Lisa Shepherd proposes the following substitute bill:

1

Signature Verification Revisions

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Lisa Shepherd

Senate Sponsor: Heidi Balderree

2

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **Committee Note:**

5   The Government Operations Interim Committee recommended this bill.

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

7 **General Description:**

8   This bill amends provisions related to candidate nomination petitions.

9 **Highlighted Provisions:**

10   This bill:

11   ‣ requires an election official to post the name, voter precinct number, and date of signature

12 of a registered voter who signs a candidate nomination petition on the lieutenant

13 governor's website for at least 90 days after the date of an election;

14   ‣ requires an election official to send an email notice to a registered voter described above

15 informing the voter that:

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

17 website; and

18   • the voter may request to have the voter's signature removed from the candidate

19 nomination petition by submitting a written statement to the election official

20 requesting removal of the signature;

21   ‣ requires an election official to make the website posting described above regardless of

22 whether the voter's voter registration record is classified as a private record;

23   ‣ amends candidate nomination petition forms to include information notifying a voter of

24 the posting and signature removal processes described above;

25   ‣ for a candidate seeking the nomination of a qualified political party to an elective office

26 through signature gathering, shortens the deadline for the candidate to submit signatures

27 to an election official from 14 to 21 days before the day on which the qualified political

28 party holds a convention to nominate a candidate for the same elective office; and

29   ‣   makes technical and conforming changes.

30 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

31   None

32 **Other Special Clauses:**

33   This bill provides a special effective date.

34 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

35 AMENDS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

47

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

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

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

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

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

53   (i)   United States senator, United States representative, governor, lieutenant governor,

54   attorney general, state treasurer, or state auditor; or

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

56   one county; or

57   (b) the county central committee of a political party, for a party candidate seeking an

58   office, other than an office described in Subsection (1)(a), elected at an election held

59   in an even-numbered year.

60 (2) Except as provided in Subsection (6), the central committee may certify the name of

61   another candidate to the appropriate election officer if:

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

63   election:

64   (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing

65   through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor provides the list

66   described in Subsection [20A-9-403(4)(a)] 20A-9-403(8)(a), only one or two

67   candidates from that party have filed a declaration of candidacy for that office and

68   one or both dies, resigns as a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and

69   (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate

70   to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor

71   provides the list described in Subsection [20A-9-403(4)(a)] 20A-9-403(8)(a);

72   (b) for a registered political party that does not have a candidate on the ballot in a

73   primary, but will have a candidate on the ballot for a regular general election:

74   (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing

75   through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor makes the

76   certification described in Section 20A-5-409, the party's candidate dies, resigns as

77   a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and

78   (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate

79   to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor

80   makes the certification described in Section 20A-5-409; or

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

82   election:

83   (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing

84   through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor makes the

85   certification described in Section 20A-5-409, the party's candidate dies, resigns as

86   a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and

87   (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate

88   to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor

89   makes the certification described in Section 20A-5-409.

90   (3) If no more than two candidates from a political party have filed a declaration of

91   candidacy for an office elected at a regular general election and one resigns to become

92   the party candidate for another position, the central committee of that political party may

93   certify the name of another candidate to the appropriate election officer.

94   (4) Each replacement candidate shall file a declaration of candidacy as required by Chapter

95   9, Part 2, Candidate Qualifications and Declarations of Candidacy.

96   (5)(a) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(a) after the

97   deadline described in Subsection (2)(a)(ii) may not appear on the primary election

98   ballot.

99   (b) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(b) after the deadline

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

101   (c) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(c) after the deadline

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

103   (6) A political party may not replace a candidate who is disqualified for failure to timely

104   file a campaign disclosure financial report under Chapter 11, Campaign and Financial

105   Reporting Requirements, or Section 17-70-403.

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

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

108   **20A-3a-106 . Rulemaking authority relating to conducting an election.**

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

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

111 requirements for:

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

113 (2) complying with the signature comparison audit requirements described in Section

114   20A-3a-402.5;

115 (3) conducting and documenting the identity verification process described in Subsection

116   20A-3a-401(7)(b); or

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

118   (a) perform the signature comparison audits described in Subsection [20A-9-408(9)(e)]

119   20A-9-408(9)(d); or

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

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

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

123 (1) Each election officer shall ensure that:

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

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

126   (ii) no symbols, markings, or other descriptions of a political party or group, except

127   for a registered political party that has chosen to nominate its candidates in

128   accordance with Section 20A-9-403; and

129   (iii) no indication that a candidate for elective office has been nominated by, or has

130   been endorsed by, or is in any way affiliated with a political party or group, unless

131   the candidate has been nominated by a registered political party in accordance

132   with Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(9);

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

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

135   (ii) the date of the election; and

136   (iii) the words "certified by the Clerk of _____ County" or, as applicable, the

137   name of a combined office that includes the duties of a county clerk;

