- 351 [(d) The filing officer shall:]
- 352 [(i) ~~except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201, and in accordance with~~
- 353 ~~Section 20A-9-408.3, verify signatures on nomination petitions in a transparent~~
- 354 ~~and orderly manner, no later than 14 calendar days after the day on which a~~
- 355 ~~candidate submits the signatures to the filing officer;]~~
- 356 [(ii) ~~for all qualifying candidates for elective office who submit nomination petitions~~
- 357 ~~to the filing officer, issue certifications referenced in Subsection (3)(a) no later~~
- 358 ~~than the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b);]~~
- 359 [(iii) ~~consider active and inactive voters eligible to sign nomination petitions;]~~
- 360 [(iv) ~~consider an individual who signs a nomination petition a member of a registered~~
- 361 ~~political party for purposes of Subsection (3)(a)(ii) if the individual has designated~~
- 362 ~~that registered political party as the individual's party membership on the~~
- 363 ~~individual's voter registration form; and]~~
- 364 [(v) ~~except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201 and with the assistance of~~
- 365 ~~the county clerk as applicable, use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002~~
- 366 ~~to verify submitted nomination petition signatures, or use statistical sampling~~
- 367 ~~procedures to verify submitted nomination petition signatures in accordance with~~
- 368 ~~rules made under Subsection (3)(f).]~~

- 369 (4) In reviewing each signature packet, the county clerk shall count and certify only an  
370 individual who signed with a holographic signature, who:
- 371 (a) is a registered voter and a resident of the political division for the office that the  
372 candidate seeks to represent; and
- 373 (b) did not sign any other nomination petition for that office.
- 374 ~~(5)~~~~(e)~~ Notwithstanding any other provision in ~~[this Subsection (3)]~~ Subsection (3), (4),  
375 (6), or (7), a candidate for lieutenant governor may appear on the regular primary  
376 ballot of a registered political party without submitting nomination petitions if the  
377 candidate files a declaration of candidacy and complies with Subsection 20A-9-202(3).
- 378 ~~(f)~~ (6) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
379 director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, may make rules that:
- 380 ~~(i)~~ (a) provide for the use of statistical sampling procedures that:
- 381 ~~(A)~~ (i) ~~[filing officers]~~ county clerks are required to use to verify signatures under  
382 Subsection (3)(d); and
- 383 ~~(B)~~ (ii) reflect a bona fide effort to determine the validity of a candidate's entire  
384 submission, using widely recognized statistical sampling techniques; and
- 385 ~~(ii)~~ (b) provide for the transparent, orderly, and timely submission, verification, and  
386 certification of nomination petition signatures.
- 387 ~~(g)~~ (7) The county clerk shall:
- 388 ~~(i)~~ (a) review the declarations of candidacy filed by candidates for local boards of  
389 education to determine if more than two candidates have filed for the same seat;
- 390 ~~(ii)~~ (b) place the names of all candidates who have filed a declaration of candidacy for a  
391 local board of education seat on the nonpartisan section of the ballot if more than two  
392 candidates have filed for the same seat; and
- 393 ~~(iii)~~ (c) place the local board of education candidates' names on the ballot in accordance  
394 with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110.
- 395 ~~(4)~~ (8)(a) Before the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-409(4)(c), the lieutenant  
396 governor shall provide to the county clerks:
- 397 (i) a list of the names of all candidates for federal, constitutional, multi-county, single  
398 county, and county offices who have received certifications under Subsection ~~[(3)]~~  
399 (3)(a), along with instructions on how those names shall appear on the primary  
400 election ballot in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110; and
- 401 (ii) a list of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by a  
402 registered political party under Subsection ~~[(5)(e)]~~ (9)(c) and instruct the county

403 clerks to exclude the unopposed candidates from the primary election ballot.

