

Paul A. Cutler proposes the following substitute bill:

1 **Signature Gathering and Verification Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Paul A. Cutler

Senate Sponsor: Ronald M. Winterton

2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This bill modifies requirements for petitions.

5 **Highlighted Provisions:**

6 This bill:

7 ▶ amends, standardizes, and makes technical revisions to the signature collector verification
8 form included in petition packets;

9 ▶ clarifies how an individual may be paid for collecting petition signatures;
10 ▶ beginning on July 1, 2027, requires a clerk who verifies signatures for a petition to send
11 an email and text message notice to the signer of the petition notifying the signer of the
12 status of the signer's signature;

13 ▶ requires the lieutenant governor to develop and maintain an online training course to
14 educate individuals who collect signatures for a petition;

15 ▶ requires an individual who collects signatures for a petition to complete the training
16 course described above before collecting any signatures for the petition;

17 ▶ requires an election official to reject a signature packet if the individual who collects
18 signatures for the petition did not complete the online training course described above;

19 ▶ modifies requirements related to statewide initiative and referendum packets by:
20 • removing the requirement that the county clerk deliver each packet to the lieutenant
21 governor;

22 • requiring the county clerk who verifies packets to certify certain statistical information
23 to the lieutenant governor; and

24 • directing the county clerk to retain and preserve each packet for at least 22 months;

25 ▶ designates the existing initiative and referendum packet format as one packet type and
26 creates an alternative packet type with different content and assembly requirements;

27 ▶ requires an alternative packet type to provide access to the text of a proposed or referable

29 law through a QR code rather than a printed copy;

30 ▶ for an alternative packet type, requires the initiative petition and each signature sheet to

31 contain a brief, plain-language description of the principal provisions of the law

32 proposed by the initiative;

33 ▶ allows the sponsors of an initiative or referendum petition to circulate packets using a

34 traditional packet type, an alternative packet type, or both;

35 ▶ repeals provisions permitting an individual to optionally provide the individual's email

36 address when signing an initiative or referendum signature sheet;

37 ▶ updates the formatting and spacing requirements for initiative and referendum signature

38 sheets;

39 ▶ prohibits the sponsors of an initiative or referendum petition from marking or redacting a

40 signature sheet in a manner that obscures, conceals, or renders illegible a signer's date of

41 signature or other voter information used for verification;

42 ▶ provides that a county clerk may not certify a signature if the date of signature is later

43 than the applicable deadline for submitting an initiative or referendum packet;

44 ▶ on January 1, 2027, repeals provisions requiring the sponsors of an initiative petition to:

45 • send an informational email to each initiative petition signer who provides a legible

46 email address on a signature sheet; and

47 • send a list to the lieutenant governor identifying the recipients of the email described

48 above;

49 ▶ beginning on January 1, 2027, requires an election officer to send the email described

50 above to each eligible voter who signs an initiative petition within two business days of

51 verifying the voter's signature;

52 ▶ makes technical revisions to the required statements that appear on initiative and

53 referendum signature sheets;

54 ▶ modifies certain statements appearing on initiative and referendum packets to provide that:

55 • the signer of the packet had an opportunity to read and understand the proposed or

56 referable law; and

57 • for the signature gatherer, the signature gatherer believes that the signer had an

58 opportunity to read and understand the proposed or referable law; and

59 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

60 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

61 None

62 **Other Special Clauses:**

63 This bill provides a special effective date.

64 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

65 AMENDS:

66 **20A-1-102 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special
67 Session, Chapter 6

68 **20A-1-609 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 325

69 **20A-1-1001 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special
70 Session, Chapter 16

71 **20A-1-1002 (Effective 07/01/27)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 116

72 **20A-7-101 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special
73 Session, Chapter 16

74 **20A-7-104 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

75 **20A-7-105 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

76 **20A-7-201 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

77 **20A-7-202 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 117

78 **20A-7-202.5 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

79 **20A-7-202.7 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 107

80 **20A-7-203 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

81 **20A-7-204 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

82 **20A-7-213 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

83 **20A-7-215 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

84 **20A-7-302 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

85 **20A-7-303 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

86 **20A-7-304 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

87 **20A-7-502 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 107

88 **20A-7-503 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

89 **20A-7-504 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

90 **20A-7-514 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

91 **20A-7-602 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 107

92 **20A-7-603 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

93 **20A-7-604 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

94 **20A-8-103 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 38, 448

95 **20A-9-405 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 38

96 **20A-9-502 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special

97 Session, Chapter 2
98 **20A-21-201 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 381,
99 448
100 **63I-2-220 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Forth Special
101 Session, Chapter 2
102 ENACTS:
103 **20A-1-1004 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
104 **20A-1-1005 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

107 Section 1. Section **20A-1-102** is amended to read:

108 **20A-1-102 (Effective 05/06/26). Definitions.**

109 As used in this title:

110 (1) "Active voter" means a registered voter who has not been classified as an inactive voter
111 by the county clerk.

112 (2) "Automatic tabulating equipment" means apparatus that automatically examines and
113 counts votes recorded on ballots and tabulates the results.

114 (3)(a) "Ballot" means the storage medium, including a paper, mechanical, or electronic
115 storage medium, that records an individual voter's vote.
116 (b) "Ballot" does not include a record to tally multiple votes.

117 (4) "Ballot proposition" means a question, issue, or proposal that is submitted to voters on
118 the ballot for their approval or rejection including:
119 (a) an opinion question specifically authorized by the Legislature;
120 (b) a constitutional amendment;
121 (c) an initiative;
122 (d) a referendum;
123 (e) a bond proposition;
124 (f) a judicial retention question;
125 (g) an incorporation of a city or town; or
126 (h) any other ballot question specifically authorized by the Legislature.

127 (5) "Bind," "binding," or "bound" means securing more than one piece of paper together
128 using staples, a spiral binder, or another means in at least three places across the top of
129 the paper in the blank space reserved for securing the paper.

130 (6) "Board of canvassers" means the entities established by Sections 20A-4-301 and

131 20A-4-306 to canvass election returns.

132 (7) "Bond election" means an election held for the purpose of approving or rejecting the
133 proposed issuance of bonds by a government entity.

134 (8) "Business day" means a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday that is not
135 a holiday.

136 (9) "Business reply mail envelope" means an envelope that may be mailed free of charge by
137 the sender.

138 (10) "Calendar day" means any day, regardless of whether the day is a weekend, a holiday,
139 a business day, or any other type of day.

140 (11) "Canvass" means the review of election returns and the official declaration of election
141 results by the board of canvassers.

142 (12) "Canvassing judge" means a poll worker designated to assist in counting ballots at the
143 canvass.

144 (13) "Contracting election officer" means an election officer who enters into a contract or
145 interlocal agreement with a provider election officer.

146 (14) "Convention" means the political party convention at which party officers and
147 delegates are selected.

148 (15) "Counting center" means one or more locations selected by the election officer in
149 charge of the election for the automatic counting of ballots.

150 (16) "Counting judge" means a poll worker designated to count the ballots during election
151 day.

152 (17) "Counting room" means a suitable and convenient private place or room for use by the
153 poll workers and counting judges to count ballots.

154 (18) "County officers" means those county officers that are required by law to be elected.

155 (19) "Date of the election" or "election day" or "day of the election":

156 (a) means the day that is specified in the calendar year as the day on which the election
157 occurs; and

158 (b) does not include:

159 (i) deadlines established for voting by mail, military-overseas voting, or emergency
160 voting; or

161 (ii) any early voting or early voting period as provided under Chapter 3a, Part 6,
162 Early Voting.

163 (20) "Elected official" means:

164 (a) a person elected to an office under Section 20A-1-303 or Chapter 4, Part 6,

199 (a) the lieutenant governor, for all statewide ballots and elections;

200 (b) the county clerk for:

201 (i) a county ballot and election; and

202 (ii) a ballot and election as a provider election officer as provided in Section

203 20A-5-400.1 or 20A-5-400.5;

204 (c) the municipal clerk for:

205 (i) a municipal ballot and election; and

206 (ii) a ballot and election as a provider election officer as provided in Section

207 20A-5-400.1 or 20A-5-400.5;

208 (d) the special district clerk or chief executive officer for:

209 (i) a special district ballot and election; and

210 (ii) a ballot and election as a provider election officer as provided in Section

211 20A-5-400.1 or 20A-5-400.5; or

212 (e) the business administrator or superintendent of a school district for:

213 (i) a school district ballot and election; and

214 (ii) a ballot and election as a provider election officer as provided in Section

215 20A-5-400.1 or 20A-5-400.5.

216 (27) "Election official" means any election officer, election judge, or poll worker.

217 (28) "Election results" means:

218 (a) for an election other than a bond election, the count of votes cast in the election and

219 the election returns requested by the board of canvassers; or

220 (b) for bond elections, the count of those votes cast for and against the bond proposition

221 plus any or all of the election returns that the board of canvassers may request.

222 (29) "Election results database" means the following information generated by voting

223 equipment:

224 (a) one or more electronic files that contains a digital interpretation of each ballot that is

225 counted in an election;

226 (b) a ballot image; and

227 (c) other information related to a ballot that is adjudicated under Section 20A-4-105.

228 (30) "Election returns" means:

229 (a) the pollbook;

230 (b) the military and overseas absentee voter registration and voting certificates;

231 (c) one of the tally sheets;

232 (d) any unprocessed ballots;

- 233 (e) all counted ballots;
- 234 (f) all excess ballots;
- 235 (g) all unused ballots;
- 236 (h) all spoiled ballots;
- 237 (i) all ballot disposition forms, including any provisional ballot disposition forms;
- 238 (j) the final election results database described in Section 20A-5-802.5;
- 239 (k) all return envelopes;
- 240 (l) any provisional ballot envelopes; and
- 241 (m) the total votes cast form.

242 (31) "Electronic signature" means an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or
243 logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to
244 sign the record.

245 (32) "Holiday" means a legal holiday described in Subsections 63G-1-301(1) and (2).

246 (33) "Inactive voter" means a registered voter who is listed as inactive by a county clerk
247 under Subsection 20A-2-505(4)(c)(i) or (ii).

248 (34) "Judicial office" means the office filled by any judicial officer.

249 (35) "Judicial officer" means any justice or judge of a court of record or any county court
250 judge.

251 (36) "Local election" means a regular county election, a regular municipal election, a
252 municipal primary election, a local special election, a special district election, and a
253 bond election.

254 (37) "Local political subdivision" means a county, a municipality, a special district, or a
255 local school district.

256 (38) "Local special election" means a special election called by the governing body of a
257 local political subdivision in which all registered voters of the local political subdivision
258 may vote.

259 (39) "Manual ballot" means a paper document produced by an election officer on which an
260 individual records an individual's vote by directly placing a mark on the paper document
261 using a pen or other marking instrument.

262 (40) "Mechanical ballot" means a record, including a paper record, electronic record, or
263 mechanical record, that:

- 264 (a) is created via electronic or mechanical means; and
- 265 (b) records an individual voter's vote cast via a method other than an individual directly
266 placing a mark, using a pen or other marking instrument, to record an individual

267 voter's vote.

268 (41) "Municipal executive" means:

- 269 (a) the mayor in the council-mayor form of government defined in Section 10-3b-102; or
- 270 (b) the mayor in the council-manager form of government defined in Subsection
- 271 10-3b-103(6).

272 (42) "Municipal general election" means the election held in municipalities and, as
273 applicable, special districts on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of
274 each odd-numbered year for the purposes established in Section 20A-1-202.

275 (43) "Municipal legislative body" means the council of the city or town in any form of
276 municipal government.

277 (44) "Municipal office" means an elective office in a municipality.

278 (45) "Municipal officers" means those municipal officers that are required by law to be
279 elected.

280 (46) "Municipal primary election" means an election held to nominate candidates for
281 municipal office.

282 (47) "Municipality" means a city or town.

283 (48) "Official ballot" means the ballots distributed by the election officer for voters to
284 record their votes.

285 (49) "Official endorsement" means the information on the ballot that identifies:

- 286 (a) the ballot as an official ballot;
- 287 (b) the date of the election; and
- 288 (c)(i) for a ballot prepared by an election officer other than a county clerk, the
289 facsimile signature required by Subsection 20A-6-401(1)(a)(iii); or
- 290 (ii) for a ballot prepared by a county clerk, the words required by Subsection
291 20A-6-301(1)(b)(iii).

292 (50) "Official register" means the official record furnished to election officials by the
293 election officer that contains the information required by Section 20A-5-401.

294 (51) "Political party" means an organization of registered voters that has qualified to
295 participate in an election by meeting the requirements of Chapter 8, Political Party
296 Formation and Procedures.

297 (52)(a) "Poll worker" means a person assigned by an election official to assist with an
298 election, voting, or counting votes.

299 (b) "Poll worker" includes election judges.

300 (c) "Poll worker" does not include a watcher.

301 (53) "Pollbook" means a record of the names of voters in the order that the voters appear to
302 cast votes.

303 (54) "Polling place" means a building where voting is conducted.

304 (55) "Position" means a square, circle, rectangle, or other geometric shape on a ballot in
305 which the voter marks the voter's choice.

306 (56) "Presidential Primary Election" means the election established in Chapter 9, Part 8,
307 Presidential Primary Election.

308 (57) "Primary convention" means the political party conventions held during the year of the
309 regular general election.

310 (58) "Protective counter" means a separate counter, which cannot be reset, that:

311 (a) is built into a voting machine; and

312 (b) records the total number of movements of the operating lever.

313 (59) "Provider election officer" means an election officer who enters into a contract or
314 interlocal agreement with a contracting election officer to conduct an election for the
315 contracting election officer's local political subdivision in accordance with Section
316 20A-5-400.1.

317 (60) "Provisional ballot" means a ballot voted provisionally by a person:

318 (a) whose name is not listed on the official register at the polling place;

319 (b) whose legal right to vote is challenged as provided in this title; or

320 (c) whose identity was not sufficiently established by a poll worker.

321 (61) "Provisional ballot envelope" means an envelope printed in the form required by
322 Section 20A-6-105 that is used to identify provisional ballots and to provide information
323 to verify a person's legal right to vote.

324 (62)(a) "Public figure" means an individual who, due to the individual being considered
325 for, holding, or having held a position of prominence in a public or private capacity,
326 or due to the individual's celebrity status, has an increased risk to the individual's
327 safety.

328 (b) "Public figure" does not include an individual:

329 (i) elected to public office; or

330 (ii) appointed to fill a vacancy in an elected public office.

331 (63) "Qualify" or "qualified" means to take the oath of office and begin performing the
332 duties of the position for which the individual was elected.

333 (64) "Receiving judge" means the poll worker that checks the voter's name in the official
334 register at a polling place and provides the voter with a ballot.

335 (65) "Registration form" means a form by which an individual may register to vote under
336 this title.

337 (66) "Regular ballot" means a ballot that is not a provisional ballot.

338 (67) "Regular general election" means the election held throughout the state on the first
339 Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year for the
340 purposes established in Section 20A-1-201.

341 (68) "Regular primary election" means the election, held on the date specified in Section
342 20A-1-201.5, to nominate candidates of political parties and candidates for nonpartisan
343 local school board positions to advance to the regular general election.

344 (69) "Resident" means a person who resides within a specific voting precinct in Utah.

345 (70) "Return envelope" means the envelope, described in Subsection 20A-3a-202(4),
346 provided to a voter with a manual ballot:
347 (a) into which the voter places the manual ballot after the voter has voted the manual
348 ballot in order to preserve the secrecy of the voter's vote; and
349 (b) that includes the voter affidavit and a place for the voter's signature.

350 (71) "Sample ballot" means a mock ballot similar in form to the official ballot, published as
351 provided in Section 20A-5-405.

352 (72) "Special district" means a local government entity under Title 17B, Limited Purpose
353 Local Government Entities - Special Districts, and includes a special service district
354 under Title 17D, Chapter 1, Special Service District Act.

355 (73) "Special district officers" means those special district board members who are required
356 by law to be elected.

357 (74) "Special election" means an election held as authorized by Section 20A-1-203.

358 (75) "Spoiled ballot" means each ballot that:
359 (a) is spoiled by the voter;
360 (b) is unable to be voted because it was spoiled by the printer or a poll worker; or
361 (c) lacks the official endorsement.

362 (76) "Statewide special election" means a special election called by the governor or the
363 Legislature in which all registered voters in Utah may vote.

364 (77) "Tabulation system" means a device or system designed for the sole purpose of
365 tabulating votes cast by voters at an election.

366 (78) "Ticket" means a list of:
367 (a) political parties;
368 (b) candidates for an office; or

369 (c) ballot propositions.

370 (79) "Transfer case" means the sealed box used to transport voted ballots to the counting
371 center.

372 (80) "Vacancy" means:

373 (a) except as provided in Subsection (80)(b), the absence of an individual to serve in a
374 position created by state constitution or state statute, whether that absence occurs
375 because of death, disability, disqualification, resignation, or other cause; or

376 (b) in relation to a candidate for a position created by state constitution or state statute,
377 the removal of a candidate due to the candidate's death, resignation, or
378 disqualification.