138   (c) unaffiliated candidates, candidates not affiliated with a registered political party, and

139   all other candidates for elective office who were not nominated by a registered

140   political party in accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [

141   20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(9), are listed with the other candidates for the same office

142   in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110, without a party name or title;

143   (d) each ticket containing the lists of candidates, including the party name and device,

144   are separated by heavy parallel lines;

145   (e) the offices to be filled are plainly printed immediately above the names of the

146   candidates for those offices;

147   (f) the names of candidates are printed in capital letters, not less than one-eighth nor

148   more than one-fourth of an inch high in heavy-faced type not smaller than 10 point,

149   between lines or rules three-eighths of an inch apart; and

150   (g) on a ticket for a race in which a voter is authorized to cast a write-in vote and in

151   which a write-in candidate is qualified under Section 20A-9-601:

152   (i) the ballot includes a space for a write-in candidate immediately following the last

153   candidate listed on that ticket; or

154   (ii) for the offices of president and vice president and governor and lieutenant

155   governor, the ballot includes two spaces for write-in candidates immediately

156   following the last candidates on that ticket, one placed above the other, to enable

157   the entry of two valid write-in candidates.

158 (2) An election officer shall ensure that:

159   (a) each individual nominated by any registered political party under Subsection

160   20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(9), and no other individual, is

161   placed on the ballot:

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

163   (ii) under the title of the registered political party as designated by them in their

164   certificates of nomination or petition, or, if none is designated, then under some

165   suitable title;

166   (b) the names of all unaffiliated candidates that qualify as required in Chapter 9, Part 5,

167   Candidates not Affiliated with a Party, are placed on the ballot;

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

169   instead of the names of the presidential electors; and

170   (d) the ballots contain no other names.

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

172   (a) the designation of the office to be filled in the election and the number of candidates

173   to be elected are printed in type not smaller than eight point;

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

175   (c) the words, "Vote for one" or "Vote for up to _____ (the number of candidates for

176   which the voter may vote)" extend to the extreme right of the column;

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

178   candidates;

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

180   20A-6-110, with the surnames last; and

181   (f) each group is preceded by the designation of the office for which the candidates seek

182   election, and the words, "Vote for one" or "Vote for up to _____ (the number of

183   candidates for which the voter may vote)," according to the number to be elected.

184 (4) Each election officer shall ensure that:

185   (a) proposed amendments to the Utah Constitution are listed on the ballot in accordance

186   with Section 20A-6-107;

187   (b) ballot propositions submitted to the voters are listed on the ballot in accordance with

188   Section 20A-6-107;

189   (c) bond propositions that have qualified for the ballot are listed on the ballot under the

190   title assigned to each bond proposition under Section 11-14-206; and

191   (d) the judicial retention section of the ballot includes a statement at the beginning

192   directing voters to the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's website in

193   accordance with Subsection 20A-12-201(4).

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

195   **20A-6-302 . Manual ballots -- Placement of candidates' names.**

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

197   (a) each candidate is listed by party, if nominated by a registered political party under

198   Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(9);

199   (b) candidates' surnames are listed in alphabetical order on the ballots when two or more

200   candidates' names are required to be listed on a ticket under the title of an office; and

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

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

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

204 (2)(a) When there is only one candidate for county attorney at the regular general

205   election in counties that have three or fewer registered voters of the county who are

206   licensed active members in good standing of the Utah State Bar, the county clerk

207   shall cause that candidate's name and party affiliation, if any, to be placed on a

208   separate section of the ballot with the following question: "Shall (name of candidate)

209   be elected to the office of county attorney? Yes _____ No _____.".

210   (b) If the number of "Yes" votes exceeds the number of "No" votes, the candidate is

211   elected to the office of county attorney.

212   (c) If the number of "No" votes exceeds the number of "Yes" votes, the candidate is not

213   elected and may not take office, nor may the candidate continue in the office past the

214   end of the term resulting from any prior election or appointment.

215   (d) When the name of only one candidate for county attorney is printed on the ballot

216   under authority of this Subsection (2), the county clerk may not count any write-in

217   votes received for the office of county attorney.

218   (e) If no qualified individual files for the office of county attorney or if the candidate is

219   not elected by the voters, the county legislative body shall appoint the county

220   attorney as provided in Section 20A-1-509.2.

221   (f) If the candidate whose name would, except for this Subsection (2)(f), be placed on

222   the ballot under Subsection (2)(a) has been elected on a ballot under Subsection (2)(a)

223   to the two consecutive terms immediately preceding the term for which the candidate

224   is seeking election, Subsection (2)(a) does not apply and that candidate shall be

225   considered to be an unopposed candidate the same as any other unopposed candidate

226   for another office, unless a petition is filed with the county clerk before 5 p.m. no

227   later than the day before that year's primary election that:

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

229   (ii) contains the signatures of registered voters in the county representing in number

230   at least 25% of all votes cast in the county for all candidates for governor at the

231   last election at which a governor was elected.