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

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

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

414 [~~(5)~~] (9)(a) A candidate who, at the regular primary election, receives the highest number  
415 of votes cast for the office sought by the candidate is:

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

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

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

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

423 (A) no individual other than the candidate receives a certification under

424 Subsection [~~(3)~~] (3)(a) for the regular primary election ballot of the candidate's  
425 registered political party for a particular elective office; or

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

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

434 [~~(6)~~] (10) The expense of providing all ballots, blanks, or other supplies to be used at any  
435 primary election provided for by this section, and all expenses necessarily incurred in  
436 the preparation for or the conduct of that primary election shall be paid out of the

437 treasury of the county or state, in the same manner as for the regular general elections.  
438 [(7)] (11) An individual may not file a declaration of candidacy for a registered political  
439 party of which the individual is not a member, except to the extent that the registered  
440 political party permits otherwise under the registered political party's bylaws.

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

442 **20A-9-405 . Nomination petitions for regular primary elections.**

443 (1) [This] Except as provided in Section 20A-9-406, this section applies to the form and  
444 circulation of nomination petitions for regular primary elections described in Subsection  
445 20A-9-403(3)(a) and Section 20A-9-408.

446 (2) A candidate for elective office, [~~and the agents~~] or an agent of the candidate, may not  
447 circulate nomination petitions until the candidate has submitted a declaration of  
448 candidacy in accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(1).

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

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

452 (b) the petition shall be ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space  
453 above that line blank for purposes of binding;

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

456 (d) the petition shall feature the word "Warning" followed by the following statement in  
457 no less than eight-point, single leaded type: "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone  
458 to knowingly sign a nomination petition with any name other than the person's own  
459 name, or more than once for the same candidate, or if the person is not registered to  
460 vote in this state.";

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

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

465 (i) Registered Voter's Printed Name;

466 (ii) Signature of Registered Voter;

467 (iii) Party Affiliation of Registered Voter;

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

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

470 (vi) Date of Signature; and

- 471 (g) a photograph of the candidate may appear on the nomination petition.
- 472 (4) For the electronic candidate qualification process, the lieutenant governor shall design  
473 an electronic form, using progressive screens, that includes:
- 474 (a) the following warning:
- 475 "Warning: It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a nomination  
476 petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more than once for the same  
477 candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this state."; and
- 478 (b) the following information for each individual who signs the petition:
- 479 (i) name;
- 480 (ii) party affiliation;
- 481 (iii) date of birth or age, (optional);
- 482 (iv) street address, city, zip code;
- 483 (v) date of signature;
- 484 (vi) other information required under Section 20A-21-201; and
- 485 (vii) other information required by the lieutenant governor.
- 486 (5) For the manual candidate qualification process, if one or more nomination petitions are  
487 bound together, a page shall be bound to the nomination petition(s) that features the following  
488 printed verification statement to be signed and dated by the petition circulator:
- 489 "Verification  
490 State of Utah, County of \_\_\_\_  
491 I, \_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_, hereby state that:  
492 I am at least 18 years old;  
493 All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were, to the best of  
494 my knowledge, signed by the persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear on  
495 the signature sheets, and each of them signed the person's name on the signature sheets in my  
496 presence;  
497 I believe that each has printed and signed the person's name and written the person's  
498 street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah."
- 499 (6) The lieutenant governor shall prepare and make public model nomination petition forms  
500 and associated instructions.
- 501 (7) A nomination petition circulator:
- 502 (a) must be at least 18 years old; and
- 503 (b) may affiliate with any political party.
- 504 (8) It is unlawful for any person to:

- 505 (a) knowingly sign the nomination petition described in this section or Section  
506 20A-9-408:
- 507 (i) with any name other than the person's own name;  
508 (ii) more than once for the same candidate; or  
509 (iii) if the person is not registered to vote in this state;
- 510 (b) sign the verification of a signature for a nomination petition if the person:  
511 (i) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the  
512 nomination petition; or  
513 (ii) knows that a person whose signature appears on the nomination petition is not  
514 registered to vote in this state;
- 515 (c) pay compensation to any person to sign a nomination petition; or  
516 (d) pay compensation to any person to circulate a nomination petition, if the  
517 compensation is based directly on the number of signatures submitted to a [~~filing~~  
518 ~~officer~~] county clerk rather than on the number of signatures verified or on some other  
519 basis.
- 520 (9) Any person violating Subsection (8) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
- 521 (10)(a) A voter who signs a nomination petition may have the voter's signature removed  
522 from the petition by, no later than three business days after the day on which the  
523 candidate files the petition with the [~~appropriate filing officer~~] county clerk,  
524 submitting to the [~~filing officer~~] county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's  
525 signature be removed.
- 526 (b) A statement described in Subsection (10)(a) shall comply with the requirements  
527 described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
- 528 (c) The [~~filing officer~~] county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection  
529 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a  
530 nomination petition after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of  
531 the signature.
- 532 (11)(a) The director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, shall, in  
533 accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, make  
534 rules establishing a process under which a county may, upon request, receive  
535 reimbursement from the office to defray the costs incurred by the county in verifying  
536 signatures under Section 20A-9-403 or Section 20A-9-408 for a federal office,  
537 constitutional office, or multicounty office.
- 538 (b) Rules made under Subsection (11)(a) shall provide for reimbursement to a county at

539 a rate of 50 cents per verified signature.

540 (c) The Office of the Lieutenant Governor shall issue a reimbursement under this  
 541 Subsection (11) to the extent that funds are appropriated by the Legislature for that  
 542 purpose.

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

544 **20A-9-406 . Qualified political party -- Requirements and exemptions.**

545 The following provisions apply to a qualified political party:

- 546 (1) the qualified political party shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the first Monday of October of  
 547 each odd-numbered year, certify to the lieutenant governor the identity of one or more  
 548 registered political parties whose members may vote for the qualified political party's  
 549 candidates and whether unaffiliated voters may vote for the qualified political party's  
 550 candidates;
- 551 (2) the following provisions do not apply to a nomination for the qualified political party:
- 552 (a) Subsections 20A-9-403(1) through (3)(b) and Subsections [~~(3)(d)(ii)~~]  
 553 20A-9-403(3)(d)(ii) through [~~(4)(a)~~] (8)(a);
- 554 (b) Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)(c); and~~] 20A-9-403(9)(c); and  
 555 (c) [~~Section 20A-9-405~~] Subsections 20A-9-405(2) and (10);
- 556 (3) an individual may only seek the nomination of the qualified political party by using a  
 557 method described in Section 20A-9-407, Section 20A-9-408, or both;
- 558 (4) the qualified political party shall comply with the provisions of Sections 20A-9-407,  
 559 20A-9-408, and 20A-9-409;
- 560 (5) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-301(1)(a), (1)(e), or (2)(a), each election officer shall  
 561 ensure that a ballot described in Section 20A-6-301 includes each individual nominated  
 562 by a qualified political party:
- 563 (a) under the qualified political party's name, if any; or  
 564 (b) under the title of the qualified registered political party as designated by the qualified  
 565 political party in the certification described in Subsection (1), or, if none is  
 566 designated, then under some suitable title;
- 567 (6) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-302(1)(a), each election officer shall ensure, for  
 568 ballots in regular general elections, that each candidate who is nominated by the  
 569 qualified political party is listed by party;
- 570 (7) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-304(1)(e), each election officer shall ensure that the  
 571 party designation of each candidate who is nominated by the qualified political party is  
 572 displayed adjacent to the candidate's name on a mechanical ballot;