379 (81) "Valid voter identification" means:

380 (a) a form of identification that bears the name and photograph of the voter which may
381 include:

382 (i) a currently valid Utah driver license;

383 (ii) a currently valid identification card issued under Title 53, Chapter 3, Part 8,
384 Identification Card Act;

385 (iii) a currently valid identification card that is issued by:

386 (A) the state; or

387 (B) a branch, department, or agency of the United States;

388 (iv) a currently valid Utah permit to carry a concealed weapon;

389 (v) a currently valid United States passport; or

390 (vi) a currently valid United States military identification card;

391 (b) one of the following identification cards, regardless of whether the card includes a
392 photograph of the voter:

393 (i) a valid tribal identification card;

394 (ii) a Bureau of Indian Affairs card; or

395 (iii) a tribal treaty card; or

396 (c) two forms of identification not listed under Subsection (81)(a) or (b) but that bear the
397 name of the voter and provide evidence that the voter resides in the voting precinct,
398 which may include:

399 (i) before January 1, 2029, an original or copy of a current utility bill, dated no more
400 than 90 calendar days before the date of the election;

401 (ii) before January 1, 2029, an original or copy of a bank or other financial account
402 statement, dated no more than 90 calendar days before the date of the election;

- (iii) a certified birth certificate;
- (iv) a valid social security card;
- (v) an original or copy of a check issued by the state or the federal government, dated no more than 90 calendar days before the date of the election;
- (vi) an original or copy of a paycheck from the voter's employer, dated no more than 90 calendar days before the date of the election;
- (vii) a currently valid Utah hunting or fishing license;
- (viii) certified naturalization documentation;
- (ix) a currently valid license issued by an authorized agency of the United States;
- (x) a certified copy of court records showing the voter's adoption or name change;
- (xi) a valid Medicaid card, Medicare card, or Electronic Benefits Transfer [Card] card;
- (xii) a currently valid identification card issued by:
 - (A) a local government within the state;
 - (B) an employer for an employee; or
 - (C) a college, university, technical school, or professional school located within the state; or
- (xiii) a current Utah vehicle registration.

(82) "Valid write-in candidate" means a candidate who has qualified as a write-in candidate by following the procedures and requirements of this title.

(83) "Vote by mail" means to vote, using a manual ballot that is mailed to the voter, by:

- (a) mailing the ballot to the location designated in the mailing; or
- (b) depositing the ballot in a ballot drop box designated by the election officer.

(84) "Voter" means an individual who:

- (a) meets the requirements for voting in an election;
- (b) meets the requirements of election registration;
- (c) is registered to vote; and
- (d) is listed in the official register.

(85) "Voter registration deadline" means the registration deadline provided in Section 20A-2-102.5.

(86) "Voting area" means the area within six feet of the voting booths, voting machines, and ballot box.

(87) "Voting booth" means:

(a) the space or compartment within a polling place that is provided for the preparation of ballots, including the voting enclosure or curtain; or

437 (b) a voting device that is free standing.

438 (88) "Voting device" means any device provided by an election officer for a voter to vote a

439 mechanical ballot.

440 (89) "Voting precinct" means the smallest geographical voting unit, established under

441 Chapter 5, Part 3, Duties of the County and Municipal Legislative Bodies.

442 (90) "Watcher" means an individual who complies with the requirements described in

443 Section 20A-3a-801 to become a watcher for an election.

444 (91) "Write-in ballot" means a ballot containing any write-in votes.

445 (92) "Write-in vote" means a vote cast for an individual, whose name is not printed on the

446 ballot, in accordance with the procedures established in this title.

447 Section 2. Section **20A-1-609** is amended to read:

448 **20A-1-609 (Effective 05/06/26). Omnibus penalties.**

449 (1)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(b), a person who violates any provision of

450 this title is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

451 (b) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply to a provision of this title for which another penalty

452 is expressly stated.

453 (c) An individual is not guilty of a crime for, by signing a petition for an initiative or

454 referendum, falsely making the statement described in Subsection [

455 ~~20A-7-203(3)(d)(xx), 20A-7-303(3)(d)(xx), 20A-7-503(3)(d)(xx), or~~

456 ~~20A-7-603(3)(d)(xx)] 20A-7-203(3)(f)(ii), 20A-7-303(3)(f)(ii), 20A-7-503(3)(f)(ii),~~

457 or 20A-7-603(3)(f)(ii).

458 (2) Except as provided by Section 20A-2-101.3 or 20A-2-101.5, an individual convicted of

459 any offense under this title may not:

460 (a) file a declaration of candidacy for any office or appear on the ballot as a candidate

461 for any office during the election cycle in which the violation occurred;

462 (b) take or hold the office to which the individual was elected; and

463 (c) receive the emoluments of the office to which the individual was elected.

464 (3)(a) Any individual convicted of any offense under this title forfeits the right to vote at

465 any election unless the right to vote is restored as provided in Section 20A-2-101.3 or

466 20A-2-101.5.

467 (b) Any person may challenge the right to vote of a person described in Subsection (3)(a)

468 by following the procedures and requirements of Section 20A-3a-803.

469 Section 3. Section **20A-1-1001** is amended to read:

470 **20A-1-1001 (Effective 05/06/26). Definitions.**

471 As used in this part:

472 (1)(a) "Clerk" means the lieutenant governor, a county clerk, municipal clerk, town
473 clerk, city recorder, or municipal recorder.

474 (b) "Clerk" includes a board of trustees under Title 17B, Chapter 1, Provisions
475 Applicable to All Special Districts.

476 (2) "Local petition" means:

477 (a) a manual or electronic local initiative petition described in Chapter 7, Part 5, Local
478 Initiatives - Procedures; or

479 (b) a manual or electronic local referendum petition described in Chapter 7, Part 6, Local
480 Referenda - Procedures.

481 (3) "Petition" means one of the following written requests, signed by registered voters,
482 appealing to an authority with respect to a particular cause:

483 (a) a local petition;

484 (b) a petition to consolidate two or more municipalities under Section 10-2-601;

485 (c) a petition for disincorporation of a municipality under Section 10-2-701;

486 (d) a petition to incorporate a proposed municipality under Section 10-2a-208;

487 (e) a petition to consolidate adjoining counties under Section 17-61-201;

488 (f) a petition to annex a portion of a county to an adjoining county under Section
489 17-61-301;

490 (g) a petition for the creation of a new county under Section 17-61-401;

491 (h) a petition for the removal of a county seat under Section 17-60-302;

492 (i) a petition for the adoption of an optional plan under Section 17-62-303;

493 (j) a petition for the repeal of an optional plan under Section 17-62-505;

494 (k) a petition to create a special district under Section 17B-1-203;

495 (l) a petition to withdraw an area from a special district under Section 17B-1-504;

496 (m) a petition to dissolve a special district under Section 17B-1-1303;

497 (n) a petition for issuance of local building authority bonds under Section 17D-2-502;

498 (o) a petition to become a registered political party under Section 20A-8-103;

499 (p) a nomination petition for municipal office under Section 20A-9-203;

500 (q) a nomination petition for a regular primary election under Subsection
501 20A-9-403(3)(a) and Section 20A-9-405;

502 (r) a petition for a political party to qualify as a municipal political party under Section
503 20A-9-404;

504 (s) a petition for the nomination of a qualified political party under Section 20A-9-408;

505 (t) a nomination petition for a candidate not affiliated with a political party under
506 Section 20A-9-502;
507 (u) a nomination petition to become a delegate to a ratification convention under Section
508 20A-15-103;
509 (v) a petition to create a new school district under Section 53G-3-301;
510 (w) a petition to consolidate school districts under Section 53G-3-401;
511 (x) a petition to transfer a portion of a school district to another district under Section
512 53G-3-501;
513 (y) a petition to determine whether a privatization project agreement should be approved
514 under Section 73-10d-4; or
515 (z) a statewide petition.

516 (4) "Petition packet" means:

517 (a) a candidate signature packet, as defined in Section 20A-9-401.1;
518 (b) an initiative packet, as defined in Section 20A-7-101;
519 (c) a referendum packet, as defined in Section 20A-7-101; or
520 (d) any other packet of signature sheets that:
521 (i) is bound together and circulated to gather signatures for a petition; and
522 (ii) includes a cover sheet at the front of the packet and a circulator verification sheet
523 at the end of the packet.

524 [(4)] (5) "Statewide petition" means:

525 (a) a manual or electronic statewide initiative petition described in Chapter 7, Part 2,
526 Statewide Initiatives; or
527 (b) a manual or electronic statewide referendum petition described in Chapter 7, Part 3,
528 Statewide Referenda.

529 [(5)] (6)(a) "Substantially similar name" means:

530 (i) the given name, the surname, or both, provided by the individual with the
531 individual's petition signature, contain only minor spelling differences when
532 compared to the given name and surname shown on the official register;
533 (ii) the surname provided by the individual with the individual's petition signature
534 exactly matches the surname shown on the official register, and the given names
535 differ only because one of the given names shown is a commonly used
536 abbreviation or variation of the other;
537 (iii) the surname provided by the individual with the individual's petition signature
538 exactly matches the surname shown on the official register, and the given names

539 differ only because one of the given names shown is accompanied by a first or
540 middle initial or a middle name which is not shown on the other record; or

541 (iv) the surname provided by the individual with the individual's petition signature
542 exactly matches the surname shown on the official register, and the given names
543 differ only because one of the given names shown is an alphabetically
544 corresponding initial that has been provided in the place of a given name shown
545 on the other record.

546 (b) "Substantially similar name" does not include a name having an initial or a middle
547 name provided by the individual with the individual's petition signature that does not
548 match a different initial or middle name shown on the official register.

549 Section 4. Section **20A-1-1002** is amended to read:

550 **20A-1-1002 (Effective 07/01/27). Verification of voter registration -- Electronic
551 notice to petition signer.**

552 (1) A clerk shall use the following procedures to determine whether a signer of a petition is
553 a registered voter and to determine the address where the voter is registered to vote:

554 (a) if a signer's name and address provided by the individual with the individual's
555 petition signature exactly match a name and address shown on the official register
556 and the signer's signature appears substantially similar to the signature on the
557 statewide voter registration database, the clerk shall declare the signature valid for the
558 district or jurisdiction in which the signer is registered to vote;

559 (b) if there is no exact match of an address and a name, the clerk shall declare the
560 signature valid for the district or jurisdiction in which the signer is registered to vote,
561 if:

562 (i) the address provided by the individual with the individual's petition signature
563 matches the address of an individual on the official register with a substantially
564 similar name; and

565 (ii) the signer's signature appears substantially similar to the signature on the
566 statewide voter registration database of the individual described in Subsection
567 (1)(b)(i);

568 (c) if there is no match of an address and a substantially similar name, the clerk shall
569 declare the signature valid for the district or jurisdiction in which the signer is
570 registered to vote if:

571 (i) the birth date or age provided by the individual with the individual's petition
572 signature matches the birth date or age of an individual on the official register

573 with a substantially similar name; and

574 (ii) the signer's signature appears substantially similar to the signature on the
575 statewide voter registration database of the individual described in Subsection
576 (1)(c)(i).

577 (2) If a signature is not declared valid under Subsection (1)(a), (b), or (c), the clerk shall
578 declare the signature to be invalid.

579 (3) A clerk shall, within two business days after the day on which the clerk declares a
580 signer's signature valid or invalid under this section, notify the signer of the status of the
581 signer's signature by:

582 (a) sending an email notice to the signer if the signer's information in the voter
583 registration database includes an email address; and

584 (b) sending a text message notice to the signer if:

585 (i) the signer's information in the voter registration database includes a mobile
586 telephone number; and

587 (ii) the signer consented, on the signer's voter registration form, to receive official
588 communications by text at the mobile phone number.

589 (4) The notice described in Subsection (3)(a) shall:

590 (a) include the title "Notice of Signature Verification";

591 (b) identify the name or type of petition the signer signed; and

592 (c) inform the signer that the signer's signature was declared valid or invalid by the clerk.

593 Section 5. Section **20A-1-1004** is enacted to read:

594 **20A-1-1004 (Effective 05/06/26). Circulator verification sheet -- Rejection of**
595 **petition packet.**

596 (1) The final page of each petition packet shall contain a circulator verification sheet
597 featuring the following printed or typed statement to be completed by the individual who
598 gathers signatures for the petition:

599 VERIFICATION OF SIGNATURE-GATHERER

600 I, _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

601 I am at least 18 years old;

602 All the names that appear in this petition packet were signed by individuals who
603 professed to be the individuals whose names appear in it, and each of the individuals
604 signed the individual's name on it in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a
605 qualifying disability, I have signed this petition packet on the individual's behalf, at the
606 direction of the individual and in the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV"

607 as the individual's signature;

608 I certify that, for each individual whose signature is represented in this petition
609 packet by the initials AV":

610 I obtained the individual's voluntary direction or consent to sign the petition
611 packet on the individual's behalf;

612 I do not believe and do not have reason to believe that the individual lacked the
613 mental capacity to give direction or consent;

614 I do not believe and do not have reason to believe that the individual did not
615 understand the purpose or nature of my signing the petition packet on the individual's
616 behalf;

617 I did not intentionally or knowingly deceive the individual into directing me to, or
618 consenting for me to, sign the petition packet on the individual's behalf; and

619 I did not intentionally or knowingly enter false information on the signature sheet;
620 I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact related to this petition;
621 I believe that each individual's name and address is written correctly, that each signer
622 has had an opportunity to read all the information contained in the petition, and that each
623 signer is or will be registered to vote in Utah at the time the petition packet is submitted
624 for verification;

625 The correct date of signature appears next to each individual's name;

626 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this petition
627 packet to encourage that individual to sign it;

628 I understand that if I have been or will be paid to gather signatures for this petition,
629 the payment rate must be based on an hourly rate or a rate per valid signature; and
630 I completed the signature gatherer training available on the lieutenant governor's
631 website at www.vote.utah.gov before gathering signatures for this petition. Yes No
632 (Check one)

633 _____
634 (Printed Name) (Signature) (Residence Address)

635 (Date)

636 (2) A clerk shall reject a petition packet if:

637 (a) all or any portion of the circulator verification sheet described in this section is not
638 completed by the individual who gathered signatures for the petition; or
639 (b) the individual who gathered signatures for the petition checked "No" in response to
640 the signature gatherer training statement.

641 Section 6. Section **20A-1-1005** is enacted to read:

642 **20A-1-1005 (Effective 05/06/26). Online training for signature gatherers.**

643 (1) The lieutenant governor shall develop and maintain an online training course to educate
644 individuals who collect signatures for a petition.

645 (2) The training course shall:

646 (a) inform signature gatherers of the requirements, restrictions, and procedures that
647 apply to the circulation of petitions and collection of signatures, including
648 information about:

649 (i) collecting a signature from an individual with a disability; and
650 (ii) electronic signature gathering;

651 (b) emphasize compliance with the requirements, restrictions, and procedures described
652 in Subsection (2)(a);

653 (c) highlight the potential for criminal penalties for knowingly or intentionally
654 falsifying, misrepresenting, or otherwise violating applicable law in the circulation of
655 a petition and collection of signatures; and

656 (d) recommend best practices for individuals who gather signatures for a petition.

657 (3) The lieutenant governor shall make the training course described in Subsection (2)
658 available on the lieutenant governor's website.

659 (4) An individual may not gather signatures for a petition unless the individual has, before
660 collecting any signatures, completed the online training course described in this section.

661 Section 7. Section **20A-7-101** is amended to read:

662 **20A-7-101 (Effective 05/06/26). Definitions.**

663 As used in this chapter:

664 (1) "Approved device" means a device described in Subsection 20A-21-201(4) used to
665 gather signatures for the electronic initiative process, the electronic referendum process,
666 or the electronic candidate qualification process.

667 (2) "Budget officer" means:

668 (a) for a county, the person designated as finance officer as defined in Section 17-63-101;
669 (b) for a city, the person designated as budget officer in Subsection 10-6-106(4); or
670 (c) for a town, the town council.

671 (3) "Certified" means that the county clerk has acknowledged a signature as being the
672 signature of a registered voter.

673 (4) "Circulation" means the process of submitting an initiative petition or a referendum
674 petition to legal voters for their signature.

675 (5) "Condensed initiative packet" means the following components, all of which are bound
676 together as a unit in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-204(5)(b), for a statewide
677 initiative, or Subsection 20A-7-504(5)(b), for a local initiative:

678 (a) a copy of the initiative petition;
679 (b) the signature sheets; and
680 (c) the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

681 (6) "Condensed referendum packet" means the following components, all of which are
682 bound together as a unit in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-304(5)(b), for statewide
683 referendum, or Subsection 20A-7-604(5)(b), for a local referendum:

684 (a) a copy of the referendum petition;
685 (b) the signature sheets; and
686 (c) the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

687 [(5)] (7) "Electronic initiative process" means:

688 (a) as it relates to a statewide initiative, the process, described in Sections 20A-7-215
689 and 20A-21-201, for gathering signatures; or
690 (b) as it relates to a local initiative, the process, described in Sections 20A-7-514 and
691 20A-21-201, for gathering signatures.

692 [(6)] (8) "Electronic referendum process" means:

693 (a) as it relates to a statewide referendum, the process, described in Sections 20A-7-313
694 and 20A-21-201, for gathering signatures; or
695 (b) as it relates to a local referendum, the process, described in Sections 20A-7-614 and
696 20A-21-201, for gathering signatures.

697 [(7)] (9) "Eligible voter" means a legal voter who resides in the jurisdiction of the county,
698 city, or town that is holding an election on a ballot proposition.

699 [(8)] (10) "Final fiscal impact statement" means a financial statement prepared after voters
700 approve an initiative that contains the information required by Subsection
701 20A-7-202.5(2) or 20A-7-502.5(2).

702 [(9)] (11) "Initial fiscal impact statement" means a financial statement prepared under
703 Section 20A-7-202.5 after the filing of a statewide initiative application.

704 [(10)] (12) "Initial fiscal impact and legal statement" means a financial and legal statement
705 prepared under Section 20A-7-502.5 or 20A-7-602.5 for a local initiative or a local
706 referendum.

707 [(11)] (13) "Initiative" means a new law proposed for adoption by the public as provided in
708 this chapter.