232 (3)(a) When there is only one candidate for district attorney at the regular general

233   election in a prosecution district that has three or fewer registered voters of the

234   district who are licensed active members in good standing of the Utah State Bar, the

235   county clerk shall cause that candidate's name and party affiliation, if any, to be

236   placed on a separate section of the ballot with the following question: "Shall (name of

237   candidate) be elected to the office of district attorney? Yes _____ No _____.".

238   (b) If the number of "Yes" votes exceeds the number of "No" votes, the candidate is

239   elected to the office of district attorney.

240   (c) If the number of "No" votes exceeds the number of "Yes" votes, the candidate is not

241   elected and may not take office, nor may the candidate continue in the office past the

242   end of the term resulting from any prior election or appointment.

243   (d) When the name of only one candidate for district attorney is printed on the ballot

244   under authority of this Subsection (3), the county clerk may not count any write-in

245   votes received for the office of district attorney.

246   (e) If no qualified individual files for the office of district attorney, or if the only

247   candidate is not elected by the voters under this subsection, the county legislative

248   body shall appoint a new district attorney for a four-year term as provided in Section

249   20A-1-509.2.

250   (f) If the candidate whose name would, except for this Subsection (3)(f), be placed on

251   the ballot under Subsection (3)(a) has been elected on a ballot under Subsection (3)(a)

252   to the two consecutive terms immediately preceding the term for which the candidate

253   is seeking election, Subsection (3)(a) does not apply and that candidate shall be

254   considered to be an unopposed candidate the same as any other unopposed candidate

255   for another office, unless a petition is filed with the county clerk before 5 p.m. no

256   later than the day before that year's primary election that:

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

258   (ii) contains the signatures of registered voters in the county representing in number

259   at least 25% of all votes cast in the county for all candidates for governor at the

260   last election at which a governor was elected.

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

262   **20A-6-304 . Regular general election -- Mechanical ballots.**

263   (1) Each election officer shall ensure that:

264   (a) the format and content of a mechanical ballot is arranged in approximately the same

265   order as manual ballots;

266   (b) the titles of offices and the names of candidates are displayed in vertical columns or

267   in a series of separate displays;

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

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

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

271   (d) the office titles are displayed above or at the side of the names of candidates so as to

272   indicate clearly the candidates for each office and the number to be elected;

273   (e) the party designation of each candidate who has been nominated by a registered

274   political party under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)]

275   20A-9-403(9) is displayed adjacent to the candidate's name; and

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

277   display screen.

278 (2) Each election officer shall ensure that:

279   (a) proposed amendments to the Utah Constitution are displayed in accordance with

280   Section 20A-6-107;

281   (b) ballot propositions submitted to the voters are displayed in accordance with Section

282   20A-6-107;

283   (c) bond propositions that have qualified for the ballot are displayed under the title

284   assigned to each bond proposition under Section 11-14-206; and

285   (d) the judicial retention section of the ballot includes a statement at the beginning

286   directing voters to the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's website in

287   accordance with Subsection 20A-12-201(4).

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

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

290 (1)(a) Candidates for elective office that are to be filled at the next regular general

291   election shall be nominated in a regular primary election by direct vote of the people

292   in the manner prescribed in this section. The regular primary election is held on the

293   date specified in Section 20A-1-201.5. Nothing in this section shall affect a

294   candidate's ability to qualify for a regular general election's ballot as an unaffiliated

295   candidate under Section 20A-9-501 or to participate in a regular general election as a

296   write-in candidate under Section 20A-9-601.

297   (b) Each registered political party that chooses to have the names of the registered

298   political party's candidates for elective office featured with party affiliation on the

299   ballot at a regular general election shall comply with the requirements of this section

300   and shall nominate the registered political party's candidates for elective office in the

301   manner described in this section.

302   (c) A filing officer may not permit an official ballot at a regular general election to be

303   produced or used if the ballot denotes affiliation between a registered political party

304   or any other political group and a candidate for elective office who is not nominated

305   in the manner prescribed in this section or in Subsection 20A-9-202(4).

306   (d) Unless noted otherwise, the dates in this section refer to those that occur in each

307   even-numbered year in which a regular general election will be held.

308 (2)(a) Each registered political party, in a statement filed with the lieutenant governor,

309   shall:

310   (i) either declare the registered political party's intent to participate in the next regular

311   primary election or declare that the registered political party chooses not to have

312   the names of the registered political party's candidates for elective office featured

313   on the ballot at the next regular general election; and

314   (ii) if the registered political party participates in the upcoming regular primary

315   election, identify one or more registered political parties whose members may

316   vote for the registered political party's candidates and whether individuals

317   identified as unaffiliated with a political party may vote for the registered political

318   party's candidates.

319   (b)(i) A registered political party that is a continuing political party shall file the

320   statement described in Subsection (2)(a) with the lieutenant governor no later than

321   5 p.m. on November 30 of each odd-numbered year.