- 573 (8) "candidates for elective office," defined in Subsection 20A-9-101(1)(a), also includes an  
 574 individual who files a declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-407 or 20A-9-408  
 575 to run in a regular general election for a federal office, constitutional office, multicounty  
 576 office, or county office;
- 577 (9) an individual who is nominated by, or seeking the nomination of, the qualified political  
 578 party is not required to comply with Subsection 20A-9-201(1)(c);
- 579 (10) notwithstanding [~~Subsection 20A-9-403(3)~~] Subsections 20A-9-403(3) through (7), the  
 580 qualified political party is entitled to have each of the qualified political party's  
 581 candidates for elective office appear on the primary ballot of the qualified political party  
 582 with an indication that each candidate is a candidate for the qualified political party;
- 583 (11) notwithstanding Subsection [~~20A-9-403(4)(a)~~] 20A-9-403(8)(a), the lieutenant  
 584 governor shall include on the list provided by the lieutenant governor to the county  
 585 clerks:
- 586 (a) the names of all candidates of the qualified political party for federal, constitutional,  
 587 multicounty, and county offices; and
- 588 (b) the names of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by  
 589 the qualified political party and instruct the county clerks to exclude such candidates  
 590 from the primary-election ballot;
- 591 (12) notwithstanding Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)(e)~~] 20A-9-403(9)(c), a candidate who is  
 592 unopposed for an elective office in the regular primary election of the qualified political  
 593 party is nominated by the party for that office without appearing on the primary ballot;  
 594 and
- 595 (13) notwithstanding the provisions of Subsections 20A-9-403(1) and (2) and Section  
 596 20A-9-405, the qualified political party is entitled to have the names of [~~its~~] the qualified  
 597 political party's candidates for elective office featured with party affiliation on the ballot  
 598 at a regular general election.

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

600 **20A-9-408 . Signature-gathering process to seek the nomination of a qualified**  
 601 **political party -- Removal of signature.**

- 602 (1) This section describes the requirements for a member of a qualified political party who  
 603 is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office through  
 604 the signature-gathering process described in this section.
- 605 (2) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-201(7)(a), the form of the declaration of candidacy  
 606 for a member of a qualified political party who is nominated by, or who is seeking the

- 607 nomination of, the qualified political party under this section shall be substantially as  
608 described in Section 20A-9-408.5.
- 609 (3) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(a), and except as provided in Subsection  
610 20A-9-202(4), a member of a qualified political party who, under this section, is seeking  
611 the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office that is to be filled at  
612 the next general election shall:
- 613 (a) except to the extent otherwise provided in Subsection (13)(a), during the applicable  
614 declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, and before  
615 gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing officer on a form approved  
616 by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy that  
617 includes:
- 618 (i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a [registered]  
619 qualified political party under this section;
- 620 (ii) the name of the [registered] qualified political party for which the member is  
621 seeking nomination;
- 622 (iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;
- 623 (iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and
- 624 (v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;
- 625 (b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in  
626 person, with the filing officer during the applicable declaration of candidacy filing  
627 period described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and
- 628 (c) pay the filing fee.
- 629 (4) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(2)(a), a member of a qualified political party  
630 who, under this section, is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for the  
631 office of district attorney within a multicounty prosecution district that is to be filled at  
632 the next general election shall:
- 633 (a) during the applicable declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section  
634 20A-9-201.5, and before gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing  
635 officer on a form approved by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather  
636 signatures for candidacy that includes:
- 637 (i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a registered  
638 political party under this section;
- 639 (ii) the name of the registered political party for which the member is seeking  
640 nomination;

- 641 (iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;
- 642 (iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and
- 643 (v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;
- 644 (b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in
- 645 person, with the filing officer during the applicable declaration of candidacy filing
- 646 period described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and
- 647 (c) pay the filing fee.
- 648 (5) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(3)(a)(iii), a lieutenant governor candidate who
- 649 files as the joint-ticket running mate of an individual who is nominated by a qualified
- 650 political party, under this section, for the office of governor shall, during the applicable
- 651 declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, file a
- 652 declaration of candidacy and submit a letter from the candidate for governor that names
- 653 the lieutenant governor candidate as a joint-ticket running mate.
- 654 (6) The lieutenant governor shall ensure that the certification described in Subsection
- 655 20A-9-701(1) also includes the name of each candidate nominated by a qualified
- 656 political party under this section.
- 657 (7) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-701(2), the ballot shall, for each candidate who is
- 658 nominated by a qualified political party under this section, designate the qualified
- 659 political party that nominated the candidate.
- 660 (8) A member of a qualified political party may seek the nomination of the qualified
- 661 political party for an elective office by:
- 662 (a) complying with the requirements described in this section; and
- 663 (b) collecting signatures, on a form approved by the lieutenant governor that complies
- 664 with Subsection 20A-9-405(3), during the period beginning on the day on which the
- 665 member files a notice of intent to gather signatures and ending at the applicable
- 666 deadline described in Subsection (12), in the following amounts:
- 667 (i) for a statewide race, 28,000 signatures of registered voters in the state who are
- 668 permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's
- 669 candidates in a primary election;
- 670 (ii) except as provided in Subsection (13)(b), for a congressional district race, 7,000
- 671 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the congressional district and
- 672 are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political
- 673 party's candidates in a primary election;
- 674 (iii) for a state Senate district race, 2,000 signatures of registered voters who are