709 [({12})] (14) "Initiative application" means:

- 710 (a) for a statewide initiative, an application described in Subsection 20A-7-202(2) that
711 includes all the information, statements, documents, and notarized signatures
712 required under Subsection 20A-7-202(2); or
- 713 (b) for a local initiative, an application described in Subsection 20A-7-502(2) that
714 includes all the information, statements, documents, and notarized signatures
715 required under Subsection 20A-7-502(2).

716 [({13})] (15) "Initiative packet" means [a copy of the initiative petition, a copy of the proposed
717 law, and the signature sheets, all of which have been bound together as a unit.] :

- 718 (a) a traditional initiative packet; or
- 719 (b) a condensed initiative packet.

720 [({14})] (16) "Initiative petition":

- 721 (a) as it relates to a statewide initiative, using the manual initiative process:
 - 722 (i) means the form described in Subsection 20A-7-203(2)(a), petitioning for
723 submission of the initiative to the Legislature or the legal voters; [-and]
724 (ii) [if the initiative proposes a tax increase,] includes the statement described in
725 Subsection 20A-7-203(2)(b)[;], if the initiative proposes a tax increase; and
726 (iii) includes the statement described in Subsection 20A-7-203(2)(c), if:
 - 727 (A) the initiative proposes a law other than a tax increase; and
 - 728 (B) the form described in Subsection 20A-7-203(2)(a) is part of a condensed
729 initiative packet;
- 730 (b) as it relates to a statewide initiative, using the electronic initiative process:
 - 731 (i) means the form described in Subsections 20A-7-215(2) and (3), petitioning for
732 submission of the initiative to the Legislature or the legal voters; and
733 (ii) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, includes the statement described in
734 Subsection 20A-7-215(5)(b);
- 735 (c) as it relates to a local initiative, using the manual initiative process:
 - 736 (i) means the form described in Subsection 20A-7-503(2)(a), petitioning for
737 submission of the initiative to the legislative body or the legal voters; [-and]
738 (ii) [if the initiative proposes a tax increase,] includes the statement described in
739 Subsection 20A-7-503(2)(b)[;], if the initiative proposes a tax increase; and
740 (iii) includes the statement described in Subsection 20A-7-503(2)(c), if:
 - 741 (A) the initiative proposes a law other than a tax increase; and
 - 742 (B) the form described in Subsection 20A-7-503(2)(a) is part of a condensed

initiative packet; or

(d) as it relates to a local initiative, using the electronic initiative process:

(i) means the form described in Subsection 20A-7-514(2)(a), petitioning for submission of the initiative to the legislative body or the legal voters; and

(ii) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, includes the statement described in Subsection 20A-7-514(4)(a).

[15] (17)(a) "Land use law" means a law of general applicability, enacted based on the weighing of broad, competing policy considerations, that relates to the use of land, including a land use regulation, a general plan, a land use development code, an annexation ordinance, the rezoning of a single property or multiple properties, or a comprehensive zoning ordinance or resolution.

(b) "Land use law" does not include a land use decision, as defined in Section 10-20-102 or 17-79-102.

[16] (18) "Legal signatures" means the number of signatures of legal voters that:

(a) meet the numerical requirements of this chapter; and

(b) have been obtained, certified, and verified as provided in this chapter.

[17] (19) "Legal voter" means an individual who is registered to vote in Utah.

[~~(18)~~] (20) "Legally referable to voters" means:

(a) for a proposed local initiative, that the proposed local initiative is legally referable to voters under Section 20A-7-502.7; or

(b) for a proposed local referendum, that the proposed local referendum is legally referable to voters under Section 20A-7-602.7.

[{19}] (21) "Local attorney" means the county attorney, city attorney, or town attorney in whose jurisdiction a local initiative or referendum petition is circulated.

[{20}] (22) "Local clerk" means the county clerk, city recorder, or town clerk in whose jurisdiction a local initiative or referendum petition is circulated.

[~~(21)~~] (23)(a) "Local law" includes:

(i) an ordinance;

(ii) a resolution;

(iii) a land use law;

(iv) a land use regulation, as defined in Section 10-20-102; or

(v) other legislative action of a local legislative body.

(b) "Local law" does not include a land use decision, as defined in Section 10-20-102.

[{22}] (24) "Local legislative body" means the legislative body of a county, city, or town.

777 [23] (25) "Local obligation law" means a local law passed by the local legislative body
778 regarding a bond that was approved by a majority of qualified voters in an election.

779 [24] (26) "Local tax law" means a law, passed by a political subdivision with an annual or
780 biannual calendar fiscal year, that increases a tax or imposes a new tax.

781 [25] (27) "Manual initiative process" means the process for gathering signatures for an
782 initiative using paper signature packets that a signer physically signs.

783 [26] (28) "Manual referendum process" means the process for gathering signatures for a
784 referendum using paper signature packets that a signer physically signs.

785 [27] (29)(a) "Measure" means a proposed constitutional amendment, an initiative, or
786 referendum.

787 (b) "Measure" does not include a ballot proposition for the creation of a new school
788 district under Section 53G-3-301.1, 53G-3-301.3, or 53G-3-301.4.

789 [28] (30) "Presiding officers" means the president of the Senate and the speaker of the
790 House of Representatives.

791 [29] (31) "Referendum" means a process by which a law passed by the Legislature or by a
792 local legislative body is submitted or referred to the voters for their approval or rejection.

793 [30] (32) "Referendum application" means:

794 (a) for a statewide referendum, an application described in Subsection 20A-7-302(2) that
795 includes all the information, statements, documents, and notarized signatures
796 required under Subsection 20A-7-302(2); or

797 (b) for a local referendum, an application described in Subsection 20A-7-602(2) that
798 includes all the information, statements, documents, and notarized signatures
799 required under Subsection 20A-7-602(2).

800 [31] (33) "Referendum packet" means [a copy of the referendum petition, a copy of the
801 law being submitted or referred to the voters for their approval or rejection, and the
802 signature sheets, all of which have been bound together as a unit.] :

803 (a) a traditional referendum packet; or
804 (b) a condensed referendum packet.

805 [32] (34) "Referendum petition" means:

806 (a) as it relates to a statewide referendum, using the manual referendum process, the
807 form described in Subsection [20A-7-303(2)(a)] 20A-7-303(2), petitioning for
808 submission of a law passed by the Legislature to legal voters for their approval or
809 rejection;

810 (b) as it relates to a statewide referendum, using the electronic referendum process, the

811 form described in Subsection 20A-7-313(2), petitioning for submission of a law
812 passed by the Legislature to legal voters for their approval or rejection;
813 (c) as it relates to a local referendum, using the manual referendum process, the form
814 described in Subsection [20A-7-603(2)(a)] 20A-7-603(2), petitioning for submission
815 of a local law to legal voters for their approval or rejection; or
816 (d) as it relates to a local referendum, using the electronic referendum process, the form
817 described in Subsection 20A-7-614(2), petitioning for submission of a local law to
818 legal voters for their approval or rejection.

819 [({33})] (35) "Signature":

820 (a) for a statewide initiative:
821 (i) as it relates to the electronic initiative process, means an electronic signature
822 collected under Section 20A-7-215 and Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(c); or
823 (ii) as it relates to the manual initiative process:
824 (A) means a holographic signature collected physically on a signature sheet
825 described in Section 20A-7-203;
826 (B) as it relates to an individual who, due to a qualifying disability under the
827 Americans with Disabilities Act, is unable to fill out the signature sheet or to
828 sign the voter's name consistently, the initials "AV," indicating that the voter's
829 identity will be verified by an alternate verification process described in
830 Section 20A-7-106; and
831 (C) does not include an electronic signature;
832 (b) for a statewide referendum:
833 (i) as it relates to the electronic referendum process, means an electronic signature
834 collected under Section 20A-7-313 and Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(c); or
835 (ii) as it relates to the manual referendum process:
836 (A) means a holographic signature collected physically on a signature sheet
837 described in Section 20A-7-303;
838 (B) as it relates to an individual who, due to a qualifying disability under the
839 Americans with Disabilities Act, is unable to fill out the signature sheet or to
840 sign the voter's name consistently, the initials "AV," indicating that the voter's
841 identity will be verified by an alternate verification process described in
842 Section 20A-7-106; and
843 (C) does not include an electronic signature;
844 (c) for a local initiative:

845 (i) as it relates to the electronic initiative process, means an electronic signature
846 collected under Section 20A-7-514 and Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(c); or
847 (ii) as it relates to the manual initiative process:
848 (A) means a holographic signature collected physically on a signature sheet
849 described in Section 20A-7-503;
850 (B) as it relates to an individual who, due to a qualifying disability under the
851 Americans with Disabilities Act, is unable to fill out the signature sheet or to
852 sign the voter's name consistently, the initials "AV," indicating that the voter's
853 identity will be verified by an alternate verification process described in
854 Section 20A-7-106; and
855 (C) does not include an electronic signature; or
856 (d) for a local referendum:
857 (i) as it relates to the electronic referendum process, means an electronic signature
858 collected under Section 20A-7-614 and Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(c); or
859 (ii) as it relates to the manual referendum process:
860 (A) means a holographic signature collected physically on a signature sheet
861 described in Section 20A-7-603;
862 (B) as it relates to an individual who, due to a qualifying disability under the
863 Americans with Disabilities Act, is unable to fill out the signature sheet or to
864 sign the voter's name consistently, the initials "AV," indicating that the voter's
865 identity will be verified by an alternate verification process described in
866 Section 20A-7-106; and
867 (C) does not include an electronic signature.

868 [~~(34)~~] (36) "Signature sheets" means sheets in the form required by this chapter that are used
869 under the manual initiative process or the manual referendum process to collect
870 signatures in support of an initiative or referendum.

871 [~~(35)~~] (37) "Special local ballot proposition" means a local ballot proposition that is not a
872 standard local ballot proposition.

873 (38)(a) "Sponsor liaison" means an individual designated by the sponsors of an initiative
874 or referendum to:

875 (i) receive communications from Office of the Lieutenant Governor; and
876 (ii) communicate with and act on behalf of the sponsors regarding the initiative or
877 referendum.

878 (b) "Sponsor liaison" includes a sponsor or another individual designated by the

sponsors.

[(36)] (39) "Sponsors" means the legal voters who support the initiative or referendum and who sign the initiative application or referendum application.

[{37}] (40)(a) "Standard local ballot proposition" means a local ballot proposition for an initiative or a referendum.

(b) "Standard local ballot proposition" does not include a property tax referendum described in Section 20A-7-613.

(41) "Traditional initiative packet" means the following components, all of which are bound together as a unit in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-204(5)(b), for a statewide initiative, or Subsection 20A-7-504(5)(b), for a local initiative:

(a) a copy of:

(i) the initiative petition; and

(ii) the law proposed by the initiative petition;

(b) the signature sheets; and

(c) the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

(42) "Traditional referendum packet" means the following components, all of which are bound together as a unit in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-304(5)(b), for a statewide referendum, or Subsection 20A-7-604(5)(b), for a local referendum:

(a) a copy of:

(i) the referendum petition; and

(ii) the law being submitted or referred to the voters for approval or rejection;

(b) the signature sheets; and

(c) the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

[(38)] (43) "Tax percentage difference" means the difference between the tax rate proposed by an initiative or an initiative petition and the current tax rate.

[39] (44) "Tax percentage increase" means a number calculated by dividing the tax percentage difference by the current tax rate and rounding the result to the nearest thousandth.

[(40)] (45) "Verified" means acknowledged by the person circulating the petition as required in Section 20A-7-105.

Section 8. Section **20A-7-104** is amended to read:

20A-7-104 (Effective 05/06/26). Signature gatherers -- Payments -- Badges --

Information -- Requirement to provide initiative or referendum for reading.

(1) A person may not pay a person to gather signatures under this chapter [based on a rate

913 per signature, on a rate per verified signature, or on the initiative or referendum
914 qualifying for the ballot.] unless the payment is based on:
915 (a) an hourly rate; or
916 (b) a rate per signature declared valid under Section 20A-1-1002.

917 [(2) A person that pays a person to gather signatures under this section shall base the
918 payment solely on an hourly rate.]

919 [(3)] (2) A person may not accept payment made in violation of this section.

920 [(4)] (3) An individual who is paid to gather signatures for a petition described in this
921 chapter shall, while gathering signatures, wear a badge on the front of the individual's
922 torso that complies with the following, ensuring that the information on the badge is
923 clearly visible to the individual from whom a signature is sought:

924 (a) the badge shall be printed in black ink on white cardstock and laminated; and
925 (b) the information on the badge shall be in at least 24-point type and include the
926 following information:

927 (i) an identification number that is unique to the individual gathering signatures,
928 assigned by:
929 (A) for a statewide initiative or referendum, the lieutenant governor; or
930 (B) for a local initiative or referendum, the local clerk;
931 (ii) the title of the initiative or referendum;
932 (iii) the words "Paid Signature Gatherer"; and
933 (iv) the name of the entity paying the signature gatherer.

934 [(5)] (4) An individual who gathers signatures under this chapter shall offer a paper
935 document to each individual who signs the petition that:

936 (a) is printed in black ink on white paper, white cardstock, or a white sticker, in at least
937 12-point type; and
938 (b)(i) for an initiative, includes the name of the initiative and the following statement:

939 "You may view the initiative, its fiscal impact, and information on removing your
940 signature from the petition at [list a uniform resource locator that links directly to the
941 information described in Section 20A-7-202.7 or 20A-7-502.6, as applicable]."; or

942 (ii) for a referendum, includes the name of the referendum and the following statement:
943 "You may view the referendum and information on removing your signature from the
944 petition at [list a uniform resource locator that links directly to the information described in
945 Section 20A-7-304.5 or 20A-7-604.5, as applicable]."

946 [(6)] (5) An individual who gathers signatures under this chapter shall, before collecting a

947 signature from an individual, present to the individual a printed or digital copy of the
948 initiative or referendum and wait for the individual to read the initiative or referendum.

949 [~~(7)~~] (6) A person who violates this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

950 Section 9. Section **20A-7-105** is amended to read:

951 **20A-7-105 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual petition processes -- Obtaining**
952 **signatures -- Verification -- Submitting the petition -- Certification of signatures --**
953 **Transfer to lieutenant governor -- Removal of signature.**

954 (1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process and the manual referendum
955 process.

956 (2) As used in this section:

957 (a) "Local petition" means:

958 (i) a manual local initiative petition described in Part 5, Local Initiatives -
959 Procedures; or

960 (ii) a manual local referendum petition described in Part 6, Local Referenda -
961 Procedures.

962 (b) "Packet" means an initiative packet or referendum packet.

963 (c) "Petition" means a local petition or statewide petition.

964 (d) "Statewide petition" means:

965 (i) a manual statewide initiative petition described in Part 2, Statewide Initiatives; or
966 (ii) a manual statewide referendum petition described in Part 3, Statewide Referenda.

967 (3)(a) A Utah voter may sign a statewide petition if the voter is a legal voter.

968 (b) A Utah voter may sign a local petition if the voter:

969 (i) is a legal voter; and

970 (ii) resides in the local jurisdiction.

971 (4)(a) The sponsors shall ensure that the individual in whose presence each signature
972 sheet was signed:

973 (i) is at least 18 years old;

974 (ii) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification printed on the last
975 page of each packet; and

976 (iii) is informed [~~that each signer is required to read and understand:~~] that, before
977 signing a signature sheet, a signer is required to have an opportunity to read and
978 understand:

979 (A) for an initiative petition, the law proposed by the initiative; or

980 (B) for a referendum petition, the law that the referendum seeks to overturn.

981 (b) An individual may not sign the verification printed on the last page of a packet if the
982 individual signed a signature sheet in the packet.

983 (5)(a) The sponsors, or an agent of the sponsors, shall submit a signed and verified
984 packet to the county clerk of the county in which the packet was circulated before 5
985 p.m. no later than the earlier of:

986 (i) for a statewide initiative:

- 987 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
988 the first individual signs the initiative packet;
- 989 (B) the last business day that is no more than 316 calendar days after the day on
990 which the application for the initiative petition is filed; or
- 991 (C) the February 15 immediately before the next regular general election
992 immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-202;

993 (ii) for a statewide referendum:

- 994 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
995 the first individual signs the referendum packet; or
- 996 (B) the first business day that is at least 40 calendar days after the day on which
997 the legislative session at which the law passed ends;

998 (iii) for a local initiative:

- 999 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
1000 the first individual signs the initiative packet;
- 1001 (B) the last business day that is no more than 316 calendar days after the day on
1002 which the application is filed;
- 1003 (C) the April 15 immediately before the next regular general election immediately
1004 after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-502, if the local initiative is a
1005 county initiative; or
- 1006 (D) the April 15 immediately before the next municipal general election
1007 immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-502, if the local
1008 initiative is a municipal initiative; or

1009 (iv) for a local referendum:

- 1010 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
1011 the first individual signs the referendum packet; or
- 1012 (B) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which
1013 the sponsors receive the items described in Subsection 20A-7-604(3) from the
1014 local clerk.

1015 (b) [A person may not submit a packet after the applicable deadline described in
1016 Subsection (5)(a)] A person may not mark, redact, or otherwise alter a signature sheet
1017 in a manner that obscures, conceals, or renders illegible a signer's date of signature or
1018 other information provided by the signer that is used for verification under this section.

1019 (c) Before delivering an initiative packet to the county clerk under this Subsection (5),
1020 the sponsors shall send an email to each individual who provides a legible, valid
1021 email address on the signature sheet that includes the following:

1022 (i) the subject of the email shall include the following statement, "Notice Regarding
1023 Your Petition Signature"; and

1024 (ii) the body of the email shall include the following statement in 12-point type:

1025 "You signed a petition for the following initiative:

1026 [insert title of initiative]

1027 To access a copy of the initiative petition, the initiative, the fiscal impact statement, and
1028 information on the deadline for removing your signature from the petition, please visit the
1029 following link: [insert a uniform resource locator that takes the individual directly to the page
1030 on the lieutenant governor's or county clerk's website that includes the information referred to
1031 in the email]."