322   (ii) An organization that is seeking to become a registered political party under

323   Section 20A-8-103 shall file the statement described in Subsection (2)(a) at the

324   time that the registered political party files the petition described in Section

325   20A-8-103.

326 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection [(3)(e)] (5), an individual who submits a

327   declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-202 shall appear as a candidate for

328   elective office on the regular primary ballot of the registered political party listed on

329   the declaration of candidacy only if the individual is certified by the appropriate

330   filing officer as having submitted a nomination petition that was:

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

332   (ii) signed by at least 2% of the registered political party's members who reside in the

333   political division of the office that the individual seeks.

334   (b)(i) A candidate for elective office shall, in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3,

335   submit signatures for a nomination petition to the appropriate filing officer for

336   verification and certification no later than 5 p.m. on March 31.

337   (ii) A candidate may supplement the candidate's submissions at any time on or before

338   the filing deadline.

339   (c)(i) The lieutenant governor shall determine for each elective office the total

340   number of signatures that must be submitted under Subsection (3)(a)(ii) or

341   20A-9-408(8) by counting the aggregate number of individuals residing in each

342   elective office's political division who have designated a particular registered

343   political party on the individuals' voter registration forms on or before November

344   15 of each odd-numbered year.

345   (ii) The lieutenant governor shall publish the determination for each elective office

346   no later than November 30 of each odd-numbered year.

347   (d) The filing officer shall:

348   (i) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201, and in accordance with

349   Section 20A-9-408.3, verify signatures on nomination petitions in a transparent

350   and orderly manner, no later than 14 calendar days after the day on which a

351   candidate submits the signatures to the filing officer;

352   (ii) for [all qualifying candidates for elective office who submit nomination petitions

353   to the filing officer, issue certifications referenced] each qualifying candidate for

354   elective office who submits a nomination petition to the filing officer, issue the

355   certification described in Subsection (3)(a) no later than the deadline described in

356   Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b);

357   (iii) consider [active and inactive voters eligible to sign nomination petitions] an

358   active and inactive voter eligible to sign a nomination petition;

359   (iv) consider an individual who signs a nomination petition a member of a registered

360   political party for purposes of Subsection (3)(a)(ii) if the individual has designated [

361   that] the registered political party as the individual's party membership on the

362   individual's voter registration form; and

363   (v) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201 and with the assistance of

364   the county clerk as applicable, use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002

365   to verify submitted nomination petition signatures, or use statistical sampling

366   procedures to verify submitted nomination petition signatures in accordance with

367   rules made under Subsection [(3)(f)] (6).

368   (4) Subject to Subsection 20A-9-405(11)(a)(i), and notwithstanding Section 20A-2-104, the

369   filing officer shall, no later than one business day after the day on which the signature of

370   an individual who signs a nomination petition is verified under Subsection (3)(d) or

371   Section 20A-1-201:

372   (a) post the individual's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the

373   lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant

374   governor, for at least 90 calendar days after the date of the primary election; and

375   (b) if the individual's voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid

376   email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email notice to the

377   individual, informing the individual that:

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

379   (ii) the individual's name and voter information described in Subsection (4)(a) is

380   posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and

381   (iii) the individual has until the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-405(10)(a) to

382   submit a statement to the filing officer, in accordance with Subsection

383   20A-1-1003(2), requesting that the individual's signature be removed from the

384   nomination petition.

385   [(e)] (5) Notwithstanding any other provision in [this Subsection (3)] Subsection (3), (4), (6),

386   or (7), a candidate for lieutenant governor may appear on the regular primary ballot of a

387   registered political party without submitting nomination petitions if the candidate files a

388   declaration of candidacy and complies with Subsection 20A-9-202(3).

389   [(f)] (6) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the

390   director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, may make rules that:

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

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

393   and

394   [(B)] (ii) reflect a bona fide effort to determine the validity of a candidate's entire

395   submission, using widely recognized statistical sampling techniques; and

396   [(ii)] (b) provide for the transparent, orderly, and timely submission, verification, and

397   certification of nomination petition signatures.

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

399   [(i)] (a) review the declarations of candidacy filed by candidates for local boards of

400   education to determine if more than two candidates have filed for the same seat;

401   [(ii)] (b) place the names of all candidates who have filed a declaration of candidacy for a

402   local board of education seat on the nonpartisan section of the ballot if more than two

403   candidates have filed for the same seat; and

404   [(iii)] (c) place the local board of education candidates' names on the ballot in accordance

405   with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110.

406   [(4)] (8)(a) Before the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-409(4)(c), the lieutenant

407   governor shall provide to the county clerks:

408   (i) a list of the names of all candidates for federal, constitutional, multi-county, single

409   county, and county offices who have received certifications under Subsection [(3)]

410   (3)(a), along with instructions on how those names shall appear on the primary

411   election ballot in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110; and

412   (ii) a list of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by a

413   registered political party under Subsection (5)(c) and instruct the county clerks to

414   exclude the unopposed candidates from the primary election ballot.