- 675 residents of the state Senate district and are permitted by the qualified political  
676 party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;
- 677 (iv) for a state House district race, 1,000 signatures of registered voters who are  
678 residents of the state House district and are permitted by the qualified political  
679 party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;
- 680 (v) for a State Board of Education race, the lesser of:
- 681 (A) 2,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the State Board of  
682 Education district and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for  
683 the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election; or
- 684 (B) 3% of the registered voters of the qualified political party who are residents of  
685 the applicable State Board of Education district; and
- 686 (vi) for a county office race, signatures of 3% of the registered voters who are  
687 residents of the area permitted to vote for the county office and are permitted by  
688 the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in  
689 a primary election.
- 690 (9)(a) This Subsection (9) applies only to the manual candidate qualification process.
- 691 (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the  
692 qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, using  
693 the manual candidate qualification process, the member shall:
- 694 (i) collect the signatures on a form approved by the lieutenant governor, using the  
695 same circulation and verification requirements described in Sections 20A-7-105  
696 and 20A-7-204; and
- 697 (ii) in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, submit ~~[the signatures to the election~~  
698 ~~officer]~~ each signature packet to the county clerk where the majority of the  
699 signatures in the packet were collected, before the applicable deadline described in  
700 Subsection (12).
- 701 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), and in  
702 accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, the ~~[election officer]~~ county clerk shall, no  
703 later than the earlier of 14 calendar days after the day on which the ~~[election officer]~~  
704 county clerk receives the signatures, or one day before the day on which the qualified  
705 political party holds the convention to select a nominee for the elective office to  
706 which the signature packets relate:
- 707 (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature  
708 packet to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old;

- 709 (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (9)(c)(i) who is not at  
 710 least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney;
- 711 (iii) ~~[with the assistance of the county clerk as applicable,]~~ determine whether each  
 712 signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the petition, using the same  
 713 method, described in Section 20A-1-1002, used to verify a signature on a petition;  
 714 and
- 715 (iv) certify whether each name is that of a registered voter who is qualified to sign the  
 716 signature packet.
- 717 (d) In reviewing each signature packet, the county clerk shall count and certify only an  
 718 individual who signed with a holographic signature, who:
- 719 (i) is a registered voter and a resident of the political division for the office that the  
 720 candidate seeks to represent; and
- 721 (ii) did not sign any other petition for that office.
- 722 ~~[(d)]~~ (e)(i) A registered voter who physically signs a form under Subsections (8) and  
 723 (9)(b) may have the voter's signature removed from the form by, no later than 5  
 724 p.m. three business days after the day on which the member submits the signature  
 725 form to the ~~[election officer]~~ county clerk, submitting to the ~~[election officer]~~  
 726 county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.
- 727 (ii) A statement described in Subsection ~~[(9)(d)(i)]~~ (9)(e)(i) shall comply with the  
 728 requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
- 729 (iii) ~~[With the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, the election officer]~~ The  
 730 county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to  
 731 determine whether to remove an individual's signature after receiving a timely,  
 732 valid statement requesting removal of the signature.
- 733 ~~[(e)]~~ (f)(i) ~~[An election officer]~~ A county clerk shall, in accordance with this  
 734 Subsection ~~[(9)(e)]~~ (9)(f) and rules made under Section 20A-3a-106, conduct  
 735 regular audits of signature comparisons made between signatures gathered under  
 736 this section and voter signatures maintained by the ~~[election officer]~~ county clerk.
- 737 (ii) An individual who conducts an audit of signature comparisons under this section  
 738 may not audit the individual's own work.
- 739 (iii) The ~~[election officer]~~ county clerk shall:
- 740 (A) audit 1% of all signature comparisons described in Subsection ~~[(9)(e)(i)]~~  
 741 (9)(f)(i) to determine the accuracy of the comparisons made;
- 742 (B) record the individuals who conducted the audit;