1032 (d) For a statewide initiative, the sponsors shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the day on which
1033 the sponsors submit the last initiative packet to the county clerk, submit to the
1034 lieutenant governor:

1035 (i) a list containing:

1036 (A) the name and email address of each individual the sponsors sent, or caused to
1037 be sent, the email described in Subsection (5)(c); and

1038 (B) the date the email was sent;

1039 (ii) a copy of the email described in Subsection (5)(c); and

1040 (iii) the following written verification, completed and signed by each of the sponsors:

1041 "Verification of initiative sponsor State of Utah, County of _____ I, _____,
1042 of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

1043 I am a sponsor of the initiative petition entitled _____; and

1044 I sent, or caused to be sent, to each individual who provided a legible, valid email
1045 address on a signature sheet submitted to the county clerk in relation to the initiative petition,
1046 the email described in Utah Code Subsection 20A-7-105(5)(c).

1047 _____ [-] _____

1048 _____

1049 [Name] (Printed Name) (Signature) (Residence)
1050 Address)
1051 (Date)"[.]
1052 (e) For a local initiative, the sponsors shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the day on which the
1053 sponsors submit the last initiative packet to the local clerk, submit to the local clerk
1054 the items described in Subsection (5)(d).
1055 (f) Signatures gathered for an initiative petition are not valid if the sponsors do not
1056 comply with Subsection (5)(c), (d), or (e).
1057 (6)(a) Within 21 calendar days after the day on which the county clerk receives the
1058 packet, the county clerk shall:
1059 (i) use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002, or 20A-7-106 if applicable,
1060 to determine whether each signer is a legal voter and, as applicable, the
1061 jurisdiction where the signer is registered to vote;
1062 (ii) for a statewide initiative or a statewide referendum:
1063 (A) certify on the petition whether each name is that of a legal voter; and
1064 (B) post the name, voter identification number, and ~~date of signature of each~~
1065 ~~legal voter] the date the signature of each legal voter was~~ certified under
1066 Subsection (6)(a)(ii)(A) on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous
1067 location designated by the lieutenant governor; and
1068 [(C) ~~deliver the verified packet to the lieutenant governor;~~]
1069 (iii) for a local initiative or a local referendum:
1070 (A) certify on the petition whether each name is that of a legal voter who is
1071 registered in the jurisdiction to which the initiative or referendum relates;
1072 (B) post the name, voter identification number, and date of signature of each legal
1073 voter certified under Subsection (6)(a)(iii)(A) on the lieutenant governor's
1074 website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor; and
1075 (C) deliver the verified packet to the local clerk.
1076 (b)(i) For a statewide initiative or statewide referendum, the county clerk shall, no
1077 later than seven calendar days after the last day the county clerk makes the posting
1078 described in Subsection (6)(a)(ii)(B), certify the following information to the
1079 lieutenant governor:
1080 (A) the total number of verified packets in the county clerk's possession;
1081 (B) the total number of signatures verified by the county clerk;
1082 (C) of the number described in Subsection (6)(b)(i)(B), the number of signatures

the county clerk declared valid and invalid under Section 20A-1-1002; and

(D) a breakdown of the number of invalid signatures, categorized by the reason for invalidity; and

(ii) After a county clerk sends the certification described in Subsection (6)(b)(i) to the lieutenant governor, the county clerk shall retain and preserve each verified packet in the manner described in Subsection 20A-4-202(2).

(c) For a local initiative or local referendum, the local clerk shall post a link in a conspicuous location on the local government's website to the posting described in Subsection (6)(a)(iii)(B):

(i) for a local initiative, during the period of time described in Subsection 20A-7-507(3)(a); or

(ii) for a local referendum, during the period of time described in Subsection 20A-7-607(2)(a)(i).

(7) The county clerk may not certify a signature under Subsection [(6)] (6)(a):

(a) on a packet that is not verified in accordance with Subsection [(4)] (4)(a)(ii); **[or]**

(b) that does not have a date of signature next to the signature[-] ; or

(c) if the date of signature is later than the applicable deadline described in Subsection (5)(a).

(8) Beginning on January 1, 2027, an election officer shall, within two business days after the day on which the county clerk determines the signer of an initiative is a legal voter eligible to sign a signature sheet, send the following email notice to the signer if the signer's voter registration record includes a valid email address:

(a) the subject of the email shall include the following statement, "Notice Regarding Your Petition Signature"; and

(b) the body of the email shall include the following statement in 12-point type:

"You signed a petition for the following initiative:

[insert title of initiative]

To access a copy of the initiative petition, the initiative, the fiscal impact

statement, and information on the deadline for removing your signature from the petition, please visit the following link: [insert a uniform resource locator that takes the individual directly to the page on the lieutenant governor's or county clerk's website that includes the information referred to in the email]."

[(8)] (9)(a) A voter who signs a statewide initiative petition may have the voter's signature removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-100

1116 submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be
1117 removed no later than 5 p.m. the earlier of:

1118 (i) for an initiative packet received by the county clerk before December 1:
1119 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
1120 the voter signs the signature removal statement; or
1121 (B) the first business day that is at least 90 calendar days after the day on which
1122 the lieutenant governor posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-207(2);
1123 or
1124 (ii) for an initiative packet received by the county clerk on or after December 1:
1125 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
1126 the voter signs the signature removal statement; or
1127 (B) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which
1128 the lieutenant governor posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-207(2).

1129 (b) A voter who signs a statewide referendum petition may have the voter's signature
1130 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to
1131 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later
1132 than 5 p.m. the earlier of:

1133 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the
1134 voter signs the statement requesting removal; or
1135 (ii) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the
1136 lieutenant governor posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-307(2).

1137 (c) A voter who signs a local initiative petition may have the voter's signature removed
1138 from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to the
1139 county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later than
1140 5 p.m. the earlier of:

1141 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the
1142 voter signs the signature removal statement;
1143 (ii) the first business day that is at least 90 calendar days after the day on which the
1144 local clerk posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-507(2);
1145 (iii) the last business day that is no more than 316 calendar days after the day on
1146 which the application is filed; or
1147 (iv)(A) for a county initiative, April 15 immediately before the next regular
1148 general election immediately after the application is filed under Section
1149 20A-7-502; or

1150 (B) for a municipal initiative, April 15 immediately before the next municipal
1151 general election immediately after the application is filed under Section
1152 20A-7-502.

1153 (d) A voter who signs a local referendum petition may have the voter's signature
1154 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to
1155 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later
1156 than 5 p.m. the earlier of:
1157 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the
1158 voter signs the statement requesting removal; or
1159 (ii) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the
1160 local clerk posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-607(2)(a).

1161 (e) In order for the signature to be removed, the county clerk must receive the statement
1162 described in this Subsection [(8)] (9) before 5 p.m. no later than the applicable
1163 deadline described in this Subsection [(8)] (9).
1164 (f) A county clerk shall analyze a signature, for purposes of removing a signature from a
1165 petition, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(3).

1166 [(9)] (10)(a) If the county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal
1167 under Subsection [(8)] (9) and determines that the signature should be removed from
1168 the petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the county clerk shall:
1169 (i) ensure that the voter's name, voter identification number, and date of signature are
1170 not included in the posting described in Subsection (6)(a)(ii)(B) or (iii)(B); and
1171 (ii) remove the voter's signature from the signature packets and signature packet
1172 totals.

1173 (b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection [(9)(a)] (10)(a) before the later of:
1174 (i) the deadline described in Subsection (6)(a); or
1175 (ii) two business days after the day on which the county clerk receives a statement
1176 requesting signature removal under Subsection [(8)] (9).

1177 [(10)] (11) A person may not retrieve a packet from a county clerk, or make any alterations
1178 or corrections to a packet, after the packet is submitted to the county clerk.

1179 Section 10. Section **20A-7-201** is amended to read:

1180 **20A-7-201 (Effective 05/06/26). Statewide initiatives -- Signature requirements --**

1181 **Submission to the Legislature or to a vote of the people.**

1182 (1)(a) A person seeking to have an initiative submitted to the Legislature for approval or
1183 rejection shall, after filing an initiative application, obtain:

1184 (i) legal signatures equal to 4% of the number of active voters in the state on January
1185 1 immediately following the last regular general election; and
1186 (ii) from at least 26 Utah State Senate districts, legal signatures equal to 4% of the
1187 number of active voters in that district on January 1 immediately following the
1188 last regular general election.

1189 (b) If, at any time not less than 10 calendar days before the beginning of the next annual
1190 general session of the Legislature, the lieutenant governor declares that an initiative
1191 petition designated under Subsection [20A-7-202(2)(e)(i)] 20A-7-202(2)(d)(i) for
1192 submission to the Legislature is signed by a sufficient number of voters to meet the
1193 requirements of Subsection (1)(a), the lieutenant governor shall deliver a copy of the
1194 initiative petition, the text of the proposed law, and the cover sheet described in
1195 Subsection (1)(c) to the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House, and the
1196 director of the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1197 (c) The lieutenant governor shall prepare a cover sheet for a petition declared sufficient
1198 under Subsection (1)(b) that contains:
1199 (i) the number of active voters in the state on January 1 immediately following the
1200 last regular general election;
1201 (ii) the number of active voters in each Utah State Senate district on January 1
1202 immediately following the last regular general election;
1203 (iii) the total number of certified signatures obtained for the initiative petition; and
1204 (iv) the total number of certified signatures obtained from each Utah State Senate
1205 district for the initiative petition.

1206 (2)(a) A person seeking to have an initiative submitted to a vote of the people for
1207 approval or rejection shall, after filing an initiative application, obtain:
1208 (i) legal signatures equal to 8% of the number of active voters in the state on January
1209 1 immediately following the last regular general election; and
1210 (ii) from at least 26 Utah State Senate districts, legal signatures equal to 8% of the
1211 number of active voters in that district on January 1 immediately following the
1212 last regular general election.

1213 (b) If an initiative petition meets the requirements of this part and the lieutenant
1214 governor declares that the initiative petition is signed by a sufficient number of voters
1215 to meet the requirements of Subsection (2)(a), the lieutenant governor shall submit
1216 the proposed law to a vote of the people at the next regular general election:
1217 (i) immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-202; and

(ii) specified on the petition under Section 20A-7-203.

(3) The lieutenant governor shall provide the following information to any interested person:

- (a) the number of active voters in the state on January 1 immediately following the last regular general election; and
- (b) for each Utah State Senate district, the number of active voters in that district on January 1 immediately following the last regular general election.

Section 11. Section **20A-7-202** is amended to read:

20A-7-202 (Effective 05/06/26). Statewide initiative process -- Initiative application procedures -- Time to gather signatures -- Grounds for rejection.

- (1) Individuals wishing to circulate an initiative petition shall file an initiative application with the lieutenant governor.
- (2) The initiative application shall include:
 - (a) the name and residence address of at least five sponsors of the initiative petition;
 - (b) a statement indicating that each of the sponsors is registered to vote in Utah;
 - (c) a statement designating a sponsor liaison, including the sponsor liaison's name, residence address, telephone number, and email address;
 - [~~(e)~~] (d) a statement indicating whether the initiative will be presented to:
 - (i) the Legislature under Subsection 20A-7-201(1); or
 - (ii) a vote of the people under Subsection 20A-7-201(2);
 - [~~(d)~~] (e) the signature of each of the sponsors, attested to by a notary public; and
 - [~~(e)~~] (f) the following, in the following order:
 - (i) the title of the proposed law that clearly expresses the subject of the law;
 - (ii) except as provided in Subsection (3)(c), a description of the manner in which the proposed law will be funded, including:
 - (A) all proposed sources of funding for the costs associated with the proposed law, including the proposed percentage of total funding from each source;
 - (B) if the proposed law will be funded, in whole or in part, by a new tax, a description of the new tax and the tax rate;
 - (C) if the proposed law will be funded, in whole or in part, by a tax increase, the following statement for each tax increase, "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent increase in the current tax rate.;"
 - (D) if the proposed law will be funded, in whole or in part, from new revenues, a

1252 description of the amount and source of the new revenues; and

1253 (E) if the proposed law will be funded, in whole or in part, from existing revenues,

1254 a description of the existing line items or programs that will receive less

1255 funding in order to fund the proposed law and the amount by which the

1256 funding will be reduced;

1257 (iii) a statement indicating whether persons gathering signatures for the initiative

1258 petition may be paid for gathering signatures; and

1259 (iv) the text of the proposed law.

1260 (3)(a) An individual's status as a resident, under Subsection (2), is determined in

1261 accordance with Section 20A-2-105.

1262 (b) The initiative application and the initiative application's contents are public when

1263 filed with the lieutenant governor.

1264 (c) If the fiscal impact of the law proposed by an initiative is less than the amount

1265 specified by joint legislative rule for designating a bill as a fiscal note bill:

1266 (i) the initiative application is not required to include the description described in

1267 Subsection [(2)(e)(ii)] (2)(f)(ii); and

1268 (ii) the lieutenant governor may not reject the initiative application or initiative

1269 application addendum under Subsection (5)(c).

1270 (4) If the initiative petition fails to qualify for the ballot of the election described in

1271 Subsection 20A-7-201(2)(b), the sponsors shall:

1272 (a) submit a new initiative application;

1273 (b) obtain new signature sheets; and

1274 (c) collect signatures again.

1275 (5) The lieutenant governor shall reject an initiative application or an initiative application

1276 addendum filed under Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5) and not issue signature sheets if:

1277 (a) the proposed law:

1278 (i) is unconstitutional;

1279 (ii) is nonsensical;

1280 (iii) could not become law if passed;

1281 (iv) contains more than one subject as evaluated in accordance with Subsection (6); or

1282 (v) is identical or substantially similar to a law proposed by an initiative for which

1283 signatures were submitted to the county clerks and lieutenant governor for

1284 certification within two years preceding the date on which the initiative

1285 application for the new initiative is filed;

1286 (b) the subject of the proposed law is not clearly expressed in the law's title; or
1287 (c) except as provided in Subsection (3)(c), the lieutenant governor determines, after
1288 consultation with the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, that the funding
1289 description, described in Subsection [(2)(e)(ii)] (2)(f)(ii):
1290 (i) does not comply with the requirements of Subsection [(2)(e)(ii)] (2)(f)(ii); or
1291 (ii) is unlikely to provide adequate funding for the proposed law.

1292 (6) To evaluate whether the proposed law contains more than one subject under Subsection
1293 (5)(a)(iv), the lieutenant governor shall apply the same standard provided in Utah
1294 Constitution, Article VI, Section 22, which prohibits a bill from passing that contains
1295 more than one subject.

1296 Section 12. Section **20A-7-202.5** is amended to read:

1297 **20A-7-202.5 (Effective 05/06/26). Initial fiscal impact statement -- Preparation of
1298 statement -- Challenge to statement.**

1299 (1) Within three business days after the day on which the lieutenant governor receives an
1300 initiative application, the lieutenant governor shall submit a copy of the initiative
1301 application to the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst.

1302 (2)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the Office of the Legislative Fiscal
1303 Analyst shall prepare an unbiased, good faith initial fiscal impact statement for the
1304 proposed law, not exceeding 100 words plus 100 words per revenue source created or
1305 impacted by the proposed law, that contains:
1306 (i) a description of the total estimated fiscal impact of the proposed law over the time
1307 period or time periods determined by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst
1308 to be most useful in understanding the estimated fiscal impact of the proposed law;
1309 (ii) if the proposed law would increase taxes, decrease taxes, or impose a new tax, a
1310 dollar amount representing the total estimated increase or decrease for each type
1311 of tax affected under the proposed law, a dollar amount showing the estimated
1312 amount of a new tax, and a dollar amount representing the total estimated increase
1313 or decrease in taxes under the proposed law;
1314 (iii) if the proposed law would increase a particular tax or tax rate, the tax percentage
1315 difference and the tax percentage increase for each tax or tax rate increased;
1316 (iv) if the proposed law will be funded, in whole or in part, from new revenues, a
1317 description of the amount and source of the new revenues;
1318 (v) if the proposed law will be funded, in whole or in part, from existing revenues, a
1319 description of:

1320 (A) the existing line items or programs that will receive less funding in order to
1321 fund the proposed law and the amount by which the funding will be reduced;
1322 and

1323 (B) the likely impact of the reduction in funding described in Subsection
1324 (2)(a)(v)(A);

1325 (vi) if the proposed law would result in the issuance or a change in the status of
1326 bonds, notes, or other debt instruments, a dollar amount representing the total
1327 estimated increase or decrease in public debt under the proposed law;

1328 (vii) a dollar amount representing the estimated cost or savings, if any, to state or
1329 local government entities under the proposed law;

1330 (viii) if the proposed law would increase costs to state government, a listing of all
1331 sources of funding for the estimated costs; and

1332 (ix) a concise description and analysis titled "Funding Source," not to exceed 100
1333 words for each funding source, of the funding source information described in
1334 Subsection [20A-7-202(2)(e)(ii)] 20A-7-202(2)(f)(ii).

1335 (b) If the proposed law is estimated to have fiscal impact of less than the amount specified by
1336 joint legislative rule for designating a bill as a fiscal note bill, the Office of the Legislative
1337 Fiscal Analyst shall prepare the initial fiscal impact statement to read substantially as follows:
1338 "The Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst estimates that the law proposed by this
1339 initiative would have no significant fiscal impact and would not result in either an increase or
1340 decrease in taxes or debt."

1341 (3) Within 25 calendar days after the day on which the lieutenant governor delivers a copy
1342 of the initiative application, the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall:

1343 (a) send a copy of the initial fiscal impact statement to the lieutenant governor's office;
1344 and

1345 (b) send a copy of the initial fiscal impact statement to the first five sponsors named in
1346 the initiative application.