415   (b) A candidate for lieutenant governor and a candidate for governor campaigning as

416   joint-ticket running mates shall appear jointly on the primary election ballot.

417   (c) After the county clerk receives the certified list from the lieutenant governor under

418   Subsection [(4)(a)] (8)(a), the county clerk shall post or publish a primary election notice in

419   substantially the following form:

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

421   _____(year), to nominate party candidates for the parties and candidates for nonpartisan

422   local school board positions listed on the primary ballot. The polling place for voting precinct

423   ____ is ____. The polls will open at 7 a.m. and continue open until 8 p.m. of the same day.

424   Attest: county clerk."

425   [(5)] (9)(a) A candidate who, at the regular primary election, receives the highest number

426   of votes cast for the office sought by the candidate is:

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

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

429   (b) If two or more candidates are to be elected to the office at the regular general

430   election, those party candidates equal in number to positions to be filled who receive

431   the highest number of votes at the regular primary election are the nominees of the

432   candidates' party for those positions.

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

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

435   Subsection [(3)] (3)(a) for the regular primary election ballot of the candidate's

436   registered political party for a particular elective office; or

437   (B) for an office where more than one individual is to be elected or nominated, the

438   number of candidates who receive certification under Subsection [(3)] (3)(a) for

439   the regular primary election of the candidate's registered political party does

440   not exceed the total number of candidates to be elected or nominated for that

441   office.

442   (ii) A candidate who is unopposed for an elective office in the regular primary

443   election of a registered political party is nominated by the party for that office

444   without appearing on the primary election ballot.

445   [(6)] (10) The expense of providing all ballots, blanks, or other supplies to be used at any

446   primary election provided for by this section, and all expenses necessarily incurred in

447   the preparation for or the conduct of that primary election shall be paid out of the

448   treasury of the county or state, in the same manner as for the regular general elections.

449   [(7)] (11) An individual may not file a declaration of candidacy for a registered political

450   party of which the individual is not a member, except to the extent that the registered

451   political party permits otherwise under the registered political party's bylaws.

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

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

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

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

456   (2) A candidate for elective office, and the agents of the candidate, may not circulate

457   nomination petitions until the candidate has submitted a declaration of candidacy in

458   accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(1).

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

460   substantially the following form:

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

462   (b) the petition shall be ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space

463   above that line blank for purposes of binding;

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

465   name of the proposed candidate;

466   (d) the petition shall feature the [word "Warning" followed by the]following [statement]

467   statements in no less than eight-point, single leaded type:

468   (i) "WARNING: It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a

469   nomination petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more

470   than once for the same candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this

471   state."; and
472   (ii) "NOTICE: Your name, voter precinct number, and date of signature may be
473   publicly disclosed on the lieutenant governor's website if you sign this petition.
474   This disclosure may occur even if your voter registration record has been
475   classified as a private record at your request. If your voter registration information
476   includes a valid email address, you will receive an email notifying you of the
477   disclosure as well as information on how to remove your name from this petition.
478   To ensure your voter registration information includes a valid email address,
479   please visit vote.utah.gov or the office of your county clerk.";
480 (e) the petition shall feature 10 lines spaced one-half inch apart and consecutively
481   numbered one through 10;
482 (f) the signature portion of the petition shall be divided into columns headed by the
483   following titles:
484   (i) Registered Voter's Printed Name;
485   (ii) Signature of Registered Voter;
486   (iii) Party Affiliation of Registered Voter;
487   (iv) Birth Date or Age (Optional);
488   (v) Street Address, City, Zip Code; and
489   (vi) Date of Signature; and
490 (g) a photograph of the candidate may appear on the nomination petition.
491 (4) For the electronic candidate qualification process, the lieutenant governor shall design
492   an electronic form, using progressive screens, that includes:
493 (a) the following warning:
494   ["Warning] WARNING: It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a
495   nomination petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more than once for
496   the same candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this state."; [and]
497 (b) the following notice:
498   "NOTICE: Your name, voter precinct number, and date of signature may be
499   publicly disclosed on the lieutenant governor's website if you sign this petition. This
500   disclosure may occur even if your voter registration record has been classified as a
501   private record at your request. If your voter registration information includes a valid
502   email address, you will receive an email notifying you of the disclosure as well as
503   information on how to remove your name from this petition. To ensure your voter
504   registration information includes a valid email address, please visit vote.utah.gov or

505   the office of your county clerk."; and

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

507   (i) name;

508   (ii) party affiliation;

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

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

511   (v) date of signature;

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

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

514   (5) For the manual candidate qualification process, if one or more nomination petitions are

515   bound together, a page shall be bound to the nomination petition(s) that features the following

516   printed verification statement to be signed and dated by the petition circulator:

517   "Verification

518   State of Utah, County of ____

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

520   I am at least 18 years old;

521   All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were, to the best of

522   my knowledge, signed by the persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear on

523   the signature sheets, and each of them signed the person's name on the signature sheets in my

524   presence;

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

526   street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah."