- 743 (C) record the audit results;
- 744 (D) provide additional training or staff reassignments, as needed, based on the  
745 results of an audit described in Subsection ~~[(9)(e)(i)]~~ (9)(f)(i); and
- 746 (E) record any remedial action taken.
- 747 (iv) The audit results described in Subsection ~~[(9)(e)(iii)(C)]~~ (9)(f)(iii)(C) are a public  
748 record.
- 749 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) ~~[An election officer who certifies signatures under Subsection (9)(e) or~~  
750 ~~20A-9-403(3)(d)]~~ A county clerk who verifies signatures under Subsection (9)(c),  
751 Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(d), or Subsection 20A-9-502(5)(b) shall, after certifying  
752 enough signatures to establish that a candidate has reached the applicable signature  
753 threshold described in ~~[Subsection (8) or 20A-9-403(3)(a)]~~ Subsection (8), Subsection  
754 20A-9-403(3)(a), or Subsection 20A-9-502(5)(a), as applicable, continue to certify  
755 signatures submitted for the candidate in excess of the number of signatures required,  
756 until the ~~[election officer]~~ county clerk either:
- 757 (i) certifies signatures equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold; or
- 758 (ii) has reviewed all signatures submitted for the candidate before reaching an  
759 amount equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold.
- 760 (10)(a) This Subsection (10) applies only to the electronic candidate qualification  
761 process.
- 762 (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the  
763 qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, the  
764 member shall, before the deadline described in Subsection (12), collect signatures  
765 electronically:
- 766 (i) in accordance with Section 20A-21-201; and
- 767 (ii) using progressive screens, in a format approved by the lieutenant governor, that  
768 complies with Subsection 20A-9-405(4).
- 769 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and ~~[(9)(b)]~~ (10)(b),  
770 the ~~[election officer]~~ county clerk shall, no later than the earlier of 14 calendar days  
771 after the day on which the ~~[election officer]~~ county clerk receives the signatures, or  
772 one day before the day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to  
773 select a nominee for the elective office to which the signature packets relate:
- 774 (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature  
775 to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old; and
- 776 (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (10)(c)(i) who is not

- 777 at least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney.
- 778 (11)(a) An individual may not gather signatures under this section until after the  
779 individual files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this  
780 section.
- 781 (b) An individual who files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy,  
782 described in Subsection (3)(a) or (4)(a), is, beginning on the day on which the  
783 individual files the notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy:
- 784 (i) required to comply with the reporting requirements that a candidate for office is  
785 required to comply with; and
- 786 (ii) subject to the same enforcement provisions, and civil and criminal penalties, that  
787 apply to a candidate for office in relation to the reporting requirements described  
788 in Subsection (11)(b)(i).
- 789 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), or  
790 Subsections (8) and (10)(b), the election officer shall, no later than the day before the  
791 day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee  
792 for the elective office to which the signature packets relate, notify the qualified  
793 political party and the lieutenant governor of the name of each member of the  
794 qualified political party who qualifies as a nominee of the qualified political party,  
795 under this section, for the elective office to which the convention relates.
- 796 (d) Upon receipt of a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this  
797 section, the lieutenant governor shall post the notice of intent to gather signatures for  
798 candidacy on the lieutenant governor's website in the same location that the  
799 lieutenant governor posts a declaration of candidacy.
- 800 (12) The deadline before which a member of a qualified political party must collect and  
801 submit signatures to the election officer under this section is 5 p.m. on the last business  
802 day that is at least 14 calendar days before the day on which the qualified political  
803 party's convention for the office begins.
- 804 (13) For the 2026 election year only, an individual who desires to gather signatures to seek  
805 the nomination of a qualified political party for the office of United States representative  
806 shall:
- 807 (a) in accordance with Subsection (3)(a), file a notice of intent to gather signatures  
808 during the period beginning at 8 a.m. on the first business day of January and ending  
809 at 5 p.m. on March 13, 2026; and
- 810 (b) during the period beginning on the day on which the individual files the notice of