1347 (4)(a)(i) Three or more of the sponsors of the initiative petition may, within 20
1348 calendar days after the day on which the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst
1349 delivers the initial fiscal impact statement to the lieutenant governor's office, file a
1350 petition with the appropriate court, alleging that the initial fiscal impact statement,
1351 taken as a whole, is an inaccurate estimate of the fiscal impact of the initiative.

1352 (ii) After receipt of the appeal, the court shall direct the lieutenant governor to send
1353 notice of the petition filed with the court to:

1354 (A) any person or group that has filed an argument with the lieutenant governor's
1355 office for or against the initiative that is the subject of the challenge; and
1356 (B) any political issues committee established under Section 20A-11-801 that has
1357 filed written or electronic notice with the lieutenant governor that identifies the
1358 name, mailing or email address, and telephone number of the person
1359 designated to receive notice about any issues relating to the initiative.

1360 (b)(i) There is a presumption that the initial fiscal impact statement prepared by the
1361 Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst is based upon reasonable assumptions,
1362 uses reasonable data, and applies accepted analytical methods to present the
1363 estimated fiscal impact of the initiative.
1364 (ii) The court may not revise the contents of, or direct the revision of, the initial fiscal
1365 impact statement unless the plaintiffs rebut the presumption by clear and
1366 convincing evidence that establishes that the initial fiscal impact statement, taken
1367 as a whole, is an inaccurate statement of the estimated fiscal impact of the
1368 initiative.

1369 (iii) The court may refer an issue related to the initial fiscal impact statement to a
1370 master to examine the issue and make a report in accordance with Utah Rules of
1371 Civil Procedure, Rule 53.

1372 (c) The court shall certify to the lieutenant governor a fiscal impact statement for the
1373 initiative that meets the requirements of this section.

1374 Section 13. Section **20A-7-202.7** is amended to read:

1375 **20A-7-202.7 (Effective 05/06/26). Posting initiative information.**

1376 (1) Within one business day after the day on which the lieutenant governor receives the
1377 initial fiscal impact statement under Subsection 20A-7-202.5(3)(a), the lieutenant
1378 governor shall post the following information together in a conspicuous place on the
1379 lieutenant governor's website:
1380 (a) the initiative application;
1381 (b) the initiative petition;
1382 (c) the text of the proposed law;
1383 (d) the initial fiscal impact statement; and
1384 (e) information describing how an individual may remove the individual's signature
1385 from the initiative petition.

1386 (2) The lieutenant governor shall:
1387 (a) promptly update the information described in Subsection (1) if the information

1388 changes[;], including if the text of the proposed law is modified under Subsection
1389 20A-7-204.1(5); and

1390 (b) maintain the information described in Subsection (1) on the lieutenant governor's
1391 website until the initiative fails to qualify for the ballot or is passed or defeated at an
1392 election.

1393 Section 14. Section **20A-7-203** is amended to read:

1394 **20A-7-203 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual initiative process -- Form of initiative
1395 petition and signature sheets.**

1396 (1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process.

1397 (2)(a) Each proposed initiative petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:

1398 "INITIATIVE PETITION To the Honorable ____, Lieutenant Governor:

1399 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully demand that the [following] proposed
1400 law described in this initiative petition be submitted to the legal voters/Legislature of Utah for
1401 their/its approval or rejection at the regular general election/session to be held/ beginning on
1402 _____ (month\day\year);

1403 Each signer says:

1404 I have personally signed this initiative petition or, if I am an individual with a qualifying
1405 disability, I have signed this initiative petition by directing the signature gatherer to enter the
1406 initials "AV" as my signature;

1407 The date next to my signature correctly reflects the date that I actually signed the
1408 initiative petition;

1409 I [have] personally had an opportunity to read the entire statement included with this
1410 initiative packet;

1411 I am registered to vote in Utah; and

1412 My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name.

1413 **NOTICE TO SIGNERS:**

1414 Public hearings to discuss this initiative were held at: (list dates and locations of public
1415 hearings[.]).".

1416 (b) [If the initiative proposes a tax increase, the] The following statement shall appear, in at
1417 least 14-point, bold type, immediately following the information described in Subsection (2)(a)[:]
1418 , if the initiative proposes a tax increase:

1419 "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
1420 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
1421 increase in the current tax rate.". - 42 -

1422 (c) The following statement shall appear, in at least 14-point, bold type, immediately
1423 following the information described in Subsection (2)(a), if:

1424 (i) the initiative proposes a law other than a tax increase; and

1425 (ii) the initiative petition is part of a condensed initiative packet:

1426 "This initiative seeks to (the sponsors shall provide a brief, plain-language
1427 description of the principal provisions of the proposed law, not to exceed 50
1428 words, that is understandable to the average reader).".

1429 [(e) The sponsors of an initiative or an agent of the sponsors shall attach a copy of the
1430 proposed law to each initiative petition.:]

1431 (3) Each initiative signature sheet shall:

1432 (a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

1433 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line [three-fourths] .75 inch from the top, with the space
1434 above that line blank for the purpose of binding;

1435 (c) include the title of the initiative printed below the horizontal line, in at least 14-point,
1436 bold type;

1437 (d) if the signature sheet is part of a condensed initiative packet:

1438 (i) contain a printed QR code at the top of the signature sheet, in a location above the
1439 columns described in Subsection (3)(e);

1440 (ii) ensure that the QR code links directly to the web page on the lieutenant
1441 governor's website described in Section 20A-7-202.7; and

1442 (iii) include the following statement adjacent to the QR code in not less than 8-point,
1443 bold type: "This QR code provides access to a web site that includes the full text
1444 of the law proposed by this initiative petition.:";

1445 (e) be vertically divided into columns immediately below the title of the initiative, as
1446 follows:

1447 (i) the first column shall begin .5 inch from the left side of the paper, be .25 inch
1448 wide, and be headed, together with the second column, "For Office Use Only";

1449 (ii) the second column shall be .25 inch wide;

1450 (iii) the third column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed
1451 Name (must be legible to be counted)";

1452 (iv) the fourth column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered
1453 Voter";

1454 (v) the fifth column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Date Signed";

1455 (vi) the sixth column shall be three inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip

1456 Code"; and

1457 (vii) the seventh column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age
1458 (Optional)"; and

1459 (f) be horizontally divided into rows as follows:

1460 (i) the first row shall be .5 inch high for purposes of a registered voter's entry of the
1461 information described in Subsection (3)(e); and
1462 (ii) the second row shall span the width of each column described in Subsection (3)(e)
1463 and contain the following statement in 12-point type: "By signing this initiative
1464 petition, you are stating that you had an opportunity to read and understand the
1465 law proposed by this initiative petition.".

1466 [(d) include a table immediately below the title of the initiative, and beginning .5 inch
1467 from the left side of the paper, as follows:]

1468 [(i) the first column shall be .5 inch wide and include three rows;]
1469 [(ii) the first row of the first column shall be .85 inch tall and contain the words "For
1470 Office Use Only" in 10-point type;]

1471 [(iii) the second row of the first column shall be .35 inch tall;]

1472 [(iv) the third row of the first column shall be .5 inch tall;]

1473 [(v) the second column shall be 2.75 inches wide;]

1474 [(vi) the first row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
1475 "Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)" in 10-point
1476 type;]

1477 [(vii) the second row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;]

1478 [(viii) the third row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
1479 "Street Address, City, Zip Code" in 10-point type;]

1480 [(ix) the fourth row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;]

1481 [(x) the third column shall be 2.75 inches wide;]

1482 [(xi) the first row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
1483 "Signature of Registered Voter" in 10-point type;]

1484 [(xii) the second row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;]

1485 [(xiii) the third row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
1486 "Email Address (optional, to receive additional information)" in 10-point type;]

1487 [(xiv) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;]

1488 [(xv) the fourth column shall be one inch wide;]

1489 [(xvi) the first row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words

1490 "Date Signed" in 10-point type;]

1491 [(xvii) the second row of the fourth column shall be .5 inch tall;]

1492 [(xviii) the third row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
1493 "Birth Date or Age (optional)" in 10-point type;]

1494 [(xix) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall; and]

1495 [(xx) the fifth row of the entire table shall be the width of the entire table, .4 inch tall,
1496 and contain the following statement, "By signing this initiative petition, you are
1497 stating that you have read and understand the law proposed by this initiative
1498 petition." in 12-point type;]

1499 [(e)] (4) [the table described in Subsection (3)(d)] The columns and rows described in
1500 Subsections (3)(e) and (f) shall be repeated, leaving sufficient room at the bottom of the
1501 sheet for the information described in [Subsection (3)(f); and] Subsection (5).

1502 [(f)] (5) [at the bottom of the sheet, include] The bottom of the signature sheet shall include,
1503 in the following order:

1504 [(i)] (a) the words "Fiscal Impact of" followed by the title of the initiative, in at least
1505 12-point, bold type;

1506 [(ii)] (b) except as provided in Subsection [(5)] (6), the initial fiscal impact statement
1507 issued by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst in accordance with Subsection
1508 20A-7-202.5(2)(a), including any update in accordance with Subsection
1509 20A-7-204.1(5), in not less than 12-point type;

1510 [(iii)] (c) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, the following statement in 12-point, bold type:
1511 "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
1512 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
1513 increase in the current tax rate.";[and]

1514 (d) if the signature sheet is part of a condensed initiative packet, the following statement
1515 in 12-point, bold type:

1516 "This initiative seeks to (the sponsors shall provide a brief, plain-language
1517 description of the principal provisions of the proposed law, not to exceed 50 words,
1518 that is understandable to the average reader)."; and

1519 [(iv)] (e) the word "Warning," in 12-point, bold type, followed by the following statement in
1520 not less than eight-point type:

1521 "It is a class A misdemeanor [for an individual to sign an initiative petition with a name
1522 other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than
1523 once for the same initiative petition, or to sign an initiative petition when the individual knows

1524 that the individual is not a registered voter] to sign an initiative petition using a name other than
1525 your own name, to sign more than once, or to sign if you are not a registered voter.

1526 [Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity
1527 with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be
1528 verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified
1529 or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records] Providing
1530 your birth date or age is optional, but it may be used to verify your identity. If you do not
1531 provide it, your signature may not be validated if your address changes or if the information
1532 you provide does not match your voter registration record."

1533 [(4) The final page of each initiative packet shall contain the following printed or typed
1534 statement:

1535 Verification of signature collector

1536 State of Utah, County of ____

1537 I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

1538 I am at least 18 years old;

1539 All the names that appear in this initiative packet were signed by individuals who
1540 professed to be the individuals whose names appear in it, and each of the individuals signed
1541 the individual's name on it in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a qualifying
1542 disability, I have signed this initiative petition on the individual's behalf, at the direction of the
1543 individual and in the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV" as the individual's
1544 signature;

1545 —— I certify that, for each individual whose signature is represented in this initiative
1546 packet by the initials "AV":

1547 —— I obtained the individual's voluntary direction or consent to sign the initiative
1548 petition on the individual's behalf;

1549 —— I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual lacked the
1550 mental capacity to give direction or consent;

1551 —— I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual did not
1552 understand the purpose or nature of my signing the initiative petition on the individual's behalf;

1553 —— I did not intentionally or knowingly deceive the individual into directing me to,
1554 or consenting for me to, sign the initiative petition on the individual's behalf; and

1555 —— I did not intentionally or knowingly enter false information on the signature
1556 sheet;

1557 I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law proposed by

1558 the initiative;

1559 I believe that each individual's name, post office address, and residence is written
1560 correctly, that each signer has read the law proposed by the initiative, and that each signer is
1561 registered to vote in Utah;

1562 The correct date of signature appears next to each individual's name; and

1563 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this initiative
1564 packet to encourage that individual to sign it.

1565 _____
1566 (Name) _____ (Residence Address) _____ (Date)]

1567 [(5)] (6) The final page of each initiative packet shall contain the circulator verification
1568 sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

1569 (7) If the initial fiscal impact statement described in Subsection [(3)(f)(ii)] (5)(b), as updated
1570 in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5), exceeds 200 words, the Office of the
1571 Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall prepare a shorter summary statement, for the purpose of
1572 inclusion on an initiative signature sheet, that does not exceed 200 words.

1573 [(6)] (8) If the forms described in this section are substantially followed, the initiative
1574 petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

1575 Section 15. Section **20A-7-204** is amended to read:

1576 **20A-7-204 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual initiative process -- Circulation**
1577 **requirements -- Lieutenant governor to provide sponsors with materials.**

1578 (1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process.

1579 (2)(a) In order to obtain the necessary number of signatures required by this part, the
1580 sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, after the sponsors receive the documents
1581 described in Subsection (3), circulate initiative packets that meet the form
1582 requirements of this part.

1583 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may circulate initiative packets using
1584 traditional initiative packets, condensed initiative packets, or both.

1585 (3) The lieutenant governor shall provide the sponsors with a copy of the initiative petition
1586 and a signature sheet no later than the first business day that is at least three calendar
1587 days after the day on which the following conditions are fulfilled:

1588 (a) the sponsors hold the final hearing required under Section 20A-7-204.1;

1589 (b) the sponsors provide to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor the video tape, audio
1590 tape, or comprehensive minutes described in Subsection 20A-7-204.1(4) for each
1591 public hearing described in Section 20A-7-204.1;

1592 (c)(i) the sponsors give written notice to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor that
1593 the sponsors waive the opportunity to change the text of the proposed law under
1594 Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5);
1595 (ii) the deadline, described in Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5)(a), for changing the text of
1596 the proposed law passes without the sponsors filing an application addendum in
1597 accordance with Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5); or
1598 (iii) if the sponsors file an application addendum in accordance with Subsection
1599 20A-7-204.1(5), the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst provides to the Office
1600 of the Lieutenant Governor:
1601 (A) an updated initial fiscal impact statement, in accordance with Subsection
1602 20A-7-204.1(5)(b); or
1603 (B) a written notice indicating that no changes to the initial fiscal impact statement
1604 are necessary;

1605 (d)(i) the sponsors give written notice to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor that
1606 the sponsors waive the opportunity to:
1607 (A) challenge the initial fiscal impact statement in court; and
1608 (B) if applicable, challenge the updated initial fiscal impact statement in court;
1609 (ii) the deadline, described in Subsection 20A-7-202.5(4)(a)(i), for:
1610 (A) challenging the initial fiscal impact statement in court passes without the
1611 sponsors filing a petition to challenge; and
1612 (B) if applicable, challenging the updated initial fiscal impact statement in court
1613 passes without the sponsors filing a petition to challenge; or
1614 (iii) if the sponsors timely file a petition challenging the initial fiscal impact
1615 statement in court or, if applicable, the updated initial fiscal impact statement in
1616 court, and the court's decision becomes final; and
1617 (e) the sponsors sign [an agreement, under Subsection (6)(a), with the Office of the
1618 Lieutenant Governor specifying the range of numbers that the sponsors will use to
1619 number the initiative packets] the agreement described in Subsection (6)(a)(iii) with
1620 the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

1621 (4) The sponsors of the initiative shall:
1622 (a) arrange and pay for the printing of all documents that are part of the initiative
1623 packets; and
1624 (b) ensure that the initiative packets and the documents described in Subsection (4)(a)
1625 meet the requirements of this part.

1626 (5)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may prepare the initiative packets for
1627 circulation by creating multiple initiative packets.

1628 (b) ~~[The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall create the initiative packets by~~
1629 ~~binding a copy of the initiative petition with the text of the proposed law, including~~
1630 ~~any modification made under Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5) and no more than 50~~
1631 ~~signature sheets together at the top in a manner that the initiative packets may be~~
1632 ~~econveniently opened for signing]~~ The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall create
1633 initiative packets by:

1634 (i) binding the components of each initiative packet together at the top in a manner
1635 that secures all components of the initiative packet together;

1636 (ii) arranging the components in the following order:

1637 (A) a copy of the initiative petition;

1638 (B) if the initiative packet is a traditional initiative packet, a copy of the law
1639 proposed by the initiative petition, including any modification to the law made
1640 under Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5);

1641 (C) the signature sheets; and

1642 (D) the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1);

1643 (iii) including no more than 50 signature sheets in each initiative packet; and

1644 (iv) binding the initiative packet in a manner that allows the initiative packet to be
1645 conveniently opened for signing.

1646 (c) An initiative packet is not required to have a uniform number of signature sheets.

1647 (6)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, before gathering signatures:

1648 (i) ensure that the sponsors or any agent of the sponsors who gathers signatures have
1649 completed the online training course described in Section 20A-1-1005;

1650 (ii) contact the lieutenant governor's office to receive a range of numbers that the
1651 sponsors may use to number initiative packets;

1652 [(iii)] (iii) sign an agreement with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, specifying:

1653 (A) whether the sponsors or an agent of the sponsors will circulate initiative
1654 packets using traditional initiative packets, condensed initiative packets, or
1655 both; and

1656 (B) the range of numbers that the sponsors will use to number the initiative
1657 packets; and

1658 [(iv)] (iv) number each initiative packet, sequentially, within the range of numbers
1659 provided by the lieutenant governor's office, starting with the lowest number in

1660 the range.

1661 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may not:

1662 (i) number an initiative packet in a manner not directed by the lieutenant governor's
1663 office; or

1664 (ii) circulate or submit an initiative packet that is not numbered in the manner
1665 directed by the lieutenant governor's office.