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

528   and associated instructions.

529   (7) A nomination petition circulator:

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

531   (b) may affiliate with any political party.

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

533   (a) knowingly sign the nomination petition described in this section or Section

534   20A-9-408:

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

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

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

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

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

540   nomination petition; or

541   (ii) knows that a person whose signature appears on the nomination petition is not

542   registered to vote in this state;

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

544   (d) pay compensation to any person to circulate a nomination petition, if the

545   compensation is based directly on the number of signatures submitted to a filing

546   officer rather than on the number of signatures verified or on some other basis.

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

548 (10)(a) A voter who signs a nomination petition may have the voter's signature removed

549   from the petition by, no later than 5 p.m. three business days after the day on which [

550   the candidate files the petition with the appropriate filing officer] the filing officer

551   makes the posting described in Subsection 20A-9-403(4)(a), submitting to the filing

552   officer a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

553   (b) A statement described in Subsection (10)(a) shall comply with the requirements

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

555   (c) The filing officer shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to

556   determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a nomination petition

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

558 (11)(a) If a filing officer timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under

559   Subsection (10)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from the

560   nomination petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the filing officer shall:

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

562   (ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the

563   posting described in Subsection 20A-9-403(4)(a); and

564   (iii) update the nomination petition signature totals.

565   (b) The filing officer shall comply with Subsection (11)(a) no later than 5 p.m. the day

566   before the day of the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b).

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

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

569   The following provisions apply to a qualified political party:

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

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

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

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

574   candidates;

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

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

577   (8)(a);

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

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

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

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

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

583   20A-9-408, and 20A-9-409;

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

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

586   by a qualified political party:

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

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

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

590   designated, then under some suitable title;

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

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

593   qualified political party is listed by party;

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

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

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

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

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

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

600   office, or county office;

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

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

603 (10) notwithstanding [Subsection 20A-9-403(3)] Subsections 20A-9-403(3) through (7), the

604   qualified political party is entitled to have each of the qualified political party's

605   candidates for elective office appear on the primary ballot of the qualified political party

606   with an indication that each candidate is a candidate for the qualified political party;

607   (11) notwithstanding Subsection [20A-9-403(4)(a)] 20A-9-403(8)(a), the lieutenant

608   governor shall include on the list provided by the lieutenant governor to the county

609   clerks:

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

611   multicounty, and county offices; and

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

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

614   from the primary-election ballot;

615   (12) notwithstanding Subsection [20A-9-403(5)(c)] 20A-9-403(9)(c), a candidate who is

616   unopposed for an elective office in the regular primary election of the qualified political

617   party is nominated by the party for that office without appearing on the primary ballot;

618   and

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

620   20A-9-405, the qualified political party is entitled to have the names of [its] the qualified

621   political party's candidates for elective office featured with party affiliation on the ballot

622   at a regular general election.

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

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

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

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

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

628   the signature-gathering process described in this section.

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

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

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

632   described in Section 20A-9-408.5.

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

634   20A-9-202(4), a member of a qualified political party who, under this section, is seeking

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

636   the next general election shall:

637   (a) except to the extent otherwise provided in Subsection [(13)(a)] (16)(a), during the

638   applicable declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5,

639   and before gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing officer on a

640   form approved by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather signatures for

641   candidacy that includes:

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

643   political party under this section;

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

645   nomination;

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

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

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

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

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

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

652   (c) pay the filing fee.

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

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

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

656   the next general election shall:

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

658   20A-9-201.5, and before gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing

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

660   signatures for candidacy that includes:

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

662   political party under this section;

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

664   nomination;

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

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

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

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

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

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

671   (c) pay the filing fee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

679   20A-9-701(1) also includes the name of each candidate nominated by a qualified

680   political party under this section.

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

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

683   political party that nominated the candidate.

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

685   political party for an elective office by:

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

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

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

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

690   deadline described in Subsection [(12)] (15), in the following amounts:

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

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

693   candidates in a primary election;

694   (ii) except as provided in Subsection [(13)(b)] (16)(b), for a congressional district

695   race, 7,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the congressional

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

697   political party's candidates in a primary election;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

709   the applicable State Board of Education district; and

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

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

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

713   a primary election.

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

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

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

717   the manual candidate qualification process, the member shall:

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

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

720   and 20A-7-204; and

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

722   officer before the applicable deadline described in Subsection [(12)] (15).

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

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

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

726   signatures, or [one day] seven calendar days before the day on which the qualified

727   political party holds the convention to select a nominee for the elective office to

728   which the signature packets relate:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

736   and

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

738   signature packet.