811 intent to gather signatures and ending at 5 p.m. on March 13, 2026, on a form  
 812 approved by the lieutenant governor that complies with Subsection 20A-9-405(3),  
 813 collect 7,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the state and are  
 814 permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's  
 815 candidates in a primary election.

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

817 **20A-9-502 . Certificate of nomination -- Contents -- Circulation -- Verification --**  
 818 **Criminal penalty -- Removal of petition signature.**

819 (1) The candidate shall:

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

821 "State of Utah, County of \_\_\_\_\_

822 I, \_\_\_\_\_, declare my intention of becoming an unaffiliated candidate for the  
 823 political group designated as \_\_\_\_ for the office of \_\_\_\_\_. I do solemnly swear that I can  
 824 qualify to hold that office both legally and constitutionally if selected, and that I reside at \_\_\_\_\_  
 825 Street, in the city of \_\_\_\_\_, county of \_\_\_\_\_, state of \_\_\_\_\_, zip code \_\_\_\_\_, phone \_\_\_\_\_, and  
 826 that I am providing, or have provided, the required number of holographic signatures of  
 827 registered voters required by law; that as a candidate at the next election I will not knowingly  
 828 violate any election or campaign law; that, if filing via a designated agent for an office other  
 829 than president of the United States, I will be out of the state of Utah during the entire candidate  
 830 filing period; I will file all campaign financial disclosure reports as required by law; and I  
 831 understand that failure to do so will result in my disqualification as a candidate for this office  
 832 and removal of my name from the ballot.

833 \_\_\_\_\_  
 834  
 835 Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_(month\day\year).

836 \_\_\_\_\_  
 837 Notary Public (or other officer  
 838 qualified to administer oaths)";

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

- 840 (i) are printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
- 841 (ii) are ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space above that
- 842 line blank for the purpose of binding;
- 843 (iii) contain the name of the proposed candidate and the words "Unaffiliated
- 844 Candidate Certificate of Nomination Petition" printed directly below the
- 845 horizontal line;
- 846 (iv) contain the word "Warning" printed directly under the words described in
- 847 Subsection (1)(b)(iii);
- 848 (v) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed in not less than
- 849 eight-point, single leaded type:
- 850 "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a certificate of nomination
- 851 signature sheet with any name other than the person's own name or more than once for the
- 852 same candidate or if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
- 853 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the signatures.";
- 854 (vi) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in Subsection
- 855 (1)(b)(v):
- 856 "Each signer says:
- 857 I have personally signed this petition with a holographic signature;
- 858 I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the
- 859 county clerk certifies my signature; and
- 860 My street address is written correctly after my name.";
- 861 (vii) contain horizontally ruled lines, 3/8 inch apart under the statement described in
- 862 Subsection (1)(b)(vi); and
- 863 (viii) be vertically divided into columns as follows:
- 864 (A) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be 5/8 inch wide,
- 865 be headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical
- 866 line down the middle;
- 867 (B) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's
- 868 Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)";
- 869 (C) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Holographic Signature of
- 870 Registered Voter";
- 871 (D) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age
- 872 (Optional)";
- 873 (E) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip

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

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

883 "Verification

884 State of Utah, County of \_\_\_\_\_

885 I, \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby state that:

886 I am at least 18 years old;

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

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

893

894 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature) (Residence Address) (Date)."[:]