1666 Section 16. Section **20A-7-213** is amended to read:

1667 **20A-7-213 (Effective 05/06/26). Misconduct of electors and officers -- Penalty.**

1668 (1) It is unlawful for an individual to:

1669 (a) sign any name other than the individual's own to an initiative petition or a statement
1670 described in Subsection [20A-7-105(8)] 20A-7-105(9) or 20A-7-216(4);

1671 (b) knowingly sign the individual's name more than once for the same initiative at one
1672 election;

1673 (c) knowingly indicate that an individual who signed an initiative petition signed the
1674 initiative petition on a date other than the date that the individual signed the initiative
1675 petition;

1676 (d) sign an initiative petition knowing the individual is not a legal voter;

1677 (e) on behalf of a voter described in Section 20A-7-106, place the initials "AV" or enter
1678 any information on a signature sheet or statement described in Section 20A-7-106, if
1679 the individual:

1680 (i) does not obtain the voluntary direction or consent of the voter;

1681 (ii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter lacks the mental capacity to give
1682 the voter's direction or consent;

1683 (iii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter does not understand the purpose
1684 or nature of the action taken by the individual on behalf of the voter;

1685 (iv) intentionally or knowingly deceives the voter into providing the direction or
1686 consent of the voter; or

1687 (v) intentionally or knowingly enters false information on the signature sheet or
1688 statement; or

1689 (f) knowingly and willfully violate any provision of this part.

1690 (2) It is unlawful for an individual to sign the verification for an initiative packet, or to
1691 electronically sign the verification for a signature under Subsection 20A-21-201(10),
1692 knowing that:

1693 (a) the signature date associated with the individual's signature for the initiative petition

is not the date that the individual signed the initiative petition;

- (b) the individual has not witnessed the signatures of those individuals whose signatures the individual collects or submits; or
- (c) one or more individuals who signed the initiative petition are not registered to vote in Utah.

(3) It is unlawful for an individual to:

- (a) pay an individual to sign an initiative petition;
- (b) pay an individual to remove the individual's signature from an initiative petition;
- (c) accept payment to sign an initiative petition; or
- (d) accept payment to have the individual's name removed from an initiative petition.

(4) A violation of this section is a class A misdemeanor.

Section 17. Section **20A-7-215** is amended to read:

20A-7-215 (Effective 05/06/26). Electronic initiative process -- Form of initiative -- Circulation requirements -- Signature collection.

(1) This section applies only to the electronic initiative process.

(2)(a) The first screen presented on the approved device shall include the following statement:

"This INITIATIVE PETITION is addressed to the Honorable ____, Lieutenant Governor:

The citizens of Utah who sign this petition respectfully demand that the following proposed law be submitted to the legal voters/Legislature of Utah for their/its approval or rejection at the regular general election/session to be held/beginning on _____ (month\day\year)."

(b) An individual may not advance to the second screen until the individual clicks a link at the bottom of the first screen stating, "By clicking here, I attest that I have read and understand the information presented on this screen."

(3)(a) The second screen presented on the approved device shall include the following statement:

"Public hearings to discuss this initiative were held at: (list dates and locations of public hearings.)".

(b) An individual may not advance to the third screen until the individual clicks a link at the bottom of the second screen stating, "By clicking here, I attest that I have read and understand the information presented on this screen."

(4)(a) The third screen presented on the approved device shall include the title of proposed law, described in Subsection [20A-7-202(2)(e)(i)] 20A-7-202(2)(f)(i)

1728 followed by the entire text of the proposed law.

1729 (b) An individual may not advance to the fourth screen until the individual clicks a link
1730 at the bottom of the third screen stating, "By clicking here, I attest that I have read
1731 and understand the entire text of the proposed law."

1732 (5) Subsequent screens shall be presented on the device in the following order, with the
1733 individual viewing the device being required, before advancing to the next screen, to
1734 click a link at the bottom of the screen with the following statement: "By clicking here, I
1735 attest that I have read and understand the information presented on this screen.":

1736 (a) a description of all proposed sources of funding for the costs associated with the
1737 proposed law, including the proposed percentage of total funding from each source;

1738 (b)(i) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, the following statement, "This initiative
1739 seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax percentage
1740 difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
1741 increase in the current tax rate. "; or

1742 (ii) if the initiative does not propose a tax increase, the following statement, "This
1743 initiative does not propose a tax increase. ";

1744 (c) the initial fiscal impact statement issued by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal
1745 Analyst in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-202.5(2)(a), including any update in
1746 accordance with Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5)(b);

1747 (d) a statement indicating whether persons gathering signatures for the initiative petition
1748 may be paid for gathering signatures; and

1749 (e) the following statement, followed by links where the individual may click "yes" or "no":
1750 "I have personally read the entirety of each statement presented on this device;
1751 I am personally signing this initiative petition;
1752 I am registered to vote in Utah; and
1753 All information I enter on this device, including my residence and post office address, is
1754 accurate.

1755 It is a class A misdemeanor for an individual to sign an initiative petition with a name
1756 other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than
1757 once for the same initiative petition, or to sign an initiative petition when the individual knows
1758 that the individual is not a registered voter.

1759 **WARNING**

1760 Even if your voter registration record is classified as private, your name, voter
1761 identification number, and date of signature in relation to signing this initiative petition will be

1762 made public.

1763 Do you wish to continue and sign this initiative petition?"

1764 (6)(a) If the individual clicks "no" in response to the question described in Subsection
1765 (5)(e), the next screen shall include the following statement, "Thank you for your
1766 time. Please return this device to the signature-gatherer."

1767 (b) If the individual clicks "yes" in response to the question described in Subsection
1768 (5)(e), the website, or the application that accesses the website, shall take the
1769 signature-gatherer and the individual signing the initiative petition through the
1770 signature process described in Section 20A-21-201.

1771 Section 18. Section **20A-7-302** is amended to read:

1772 **20A-7-302 (Effective 05/06/26). Referendum process -- Application procedures.**

1773 (1) Individuals wishing to circulate a referendum petition shall file a referendum
1774 application with the lieutenant governor no later than 5 p.m. on the first business day
1775 that is at least five calendar days after the day on which the legislative session at which
1776 the law passed ends.

1777 (2) The referendum application shall include:

1778 (a) the name and residence address of at least five sponsors of the referendum petition;
1779 (b) a statement designating a sponsor liaison, including the sponsor liaison's name,
1780 residence address, telephone number, and email address;

1781 [(b)] (c) a statement indicating that each of the sponsors is registered to vote in Utah;

1782 [(e)] (d) a statement indicating whether persons gathering signatures for the referendum
1783 petition may be paid for gathering signatures;

1784 [(d)] (e) the signature of each of the sponsors, attested to by a notary public; and

1785 [(e)] (f) a copy of the law that is the subject of the proposed referendum.

1786 Section 19. Section **20A-7-303** is amended to read:

1787 **20A-7-303 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual referendum process -- Form of
1788 referendum petition and signature sheets.**

1789 (1) This section applies only to the manual referendum process.

1790 (2)[(a)] Each proposed referendum petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:

1791 "REFERENDUM PETITION To the Honorable ____, Lieutenant Governor:

1792 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully order that [Senate (or House)] insert
1793 "Senate" or "House") Bill No. ____, entitled (title of act, and, if the petition is against less
1794 than the whole act, set forth here the part or parts on which the referendum is sought), passed
1795 by the Legislature of the state of Utah during the ____ Session, be referred to the people of

1796 Utah for their approval or rejection at a regular general election or a statewide special election;

1797 Each signer says:

1798 I have personally signed this referendum petition or, if I am an individual with a
1799 qualifying disability, I have signed this referendum petition by directing the signature gatherer
1800 to enter the initials "AV" as my signature;

1801 The date next to my signature correctly reflects the date that I actually signed the
1802 referendum petition;

1803 I [have] personally had an opportunity to read the entire statement included with this
1804 referendum packet;

1805 I am registered to vote in Utah; and

1806 My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name."[.]

1807 ~~[(b) The sponsors of a referendum or an agent of the sponsors shall attach a copy of the
1808 law that is the subject of the referendum to each referendum petition.]~~

1809 (3) Each referendum signature sheet shall:

1810 (a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

1811 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line [three-fourths] .75 inch from the top, with the space
1812 above that line blank for the purpose of binding;

1813 (c) include the title of the referendum printed below the horizontal line, in at least
1814 14-point, bold type;

1815 (d) if the signature sheet is part of a condensed referendum packet:

1816 (i) contain a printed QR code at the top of the signature sheet, in a location above the
1817 columns described in Subsection (3)(e);

1818 (ii) ensure that the QR code links directly to the web page on the lieutenant
1819 governor's website described in Section 20A-7-304.5; and

1820 (iii) include the following statement adjacent to the QR code in not less than 8-point,
1821 bold type: "This QR code provides access to a web site that includes the full text
1822 of the law that is the subject of this referendum petition.";

1823 (e) be vertically divided into columns immediately below the title of the initiative, as
1824 follows:

1825 (i) the first column shall begin .5 inch from the left side of the paper, be .25 inch
1826 wide, and be headed, together with the second column, "For Office Use Only";

1827 (ii) the second column shall be .25 inch wide;

1828 (iii) the third column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed
1829 Name (must be legible to be counted)";

1830 (iv) the fourth column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered
1831 Voter";
1832 (v) the fifth column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Date Signed";
1833 (vi) the sixth column shall be three inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip
1834 Code"; and
1835 (vii) the seventh column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age
1836 (Optional)"; and

1837 (f) be horizontally divided into rows as follows:

1838 (i) the first row shall be .5 inch high for purposes of a registered voter's entry of the
1839 information described in Subsection (3)(e); and

1840 (ii) the second row shall span the width of each column described in Subsection (3)(e)
1841 and contain the following statement in 11-point type: "By signing this referendum
1842 petition, you are stating that you had an opportunity to read and understand the
1843 law that this referendum petition seeks to overturn."

1844 [(d) ~~include a table immediately below the title of the referendum, and beginning .5 inch~~
1845 ~~from the left side of the paper, as follows:~~] ~~]~~

1846 [(t) ~~the first column shall be .5 inch wide and include three rows;~~] ~~]~~

1847 [(ii) ~~the first row of the first column shall be .85 inch tall and contain the words "For~~
1848 ~~Office Use Only" in 10-point type;~~] ~~]~~

1849 [(iii) ~~the second row of the first column shall be .35 inch tall;~~] ~~]~~

1850 [(iv) ~~the third row of the first column shall be .5 inch tall;~~] ~~]~~

1851 [(v) ~~the second column shall be 2.75 inches wide;~~] ~~]~~

1852 [(vi) ~~the first row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words~~
1853 ~~"Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)" in 10-point~~
1854 ~~type;~~] ~~]~~

1855 [(vii) ~~the second row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;~~] ~~]~~

1856 [(viii) ~~the third row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words~~
1857 ~~"Street Address, City, Zip Code" in 10-point type;~~] ~~]~~

1858 [(ix) ~~the fourth row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;~~] ~~]~~

1859 [(x) ~~the third column shall be 2.75 inches wide;~~] ~~]~~

1860 [(xi) ~~the first row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words~~
1861 ~~"Signature of Registered Voter" in 10-point type;~~] ~~]~~

1862 [(xii) ~~the second row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;~~] ~~]~~

1863 [(xiii) ~~the third row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words~~

"Email Address (optional, to receive additional information)" in 10-point type;]

[(xiv) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;]

[(xv) the fourth column shall be one inch wide;]

[(xvi) the first row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words "Date Signed" in 10-point type;]

[(xvii) the second row of the fourth column shall be .5 inch tall;]

[(xviii) the third row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words "Birth Date or Age (optional)" in 10-point type;]

[(xix) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall; and]

[(xx) the fifth row of the entire table shall be the width of the entire table, .4 inch tall, and contain the following words "By signing this referendum petition, you are stating that you have read and understand the law that this referendum petition seeks to overturn." in 12-point type;]

[e)] (4) [the table described in Subsection (3)(d)] The columns and rows described in Subsections (3)(e) and (f) shall be repeated, leaving sufficient room at the bottom of the sheet for the information described in [Subsection (3)(f); and] Subsection (5).

[f] (5) [at the bottom of the sheet, include] The bottom of the signature sheet shall include,
in the following order:

(a) the following statement in at least 12-point, bold type:

"This referendum petition seeks to have (insert "Senate" or "House") Bill No. _____, entitled (title of act, and, if the petition is against less than the whole act, set forth here the part or parts on which the referendum is sought), passed by the Legislature of the state of Utah during the _____ Session, be referred to the people of Utah for their approval or rejection at a regular general election or a statewide special election."; and

(b) the word "Warning," in 12-point, bold type, followed by the following statement in not less than eight-point type:

"It is a class A misdemeanor [for an individual to sign a referendum petition with a name other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than once for the same referendum petition, or to sign a referendum petition when the individual knows that the individual is not a registered voter] to sign a referendum petition using a name other than your own name, to sign more than once, or to sign if you are not a registered voter.
[Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be

1898 verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified
1899 or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records] Providing
1900 your birth date or age is optional, but it may be used to verify your identity. If you do not
1901 provide it, your signature may not be validated if your address changes or if the information
1902 you provide does not match your voter registration record."

1903 [(4) The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the following printed or typed
1904 statement:

1905 Verification of signature collector

1906 State of Utah, County of _____

1907 I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

1908 I am at least 18 years old;

1909 All the names that appear in this referendum packet were signed by individuals who
1910 professed to be the individuals whose names appear in it, and each of the individuals signed
1911 the individual's name on it in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a qualifying
1912 disability, I have signed this referendum petition on the individual's behalf, at the direction of
1913 the individual and in the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV" as the individual's
1914 signature;

1915 —— I certify that, for each individual whose signature is represented in this referendum
1916 packet by the initials "AV":

1917 —— I obtained the individual's voluntary direction or consent to sign the
1918 referendum petition on the individual's behalf;

1919 —— I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual lacked the
1920 mental capacity to give direction or consent;

1921 —— I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual did not
1922 understand the purpose or nature of my signing the referendum petition on the individual's
1923 behalf;

1924 —— I did not intentionally or knowingly deceive the individual into directing me to,
1925 or consenting for me to, sign the referendum petition on the individual's behalf; and

1926 —— I did not intentionally or knowingly enter false information on the signature
1927 sheet;

1928 I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law this petition
1929 seeks to overturn;

1930 I believe that each individual's name, post office address, and residence is written
1931 correctly, that each signer has read the law that the referendum seeks to overturn, and that each

1932 signer is registered to vote in Utah;

1933 The correct date of signature appears next to each individual's name; and

1934 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this referendum
1935 packet to encourage that individual to sign it.

1936

1937

1938 (Name) _____ (Residence Address) _____ (Date).]

1939 [§(5)] (6) The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the circulator verification
1940 sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

1941 (7) If the forms described in this section are substantially followed, the referendum
1942 petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

1943 Section 20. Section **20A-7-304** is amended to read:

1944 **20A-7-304 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual referendum process -- Circulation**
1945 **requirements -- Lieutenant governor to provide sponsors with materials.**

1946 (1) This section applies only to the manual referendum process.

1947 (2)(a) In order to obtain the necessary number of signatures required by this part, the
1948 sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, after the sponsors receive the documents
1949 described in Subsection (3), circulate referendum packets that meet the form
1950 requirements of this part.

1951 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may circulate referendum packets using
1952 traditional referendum packets, condensed referendum packets, or both.

1953 (3) The lieutenant governor shall provide the sponsors with a copy of the referendum
1954 petition and a signature sheet no later than the first business day that is at least five
1955 calendar days after the day on which the sponsors sign an agreement, under Subsection
1956 (6)(a), with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor specifying the range of numbers that
1957 the sponsors will use to number the referendum packets.

1958 (4) The sponsors of the referendum petition shall:

1959 (a) arrange and pay for the printing of all documents that are part of the referendum
1960 packets; and

1961 (b) ensure that the referendum packets and the documents described in Subsection (4)(a)
1962 meet the form requirements of this section.

1963 (5)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may prepare the referendum packets for
1964 circulation by creating multiple referendum packets.

1965 (b) [The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall create referendum packets by binding

1966 a copy of the referendum petition with the text of the law that is the subject of the
1967 referendum and no more than 50 signature sheets together at the top in a manner that
1968 the referendum packets may be conveniently opened for signing] The sponsors or an
1969 agent of the sponsors shall create referendum packets by:

- 1970 (i) binding the components of each referendum packet together at the top in a manner
1971 that secures all components of the initiative packet together;
- 1972 (ii) arranging the components in the following order:
 - 1973 (A) a copy of the referendum petition;
 - 1974 (B) if the referendum packet is a traditional referendum packet, a copy of the law
1975 that is the subject of the referendum petition;
 - 1976 (C) the signature sheets; and
 - 1977 (D) the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1);
- 1978 (iii) including no more than 50 signature sheets in each referendum packet; and
- 1979 (iv) binding the referendum packet in a manner that allows the referendum packet to
1980 be conveniently opened for signing.

1981 (c) A referendum packet is not required to have a uniform number of signature sheets.

1982 (6)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, before gathering signatures:

- 1983 (i) ensure that the sponsors or any agent of the sponsors who gathers signatures have
1984 completed the online training course described in Section 20A-1-1005;
- 1985 (ii) contact the lieutenant governor's office to receive a range of numbers that the
1986 sponsors may use to number referendum packets;
- 1987 [(iii)] (iii) sign an agreement with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, specifying:
 - 1988 (A) whether the sponsors or an agent of the sponsors will circulate referendum
1989 packets using traditional referendum packets, condensed referendum packets,
1990 or both; and
 - 1991 (B) the range of numbers that the sponsor will use to number the referendum
1992 packets; and
- 1993 [(iv)] (iv) number each referendum packet, sequentially, within the range of numbers
1994 provided by the lieutenant governor's office, starting with the lowest number in
1995 the range.

1996 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may not:

- 1997 (i) number a referendum packet in a manner not directed by the lieutenant governor's
1998 office; or
- 1999 (ii) circulate or submit a referendum packet that is not numbered in the manner

directed by the lieutenant governor's office.