739   [(d)(i) A registered voter who physically signs a form under Subsections (8) and

740   (9)(b) may have the voter's signature removed from the form by, no later than 5

741   p.m. three business days after the day on which the member submits the signature

742   form to the election officer, submitting to the election officer a statement

743   requesting that the voter's signature be removed.]

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

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

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

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

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

749   requesting removal of the signature.]

750   [(e)] (d)(i) An election officer shall, in accordance with this Subsection [(9)(e)] (9)(d)

751   and rules made under Section 20A-3a-106, conduct regular audits of signature

752   comparisons made between signatures gathered under this section and voter

753   signatures maintained by the election officer.

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

755   may not audit the individual's own work.

756   (iii) The election officer shall:

757   (A) audit 1% of all signature comparisons described in Subsection [(9)(e)(i)]

758   (9)(d)(i) to determine the accuracy of the comparisons made;

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

760   (C) record the audit results;

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

762   results of an audit described in Subsection [(9)(e)(i)] (9)(d)(i); and

763   (E) record any remedial action taken.

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

765   record.

766   [(f)] (e) An election officer who certifies signatures under Subsection (9)(c) or

767   20A-9-403(3)(d) shall, after certifying enough signatures to establish that a candidate

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

769   20A-9-403(3)(a), as applicable, continue to certify signatures submitted for the

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

771   either:

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

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

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

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

776   process.

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

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

779   member shall, before the deadline described in Subsection [(12)] (15), collect

780   signatures electronically:

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

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

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

784   (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and [(9)(b)] (10)(b),

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

786   which the election officer receives the signatures, or [one day] seven calendar days

787   before the day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a

788   nominee for the elective office to which the signature packets relate:

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

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

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

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

793   (11) Subject to Subsection (13)(a)(i), and notwithstanding Section 20A-2-104, an election

794   officer shall, no later than one business day after the day on which the signature of an

795   individual who signs a petition is verified under Subsection (9)(c) or Section 20A-21-201:

796   (a) post the individual's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the

797   lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant

798   governor, for at least 90 calendar days after the date of the primary election; and

799   (b) if the individual's voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid

800   email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email notice to the

801   individual, informing the individual that:

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

803   (ii) the individual's name and voter information described in Subsection (11)(a) is

804   posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and

805   (iii) the individual has until the deadline described in Subsection (12)(a) to submit a

806   statement to the election officer, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(2),

807   requesting that the individual's signature be removed from the petition.

808   (12)(a) A registered voter who physically signs a petition under Subsections (8) and

809   (9)(b), or who electronically signs a petition under Subsections (8) and (10)(b), may

810   have the voter's signature removed from the petition by, no later than 5 p.m. three

811   business days after the day on which the election officer makes the posting described

812   in Subsection (11)(a), submitting to the election officer a statement requesting that

813   the voter's signature be removed.

814   (b) A statement described in Subsection (12)(a) shall comply with the requirements

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

816   (c) With the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, the election officer shall use the

817   procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove

818   an individual's signature from a petition after receiving a timely, valid statement

819   requesting removal of the signature.

820 (13)(a) If an election officer timely receives a statement requesting signature removal

821   under Subsection (12)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from

822   the petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the election officer shall:

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

824   (ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the

825   posting described in Subsection (11)(a); and

826   (iii) update the petition signature totals.

827   (b) The election officer shall comply with Subsection (13)(a) no later than 5 p.m. the day

828   before the day of the convention described in Subsection (14)(c).

829 [(11)] (14)(a) An individual may not gather signatures under this section until after the

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

831   section.

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

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

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

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

836   required to comply with; and

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

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

839   in Subsection [(11)(b)(i)] (14)(b)(i).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

850   lieutenant governor posts a declaration of candidacy.

851   [(12)] (15) The deadline before which a member of a qualified political party must collect

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

853   business day that is at least [14] 21 calendar days before the day on which the qualified

854   political party's convention for the office begins.

855   [(13)] (16) For the 2026 election year only, an individual who desires to gather signatures to

856   seek the nomination of a qualified political party for the office of United States

857   representative shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

866   candidates in a primary election.

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

868   **20A-9-502 . Certificate of nomination -- Contents -- Circulation -- Verification --**

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

870   (1) The candidate shall:

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

872   "State of Utah, County of _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

883   and removal of my name from the ballot.