895 (2) An agent designated to file a certificate of nomination under Subsection

896 20A-9-503(2)(b) or (4)(b) may not sign the form described in Subsection (1)(a).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 908 (C) if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to  
909 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the  
910 signatures; or
- 911 (ii) sign the verification of a certificate of nomination signature sheet if the person:  
912 (A) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the  
913 certificate of nomination signature sheet; or  
914 (B) knows that a person whose signature appears on the certificate of nomination  
915 signature sheet is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to  
916 become registered to vote in this state.
- 917 (b) Any person violating this Subsection (4) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
- 918 (5)(a) To qualify for placement on the general election ballot, the candidate shall, no  
919 earlier than the start of the applicable declaration of candidacy period described in  
920 Section 20A-9-201.5 and no later than 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in which the  
921 election will be held:
- 922 (i) comply with Subsection 20A-9-503(1); and  
923 (ii) submit each signature packet to the county clerk where the majority of the  
924 signatures in the packet were collected, with signatures totaling:  
925 (A) at least 1,000 registered voters residing within the state when the nomination  
926 is for an office to be filled by the voters of the entire state; or  
927 (B) at least 300 registered voters residing within a political division or at least 5%  
928 of the registered voters residing within a political division, whichever is less,  
929 when the nomination is for an office to be filled by the voters of any political  
930 division smaller than the state.
- 931 (b) A candidate has not complied with Subsection (5)(a)(ii), unless the county clerks  
932 verify that each required signature is a valid signature of a registered voter who is  
933 eligible to sign the signature packet and has not signed a signature packet to nominate  
934 another candidate for the same office.
- 935 (c) In reviewing the signature packets, the county clerk shall count and certify only those  
936 persons who signed with a holographic signature, who:  
937 (i) are registered voters within the political division for the office that the candidate  
938 seeks to represent; and  
939 (ii) did not sign any other certificate of nomination for that office.
- 940 (d) The county clerk shall count and certify the number of registered voters who validly  
941 signed a signature packet, no later than 30 calendar days after the day on which the

- 942 candidate submits the signature packet.
- 943 (e) The candidate may supplement the signatures or amend the certificate of nomination  
944 or declaration of candidacy at any time on or before 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in  
945 which the election will be held.
- 946 (f) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to  
947 determine whether a signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature  
948 packet.
- 949 (6)(a) A voter who signs a signature packet under this section may have the voter's  
950 signature removed from the signature packet by, no later than 5 p.m. three business  
951 days after the day on which the candidate submits the signature packet to the county  
952 clerk, submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature  
953 be removed.
- 954 (b) A statement described in Subsection (6)(a) shall comply with the requirements  
955 described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
- 956 (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to  
957 determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a signature packet after  
958 receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.
- 959 (7)(a) The director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, shall, in  
960 accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, make  
961 rules establishing a process under which a county may, upon request, receive  
962 reimbursement from the office to defray the costs incurred by the county in verifying  
963 signatures under this section for a federal office, constitutional office, or multicounty  
964 office.
- 965 (b) Rules made under Subsection (7)(a) shall provide for reimbursement to a county at a  
966 rate of 50 cents per verified signature.
- 967 (c) The Office of the Lieutenant Governor shall issue a reimbursement under this  
968 Subsection (7) to the extent that funds are appropriated by the Legislature for that  
969 purpose.
- 970 Section 11. Section **20A-9-701** is amended to read:
- 971 **20A-9-701 . Certification of party candidates to county clerks -- Display on ballot.**
- 972 (1) No later than August 31 of each regular general election year, the lieutenant governor  
973 shall certify to each county clerk, for offices to be voted upon at the regular general  
974 election in that county clerk's county:
- 975 (a) the names of each candidate nominated under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or

976 Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)~~] 20A-9-403(9); and  
977 (b) the names of the candidates for president and vice president that are certified by the  
978 registered political party as the party's nominees.  
979 (2) The names shall be certified by the lieutenant governor and shall be displayed on the  
980 ballot as they are provided on the candidate's declaration of candidacy. No other names  
981 may appear on the ballot as affiliated with, endorsed by, or nominated by any other  
982 registered political party, political party, or other political group.

983 Section 12. **Effective Date.**

984 This bill takes effect on January 1, 2027.