Section 21. Section **20A-7-502** is amended to read:

20A-7-502 (Effective 05/06/26). Local initiative process -- Application procedures.

(1) Individuals wishing to circulate an initiative petition shall file an initiative application with the local clerk.

(2) The initiative application shall include:

(a) the name and residence address of at least five sponsors of the initiative petition;

(b) a statement indicating that each of the sponsors is registered to vote in Utah;

(c) a statement designating a sponsor liaison, including the sponsor liaison's name, residence address, telephone number, and email address;

[e] (d) the signature of each of the sponsors, acknowledged by a notary public;

[~~(d)~~] (e) a copy of the proposed law that includes:

(i) the title of the proposed law that clearly expresses the subject of the law;

(ii) a description of all proposed sources of funding for the costs associated with the proposed law, including the proposed percentage of total funding from each source; and

(iii) the text of the proposed law;

[(e)] (f) if the initiative petition proposes a tax increase, the following statement, "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent increase in the current tax rate."; and

[f] (g) a statement indicating whether persons gathering signatures for the initiative petition may be paid for gathering signatures.

(3) A proposed law submitted under this section may not contain more than one subject to the same extent that a bill may not pass containing more than one subject as provided in Utah Constitution, Article VI, Section 22.

Section 22. Section **20A-7-503** is amended to read:

20A-7-503 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual initiative process -- Form of initiative petition and signature sheet.

(1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process.

(2)(a) Each proposed initiative petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:

"INITIATIVE PETITION To the Honorable ____, County Clerk/City Recorder/Town Clerk:

2034 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully demand that the [following] proposed
2035 law described in this initiative petition be submitted to:

2036 the legislative body for its approval or rejection at its next meeting; and
2037 the legal voters of the county/city/town, if the legislative body rejects the proposed
2038 law or takes no action on it.

2039 Each signer says:

2040 I have personally signed this initiative petition or, if I am an individual with a qualifying
2041 disability, I have signed this initiative petition by directing the signature gatherer to enter the
2042 initials "AV" as my signature;

2043 The date next to my signature correctly reflects the date that I actually signed the
2044 petition;

2045 I [have] personally had an opportunity to read the entire statement included with this
2046 initiative packet;

2047 I am registered to vote in Utah; and

2048 My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name."

2049 (b) [If the initiative proposes a tax increase, the] The following statement shall appear, in at
2050 least 14-point, bold type, immediately following the information described in Subsection (2)(a)[:]
2051 , if the initiative petition proposes a tax increase:

2052 "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
2053 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
2054 increase in the current tax rate.".

2055 (c) The following statement shall appear, in at least 14-point, bold type, immediately
2056 following the information described in Subsection (2)(a), if:

2057 (i) the initiative proposes a law other than a tax increase; and

2058 (ii) the initiative petition is part of a condensed initiative packet.

2059 "This initiative seeks to (the sponsors shall provide a brief, plain-language
2060 description of the principal provisions of the proposed law, not to exceed 50
2061 words, that is understandable to the average reader).".

2062 [(e) The sponsors of an initiative or an agent of the sponsors shall attach a copy of the
2063 proposed law to each initiative petition.]

2064 (3) Each initiative signature sheet shall:

2065 (a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

2066 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line [three-fourths] .75 inch from the top, with the space
2067 above that line blank for the purpose of binding;

2068 (c) include the title of the initiative printed below the horizontal line, in at least 14-point,
2069 bold type;

2070 (d) if the signature sheet is part of a condensed initiative packet:

2071 (i) contain a printed QR code at the top of the signature sheet, in a location above the
2072 columns described in Subsection (3)(e);

2073 (ii) ensure that the QR code links directly to the web page on the local clerk's website
2074 described in Section 20A-7-502.6; and

2075 (iii) include the following statement adjacent to the QR code in not less than 8-point,
2076 bold type: "This QR code provides access to a web site that includes the full text
2077 of the law proposed by this initiative petition.";

2078 (e) be vertically divided into columns immediately below the title of the initiative, as
2079 follows:

2080 (i) the first column shall begin .5 inch from the left side of the paper, be .25 inch
2081 wide, and be headed, together with the second column, "For Office Use Only";

2082 (ii) the second column shall be .25 inch wide;

2083 (iii) the third column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed
2084 Name (must be legible to be counted)";

2085 (iv) the fourth column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered
2086 Voter";

2087 (v) the fifth column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Date Signed";

2088 (vi) the sixth column shall be three inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip
2089 Code"; and

2090 (vii) the seventh column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age
2091 (Optional)"; and

2092 (f) be horizontally divided into rows as follows:

2093 (i) the first row shall be .5 inch high for purposes of a registered voter's entry of the
2094 information described in Subsection (3)(e); and

2095 (ii) the second row shall span the width of each column described in Subsection (3)(e)
2096 and contain the following statement in 12-point type: "By signing this initiative
2097 petition, you are stating that you had an opportunity to read and understand the
2098 law proposed by this initiative petition.".

2099 [(d) include a table immediately below the title of the initiative, and beginning .5 inch
2100 from the left side of the paper, as follows:]

2101 [(i) the first column shall be .5 inch wide and include three rows;]

2102 [((iii) the first row of the first column shall be .85 inch tall and contain the words "For
2103 Office Use Only" in 10-point type;]
2104

2105 [((iii) the second row of the first column shall be .35 inch tall;]
2106

2107 [((iv) the third row of the first column shall be .5 inch tall;]
2108

2109 [((v) the second column shall be 2.75 inches wide;]
2110

2111 [((vi) the first row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
2112 "Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)" in 10-point
2113 type;]
2114

2115 [((vii) the second row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;]
2116

2117 [((viii) the third row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
2118 "Street Address, City, Zip Code" in 10-point type;]
2119

2120 [((ix) the fourth row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;]
2121

2122 [((x) the third column shall be 2.75 inches wide;]
2123

2124 [((xi) the first row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
2125 "Signature of Registered Voter" in 10-point type;]
2126

2127 [((xii) the second row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;]
2128

2129 [((xiii) the third row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
2130 "Email Address (optional, to receive additional information)" in 10-point type;]
2131

2132 [((xiv) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;]
2133

2134 [((xv) the fourth column shall be one inch wide;]
2135

2136 [((xvi) the first row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
2137 "Date Signed" in 10-point type;]
2138

2139 [((xvii) the second row of the fourth column shall be .5 inch tall;]
2140

2141 [((xviii) the third row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
2142 "Birth Date or Age (optional)" in 10-point type;]
2143

2144 [((xix) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall; and]
2145

2146 [((xx) the fifth row of the entire table shall be the width of the entire table, .4 inch tall,
2147 and contain the following words "By signing this initiative petition, you are
2148 stating that you have read and understand the law proposed by this initiative
2149 petition." in 12-point type;]
2150

2151 [(e)] (4) [the table described in Subsection (3)(d)] The columns and rows described in
2152 Subsections (3)(e) and (f) shall be repeated, leaving sufficient room at the bottom of the
2153 sheet for the information described in Subsection [(3)(f); and] (5).

2154 [(f)] (5) [at the bottom of the sheet, include] The bottom of the signature sheet shall include,

2136 in the following order:

2137 [(i)] (a) the words "Fiscal and legal impact of" followed by the title of the initiative, in at
2138 least 12-point, bold type;

2139 [(ii)] (b) the summary statement in the initial fiscal impact and legal statement issued by
2140 the budget officer in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-502.5(2)(b) and the cost
2141 estimate for printing and distributing information related to the initiative petition in
2142 accordance with Subsection 20A-7-502.5(3), in not less than 12-point, bold type;

2143 [(iii)] (c) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, the following statement in 12-point, bold type:
2144 "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
2145 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
2146 increase in the current tax rate.";[and]

2147 (d) if the signature sheet is part of a condensed initiative packet, the following statement
2148 in 12-point, bold type:
2149 "This initiative seeks to (the sponsors shall provide a brief, plain-language
2150 description of the principal provisions of the proposed law, not to exceed 50 words,
2151 that is understandable to the average reader)."; and

2152 [(iv)] (e) the word "Warning," in 12-point, bold type, followed by the following statement in
2153 not less than eight-point type:
2154 "It is a class A misdemeanor [for an individual to sign an initiative petition with a name
2155 other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than
2156 once for the same initiative petition, or to sign an initiative petition when the individual knows
2157 that the individual is not a registered voter] to sign an initiative petition using a name other than
2158 your own name, to sign more than once, or to sign if you are not a registered voter.
2159 [Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity
2160 with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be
2161 verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified
2162 or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records] Providing
2163 your birth date or age is optional, but it may be used to verify your identity. If you do not
2164 provide it, your signature may not be validated if your address changes or if the information
2165 you provide does not match your voter registration record."

2166 [(4)] The final page of each initiative packet shall contain the following printed or typed
2167 statement:
2168 "Verification of signature collector
2169 State of Utah, County of _____

2170 I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

2171 I am at least 18 years old;

2172 All the names that appear in this packet were signed by individuals who professed to be
2173 the individuals whose names appear in it, and each of the individuals signed the individual's
2174 name on it in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a qualifying disability, I have
2175 signed this initiative petition on the individual's behalf, at the direction of the individual and in
2176 the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV" as the individual's signature;

2177 —— I certify that, for each individual whose signature is represented in this initiative
2178 packet by the initials "AV":

2179 —— I obtained the individual's voluntary direction or consent to sign the initiative
2180 petition on the individual's behalf;

2181 —— I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual lacked the
2182 mental capacity to give direction or consent;

2183 —— I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual did not
2184 understand the purpose or nature of my signing the initiative petition on the individual's behalf;

2185 —— I did not intentionally or knowingly deceive the individual into directing me to,
2186 or consenting for me to, sign the initiative petition on the individual's behalf; and

2187 —— I did not intentionally or knowingly enter false information on the signature
2188 sheet;

2189 I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law proposed by
2190 the initiative; and

2191 I believe that each individual's name, post office address, and residence is written
2192 correctly, that each signer has read the law proposed by the initiative, and that each signer is
2193 registered to vote in Utah.

2195 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)

2196 The correct date of signature appears next to each individual's name.

2197 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this petition to
2198 encourage that individual to sign it.

2200 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)"]

2201 [(5)] (6) The final page of each initiative packet shall contain the circulator verification
2202 sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

2203 (7) If the forms described in this section are substantially followed, the initiative petitions

2204 are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

2205 Section 23. Section **20A-7-504** is amended to read:

2206 **20A-7-504 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual initiative process -- Circulation**
2207 **requirements -- Local clerk to provide sponsors with materials.**

2208 (1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process.

2209 (2)(a) In order to obtain the necessary number of signatures required by this part, the
2210 sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, after the sponsors receive the documents
2211 described in Subsections (3) and 20A-7-401.5(4)(b), circulate initiative packets that
2212 meet the form requirements of this part.

2213 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may circulate initiative packets using
2214 traditional initiative packets, condensed initiative packets, or both.

2215 (3) Within five calendar days after the day on which a county, city, town, or court
2216 determines, in accordance with Section 20A-7-502.7, that a law proposed in an initiative
2217 petition is legally referable to voters, the local clerk shall provide to the sponsors:

2218 (a) a copy of the initiative petition;

2219 (b) a signature sheet; and

2220 (c) a copy of the proposition information pamphlet provided to the sponsors under
2221 Subsection 20A-7-401.5(4)(b).

2222 (4) The sponsors of the initiative shall:

2223 (a) arrange and pay for the printing of all documents that are part of the initiative
2224 packets; and

2225 (b) ensure that the initiative packets and the documents described in Subsection (4)(a)
2226 meet the requirements of this part.

2227 (5)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may prepare the initiative packets for
2228 circulation by creating multiple initiative packets.

2229 (b) ~~[The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall create initiative packets by binding a~~
2230 ~~copy of the initiative petition with the text of the proposed law and no more than 50~~
2231 ~~signature sheets together at the top in a manner that the initiative packets may be~~
2232 ~~conveniently opened for signing.] The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall~~
2233 ~~create initiative packets by:~~

2234 (i) binding the components of each initiative packet together at the top in a manner
2235 that secures all components of the initiative packet together;

2236 (ii) arranging the components in the following order:
2237 (A) a copy of the initiative petition;

2238 (B) if the initiative packet is a traditional initiative packet, a copy of the law
2239 proposed by the initiative petition;
2240 (C) the signature sheets; and
2241 (D) the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1);
2242 (iii) including no more than 50 signature sheets in each initiative packet; and
2243 (iv) binding the initiative packet in a manner that allows the initiative packet to be
2244 conveniently opened for signing.

2245 (c) An initiative packet is not required to have a uniform number of signature sheets.
2246 (d) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall include, with each initiative packet, a
2247 copy of the proposition information pamphlet provided to the sponsors under
2248 Subsection 20A-7-401.5(4)(b).

2249 (6)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, before gathering signatures:
2250 (i) ensure that the sponsors or any agent of the sponsors who gathers signatures have
2251 completed the online training course described in Section 20A-1-1005;
2252 (ii) contact the county clerk to receive a range of numbers that the sponsors may use
2253 to number initiative packets;[and]
2254 (iii) sign an agreement with the local clerk, specifying:
2255 (A) whether the sponsors or an agent of the sponsors will circulate initiative
2256 packets using traditional initiative packets, condensed initiative packets, or
2257 both; and
2258 (B) the range of numbers that the sponsor will use to number the referendum
2259 packets; and
2260 [(ii)] (iv) number each initiative packet, sequentially, within the range of numbers
2261 provided by the county clerk, starting with the lowest number in the range.
2262 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may not:
2263 (i) number an initiative packet in a manner not directed by the county clerk; or
2264 (ii) circulate or submit an initiative packet that is not numbered in the manner
2265 directed by the county clerk.
2266 (c) The county clerk shall keep a record of the number range provided under Subsection
2267 (6)(a).

2268 Section 24. Section **20A-7-514** is amended to read:

2269 **20A-7-514 (Effective 05/06/26). Electronic initiative process -- Form of initiative**
2270 **petition -- Circulation requirements -- Signature collection.**

2271 (1) This section applies only to the electronic initiative process.

2272 (2)(a) The first screen presented on the approved device shall include the following statement:

2273 "This INITIATIVE PETITION is addressed to the Honorable ____, County Clerk/City
2274 Recorder/Town Clerk:

2275 The citizens of Utah who sign this petition respectfully demand that the following
2276 proposed law be submitted to: the legislative body for its approval or rejection at its next
2277 meeting; and the legal voters of the county/city/town, if the legislative body rejects the
2278 proposed law or takes no action on it."

2279 (b) An individual may not advance to the second screen until the individual clicks a link
2280 at the bottom of the first screen stating, "By clicking here, I attest that I have read and
2281 understand the information presented on this screen."

2282 (3)(a) The second screen presented on the approved device shall include the title of
2283 proposed law, described in Subsection [20A-7-502(2)(d)(i)] 20A-7-502(2)(e)(i),
2284 followed by the entire text of the proposed law.

2285 (b) An individual may not advance to the third screen until the individual clicks a link at
2286 the bottom of the second screen stating, "By clicking here, I attest that I have read
2287 and understand the entire text of the proposed law."

2288 (4) Subsequent screens shall be presented on the device in the following order, with the
2289 individual viewing the device being required, before advancing to the next screen, to
2290 click a link at the bottom of the screen with the following statement, "By clicking here, I
2291 attest that I have read and understand the information presented on this screen.":

2292 (a)(i) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, the following statement, "This initiative
2293 seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax percentage
2294 difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
2295 increase in the current tax rate."; or

2296 (ii) if the initiative does not propose a tax increase, the following statement, "This
2297 initiative does not propose a tax increase.":

2298 (b) the summary statement from the initial fiscal impact and legal statement issued by
2299 the budget officer in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-502.5(2)(b) and the cost
2300 estimate for printing and distributing information related to the initiative petition in
2301 accordance with Subsection 20A-7-502.5(3);

2302 (c) a statement indicating whether persons gathering signatures for the initiative petition
2303 may be paid for gathering signatures; and

2304 (d) the following statement, followed by links where the individual may click "yes" or "no":
2305 "I have personally read the entirety of each statement presented on this device;

2306 I am personally signing this petition;
2307 I am registered to vote in Utah; and
2308 All information I enter on this device, including my residence and post office address, is
2309 accurate.

2310 It is a class A misdemeanor for an individual to sign an initiative petition with a name
2311 other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than
2312 once for the same initiative petition, or to sign an initiative petition when the individual knows
2313 that the individual is not a registered voter.

2314 **WARNING**

2315 Even if your voter registration record is classified as private, your name, voter
2316 identification number, and date of signature in relation to signing this initiative petition will be
2317 made public.

2318 Do you wish to continue and sign this initiative petition?"

2319 (5)(a) If the individual clicks "no" in response to the question described in Subsection
2320 (4)(d), the next screen shall include the following statement, "Thank you for your
2321 time. Please return this device to the signature-gatherer."
2322 (b) If the individual clicks "yes" in response to the question described in Subsection
2323 (4)(d), the website, or the application that accesses the website, shall take the
2324 signature-gatherer and the individual signing the petition through the signature
2325 process described in Section 20A-21-201.

2326 Section 25. Section **20A-7-602** is amended to read:

2327 **20A-7-602 (Effective 05/06/26). Local referendum process -- Application
2328 procedures.**

2329 (1) Individuals wishing to circulate a referendum petition shall file a referendum
2330 application with the local clerk.
2331 (2) The referendum application shall include:
2332 (a) the name and residence address of at least five sponsors of the referendum petition;
2333 (b) a statement indicating that each of the sponsors is registered to vote in Utah;
2334 (c) a statement designating a sponsor liaison, including the sponsor liaison's name,
2335 residence address, telephone number, and email address;
2336 [(e)] (d) a statement indicating whether persons gathering signatures for the referendum
2337 petition may be paid for gathering signatures;
2338 [(d)] (e) the signature of each of the sponsors, acknowledged by a notary public; and
2339 [(e)] (f)(i) if the referendum challenges an ordinance or resolution, a copy of the

2340 ordinance or resolution; or
2341 (ii) if the referendum challenges a local law that is not an ordinance or resolution, a
2342 written description of the local law, including the result of the vote on the local
2343 law.