884

885   _____

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

887   _____

888   Notary Public (or other officer

                                                                                qualified to administer oaths)";

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

890   nomination and the circulator verification, that:

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

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

893   line blank for the purpose of binding;

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

895   Candidate Certificate of Nomination Petition" printed directly below the

896   horizontal line;

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

898   Subsection (1)(b)(iii);

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

900   eight-point, single leaded type:

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

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

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

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

905   (vi) contain the word "Notice" printed directly beneath the words described in

906   Subsection (1)(b)(v);

907   (vii) contain, to the right of the word "Notice," the following statement printed in not

908   less than eight-point, single leaded type:

909   "Your name, voter precinct number, and date of signature may be publicly

910   disclosed on the lieutenant governor's website if you sign this petition. This

911   disclosure may occur even if your voter registration record has been classified as a

912   private record at your request. If your voter registration information includes a

913   valid email address, you will receive an email notifying you of the disclosure as

914   well as information on how to remove your name from this petition. To ensure

915   your voter registration information contains a valid email address, please visit

916   vote.utah.gov or the office of your county clerk.";

917   [(vi)] (viii) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in

918   Subsection [(1)(b)(v)] (1)(b)(vii):

919   "Each signer says:

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

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

922   county clerk certifies my signature; and

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

924   [(vii)] (ix) contain horizontally ruled lines, 3/8 inch apart under the statement

925   described in Subsection [(1)(b)(vi)] (1)(b)(viii); and

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

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

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

929   line down the middle;

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

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

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

933   Registered Voter";

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

935   (Optional)";

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

937   Code"; and

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

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

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

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

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

943   voter registration records."; and

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

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

946   "Verification

947   State of Utah, County of _____

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

949   I am at least 18 years old;

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

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

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

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

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

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

956   _____

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

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

959   20A-9-503(2)(b) or (4)(b) may not sign the form described in Subsection (1)(a).

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

961   whose presence each signature sheet is signed:

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

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

964   signature sheets that are bound together.

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

966   sheet bound to the verification.

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

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

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

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

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

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

973   signatures; or

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

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

976	certificate of nomination signature sheet; or

976   certificate of nomination signature sheet; or

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

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

979   become registered to vote in this state.

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

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

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

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

984   election will be held:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

993   division smaller than the state.

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

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

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

997   another candidate for the same office.

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

999   persons who signed with a holographic signature, who:

1000   (i) are registered voters within the political division that the candidate seeks to

1001   represent; and

1002   (ii) did not sign any other certificate of nomination for that office.

1003 (d) The county clerk shall count and certify the number of registered voters who validly

1004   signed a signature packet, no later than 30 calendar days after the day on which the

1005   candidate submits the signature packet.

1006 (e) The candidate may supplement the signatures or amend the certificate of nomination

1007   or declaration of candidacy at any time on or before 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in

1008   which the election will be held.

1009 (f) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to

| 1010 | | | determine whether a signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature |

1010   determine whether a signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature

1011   packet.

1012   (6) Subject to Subsection (8)(a)(i), and notwithstanding Section 20A-2-104, the county

1013   clerk shall, no later than one business day after the day on which the signature of a voter

1014   who signs a signature packet is verified under Subsection (5)(b):

1015   (a) post the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the lieutenant

1016   governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor,

1017   for at least 90 calendar days after the date of the general election; and

1018   (b) if the voter's voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid

1019   email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email notice to the

1020   voter, informing the voter that:

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

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

1023   the lieutenant governor's website; and

1024   (iii) the voter has until the deadline described in Subsection (7)(a) to submit a

1025   statement to the county clerk, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(2),

1026   requesting that the voter's signature be removed from the petition.

1027   [(6)] (7)(a) A voter who signs a signature packet under this section may have the voter's

1028   signature removed from the signature packet by, no later than 5 p.m. three business

1029   days after the day on which [the candidate submits the signature packet to the county

1030   clerk] the county clerk makes the posting described in Subsection (6)(a), submitting to

1031   the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

1032   (b) A statement described in Subsection [(6)(a)] (7)(a) shall comply with the

1033   requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

1034   (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to

1035   determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a signature packet after

1036   receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

1037   (8)(a) If a county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under

1038   Subsection (7)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from the

1039   nomination petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the county clerk shall:

1040   (i) remove the voter's name from the nomination petition;

1041   (ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the

1042   posting described in Subsection (6)(a); and

1043   (iii) update the nomination petition signature totals.

1044   (b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection (8)(a) no later than five business days

1045   after the day on which the county clerk receives a statement requesting signature

1046   removal under Subsection (7)(a).

1047   Section 11. Section **20A-9-701** is amended to read:

1048   **20A-9-701 . Certification of party candidates to county clerks -- Display on ballot.**

1049   (1) No later than August 31 of each regular general election year, the lieutenant governor

1050   shall certify to each county clerk, for offices to be voted upon at the regular general

1051   election in that county clerk's county:

1052   (a) the names of each candidate nominated under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or

1053   Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(9); and

1054   (b) the names of the candidates for president and vice president that are certified by the

1055   registered political party as the party's nominees.

1056   (2) The names shall be certified by the lieutenant governor and shall be displayed on the

1057   ballot as they are provided on the candidate's declaration of candidacy. No other names

1058   may appear on the ballot as affiliated with, endorsed by, or nominated by any other

1059   registered political party, political party, or other political group.

1060   Section 12. **Effective Date.**

1061   This bill takes effect on January 1, 2027.