2344 Section 26. Section **20A-7-603** is amended to read:

2345 **20A-7-603 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual referendum process -- Form of
2346 referendum petition and signature sheet.**

2347 (1) This section applies only to the manual referendum process.
2348 (2)[(a)] Each proposed referendum petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:
2349 "REFERENDUM PETITION To the Honorable ____, County Clerk/City
2350 Recorder/Town Clerk:

2351 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully order that (description of local law or
2352 portion of local law being challenged), passed by the ____ be referred to the voters for their
2353 approval or rejection at the regular/municipal general election to be held on
2354 _____(month\day\year);

2355 Each signer says:

2356 I have personally signed this referendum petition or, if I am an individual with a
2357 qualifying disability, I have signed this referendum petition by directing the signature gatherer
2358 to enter the initials "AV" as my signature;

2359 The date next to my signature correctly reflects the date that I actually signed the
2360 petition;

2361 I [have] personally had an opportunity to read the entire statement included with this
2362 packet;

2363 I am registered to vote in Utah; and

2364 My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name."

2365 [(b) ~~The sponsors of a referendum or an agent of the sponsors shall attach a copy of the
2366 law that is the subject of the referendum to each referendum petition.~~]

2367 (3) Each referendum signature sheet shall:

- 2368 (a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
- 2369 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line [three-fourths] .75 inch from the top, with the space
2370 above that line blank for the purpose of binding;
- 2371 (c) include the title of the referendum printed below the horizontal line, in at least
2372 14-point type;
- 2373 (d) if the signature sheet is part of a condensed referendum packet:

2374 (i) contain a printed QR code at the top of the signature sheet, in a location above the
2375 columns described in Subsection (3)(e);

2376 (ii) ensure that the QR code links directly to the web page on the local clerk's website
2377 described in Section 20A-7-604.5; and

2378 (iii) include the following statement adjacent to the QR code in not less than 8-point,
2379 bold type: "This QR code provides access to a web site that includes the full text
2380 of the law that is the subject of this referendum petition.";

2381 (e) be vertically divided into columns immediately below the title of the initiative, as
2382 follows:

2383 (i) the first column shall begin .5 inch from the left side of the paper, be .25 inch
2384 wide, and be headed, together with the second column, "For Office Use Only";

2385 (ii) the second column shall be .25 inch wide;

2386 (iii) the third column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed
2387 Name (must be legible to be counted)";

2388 (iv) the fourth column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered
2389 Voter";

2390 (v) the fifth column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Date Signed";

2391 (vi) the sixth column shall be three inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip
2392 Code"; and

2393 (vii) the seventh column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age
2394 (Optional); and

2395 (f) be horizontally divided into rows as follows:

2396 (i) the first row shall be .5 inch high for purposes of a registered voter's entry of the
2397 information described in Subsection (3)(e); and

2398 (ii) the second row shall span the width of each column described in Subsection (3)(e)
2399 and contain the following statement in 11-point type: "By signing this referendum
2400 petition, you are stating that you had an opportunity to read and understand the
2401 law that this referendum petition seeks to overturn.".

2402 [(d) include a table immediately below the title of the referendum, and beginning .5 inch
2403 from the left side of the paper, as follows:]

2404 [(i) the first column shall be .5 inch wide and include three rows;]

2405 [(ii) the first row of the first column shall be .85 inch tall and contain the words "For
2406 Office Use Only" in 10-point type;]

2407 [(iii) the second row of the first column shall be .35 inch tall;]

2408 [iv) the third row of the first column shall be .5 inch tall;]
2409 [v) the second column shall be 2.75 inches wide;]
2410 [vi) the first row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
2411 "Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)" in 10-point
2412 type;]
2413 [vii) the second row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;]
2414 [viii) the third row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
2415 "Street Address, City, Zip Code" in 10-point type;]
2416 [ix) the fourth row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;]
2417 [x) the third column shall be 2.75 inches wide;]
2418 [xi) the first row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
2419 "Signature of Registered Voter" in 10-point type;]
2420 [xii) the second row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;]
2421 [xiii) the third row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
2422 "Email Address (optional, to receive additional information)" in 10-point type;]
2423 [xiv) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;]
2424 [xv) the fourth column shall be one inch wide;]
2425 [xvi) the first row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
2426 "Date Signed" in 10-point type;]
2427 [xvii) the second row of the fourth column shall be .5 inch tall;]
2428 [xviii) the third row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
2429 "Birth Date or Age (optional)" in 10-point type;]
2430 [xix) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall; and]
2431 [xx) the fifth row of the entire table shall be the width of the entire table, .4 inch tall,
2432 and contain the following words, "By signing this referendum petition, you are
2433 stating that you have read and understand the law that this referendum petition
2434 seeks to overturn." in 12-point type;]
2435 [e] (4) [the table described in Subsektion (3)(d)] The columns and rows described in
2436 Subsections (3)(e) and (f) shall be repeated, leaving sufficient room at the bottom of the
2437 sheet [or] for the information described in Subsection (3)(f); and (5).
2438 [f] (5) [at the bottom of the sheet, include] The bottom of the signature sheet shall include,
2439 in the following order:
2440 (a) the following statement in 12-point, bold type:
2441 "This referendum petition seeks to have (description of local law or portion of

2442 local law being challenged), passed by the be referred to the voters for their
2443 approval or rejection at the regular/municipal general election to be held on
2444 (month\day\year)."; and

2445 (b) the word "Warning," in 12-point, bold type, followed by the following statement in not less
2446 than eight-point type:

2447 "It is a class A misdemeanor [for an individual to sign a referendum petition with a name
2448 other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than
2449 once for the same referendum petition, or to sign a referendum petition when the individual
2450 knows that the individual is not a registered voter] to sign a referendum petition using a name
2451 other than your own name, to sign more than once, or to sign if you are not a registered voter.

2452 [Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity
2453 with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be
2454 verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified
2455 or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records] Providing
2456 your birth date or age is optional, but it may be used to verify your identity. If you do not
2457 provide it, your signature may not be validated if your address changes or if the information
2458 you provide does not match your voter registration record."

2459 [(4) The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the following printed or typed
2460 statement:

2461 "Verification of signature collector

2462 State of Utah, County of _____

2463 I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

2464 I am at least 18 years old;

2465 All the names that appear in this packet were signed by individuals who professed to be
2466 the individuals whose names appear in it, and each of the individuals signed the individual's
2467 name on it in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a qualifying disability, I have
2468 signed this referendum petition on the individual's behalf, at the direction of the individual and
2469 in the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV" as the individual's signature;

2470 — I certify that, for each individual whose signature is represented in this referendum
2471 packet by the initials "AV":

2472 — I obtained the individual's voluntary direction or consent to sign the
2473 referendum petition on the individual's behalf;

2474 — I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual lacked the
2475 mental capacity to give direction or consent;

2476 ——— I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual did not
2477 understand the purpose or nature of my signing the referendum petition on the individual's
2478 behalf;

2479 ——— I did not intentionally or knowingly deceive the individual into directing me to,
2480 or consenting for me to, sign the referendum petition on the individual's behalf; and

2481 ——— I did not intentionally or knowingly enter false information on the signature
2482 sheet;

2483 I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law this petition
2484 seeks to overturn; and

2485 I believe that each individual's name, post office address, and residence is written
2486 correctly, that each signer has read the law that the referendum seeks to overturn, and that each
2487 signer is registered to vote in Utah.

2488
2489

2490 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)

2491 The correct date of signature appears next to each individual's name.

2492 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this referendum
2493 packet to encourage that individual to sign it.

2494

2495 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)".]

2496 [(5)] (6) The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the circulator verification
2497 sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

2498 (7) If the forms described in this section are substantially followed, the referendum
2499 petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

2500 Section 27. Section **20A-7-604** is amended to read:

2501 **20A-7-604 (Effective 05/06/26). Manual referendum process -- Circulation**
2502 **requirements -- Local clerk to provide sponsors with materials.**

2503 (1) This section applies only to the manual referendum process.

2504 (2)(a) In order to obtain the necessary number of signatures required by this part, the
2505 sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, after the sponsors receive the documents
2506 described in Subsections (3) and 20A-7-401.5(4)(b), circulate referendum packets
2507 that meet the form requirements of this part.

2508 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may circulate referendum packets using
2509 traditional referendum packets, condensed referendum packets, or both.

2510 (3) Within five calendar days after the day on which a county, city, town, or court
2511 determines, in accordance with Section 20A-7-602.7, that a proposed referendum is
2512 legally referable to voters, the local clerk shall provide the sponsors with:
2513 (a) a copy of the referendum petition;
2514 (b) a signature sheet; and
2515 (c) a copy of the proposition information pamphlet provided to the sponsors under
2516 Subsection 20A-7-401.5(4)(b).

2517 (4) The sponsors of the referendum petition shall:
2518 (a) arrange and pay for the printing of all documents that are part of the referendum
2519 packets; and
2520 (b) ensure that the referendum packets and the documents described in Subsection (4)(a)
2521 meet the form requirements of this section.

2522 (5)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may prepare the referendum packets for
2523 circulation by creating multiple referendum packets.
2524 (b) ~~The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall create referendum packets by binding
2525 a copy of the referendum petition with the text of the law that is the subject of the
2526 referendum and no more than 50 signature sheets together at the top in a manner that
2527 the referendum packets may be conveniently opened for signing.] The sponsors or an
2528 agent of the sponsors shall create referendum packets by:~~
2529 (i) binding the components of each referendum packet together at the top in a manner
2530 that secures all components of the initiative packet together;
2531 (ii) arranging the components in the following order:
2532 (A) a copy of the referendum petition;
2533 (B) if the referendum packet is a traditional referendum packet, a copy of the law
2534 that is the subject of the referendum petition;
2535 (C) the signature sheets; and
2536 (D) the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1);
2537 (iii) including no more than 50 signature sheets in each referendum packet; and
2538 (iv) binding the referendum packet in a manner that allows the referendum packet to
2539 be conveniently opened for signing.
2540 (c) A referendum packet is not required to have a uniform number of signature sheets.
2541 (d) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall include, with each packet, a copy of
2542 the proposition information pamphlet provided to the sponsors under Subsection
2543 20A-7-401.5(4)(b).

2544 (6)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, before gathering signatures:

2545 (i) ensure that the sponsors or any agent of the sponsors who gathers signatures have
2546 completed the online training course described in Section 20A-1-1005;

2547 (ii) contact the county clerk to receive a range of numbers that the sponsors may use
2548 to number referendum packets;

2549 [(ii)] (iii) sign an agreement with the local clerk, specifying:

2550 (A) whether the sponsors or an agent of the sponsors will circulate referendum
2551 packets using traditional referendum packets, condensed referendum packets,
2552 or both; and

2553 (B) the range of numbers that the sponsor will use to number the referendum
2554 packets; and

2555 [(iii)] (iv) number each referendum packet, sequentially, within the range of numbers
2556 provided by the county clerk, starting with the lowest number in the range.

2557 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may not:

2558 (i) number a referendum packet in a manner not directed by the county clerk; or
2559 (ii) circulate or submit a referendum packet that is not numbered in the manner
2560 directed by the county clerk.

2561 Section 28. Section **20A-8-103** is amended to read:

2562 **20A-8-103 (Effective 05/06/26). Petition procedures -- Criminal penalty --**

2563 **Removal of signature.**

2564 (1) As used in this section, the proposed name or emblem of a registered political party is
2565 "distinguishable" if a reasonable person of average intelligence will be able to perceive a
2566 difference between the proposed name or emblem and any name or emblem currently
2567 being used by another registered political party.

2568 (2) To become a registered political party, an organization of registered voters that is not a
2569 continuing political party shall:

2570 (a) circulate a petition seeking registered political party status beginning no earlier than
2571 the date of the statewide canvass held after the last regular general election and
2572 ending before 5 p.m. no later than November 30 of the year before the year in which
2573 the next regular general election will be held;

2574 (b) file a petition with the lieutenant governor that is signed, with a holographic
2575 signature, by at least 2,000 registered voters before 5 p.m. no later than November 30
2576 of the year in which a regular general election will be held; and

2577 (c) file, with the petition described in Subsection (2)(b), a document certifying:

2578 (i) the identity of one or more registered political parties whose members may vote
2579 for the organization's candidates;
2580 (ii) whether unaffiliated voters may vote for the organization's candidates; and
2581 (iii) whether, for the next election, the organization intends to nominate the
2582 organization's candidates in accordance with the provisions of Section 20A-9-406.

2583 (3) The petition shall:

2584 (a) be on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
2585 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space above that line
2586 blank for the purpose of binding;
2587 (c) contain the name of the political party and the words "Political Party Registration
2588 Petition" printed directly below the horizontal line;
2589 (d) contain the word "Warning" printed directly under the words described in Subsection
2590 (3)(c);
2591 (e) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed in not less than
2592 eight-point, single leaded type:

2593 "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a political party registration
2594 petition signature sheet with any name other than the individual's own name or more than once
2595 for the same party or if the individual is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend
2596 to become registered to vote in this state before the petition is submitted to the lieutenant
2597 governor.";

2598 (f) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in Subsection (3)(e):
2599 **"POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION PETITION To the Honorable _____,**
2600 Lieutenant Governor:

2601 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, seek registered political party status for _____
2602 (name);

2603 Each signer says:

2604 I have personally signed this petition with a holographic signature;

2605 I am registered to vote in Utah or will register to vote in Utah before the petition is
2606 submitted to the lieutenant governor;

2607 I am or desire to become a member of the political party; and

2608 My street address is written correctly after my name.";

2609 (g) be vertically divided into columns as follows:

2610 (i) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be 5/8 inch wide, be
2611 headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical line

2612 down the middle;

2613 (ii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed
2614 Name (must be legible to be counted)";
2615 (iii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Holographic Signature of
2616 Registered Voter";
2617 (iv) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age (Optional)";
2618 (v) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip
2619 Code"; and
2620 (vi) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age
2621 information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with voter
2622 registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be
2623 certified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures
2624 are certified or if the information you provide does not match your voter
2625 registration records.";

2626 [~~(h) have a final page bound to one or more signature sheets that are bound together that~~
2627 ~~contains the following printed statement:~~

2628 ~~"Verification~~

2629 ~~State of Utah, County of _____~~

2630 ~~I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:~~

2631 ~~I am at least 18 years old;~~

2632 ~~All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were signed by~~
2633 ~~individuals who professed to be the individuals whose names appear on the signature sheets,~~
2634 ~~and each individual signed the individual's name on the signature sheets in my presence;~~

2635 ~~I believe that each individual has printed and signed the individual's name and written~~
2636 ~~the individual's street address correctly, and that each individual is registered to vote in Utah or~~
2637 ~~will register to vote in Utah before the petition is submitted to the lieutenant governor.~~

2639 ~~(Signature) (Residence Address) (Date)"; and]~~

2640 [~~(i) (h) have a final page bound to one or more signature sheets that contains the~~
2641 ~~circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1); and~~

2642 (i) be bound to a cover sheet that:

2643 (i) identifies the political party's name, which may not exceed four words, and the
2644 emblem of the party;
2645 (ii) states the process that the organization will follow to organize and adopt a

2646 constitution and bylaws; and

2647 (iii) is signed by a filing officer, who agrees to receive communications on behalf of
2648 the organization.

2649 (4) The filing officer described in Subsection (3)(i)(iii) shall ensure that the individual in
2650 whose presence each signature sheet is signed:

2651 (a) is at least 18 years old; and

2652 (b) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification bound to one or more
2653 signature sheets that are bound together.

2654 (5) An individual may not sign the verification if the individual signed a signature sheet
2655 bound to the verification.

2656 (6) The lieutenant governor shall:

2657 (a) use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to determine whether a signer is
2658 a registered voter;

2659 (b) review the proposed name and emblem to determine if they are "distinguishable"
2660 from the names and emblems of other registered political parties; and

2661 (c) certify the lieutenant governor's findings to the filing officer described in Subsection
2662 (3)(i)(iii) within 30 calendar days after the day on which the organization files the
2663 petition described in Subsection (2)(b).

2664 (7)(a) If the lieutenant governor determines that the petition meets the requirements of
2665 this section, and that the proposed name and emblem are distinguishable, the
2666 lieutenant governor shall authorize the filing officer described in Subsection (3)(i)(iii)
2667 to organize the prospective political party.

2668 (b) If the lieutenant governor finds that the name, emblem, or both are not
2669 distinguishable from the names and emblems of other registered political parties, the
2670 lieutenant governor shall notify the filing officer that the filing officer has seven
2671 calendar days to electronically submit a new name or emblem to the lieutenant
2672 governor.

2673 (8) A registered political party may not change its name or emblem during the regular
2674 general election cycle.

2675 (9)(a) It is unlawful for an individual to:

2676 (i) knowingly sign a political party registration petition:

2677 (A) with any name other than the individual's own name;

2678 (B) more than once for the same political party; or

2679 (C) if the individual is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to

2680 become registered to vote in this state before the petition is submitted to the
2681 lieutenant governor; or

2682 (ii) sign the verification of a political party registration petition signature sheet if the
2683 individual:

2684 (A) has not witnessed the signing by those individuals whose names appear on the
2685 political party registration petition signature sheet; or
2686 (B) knows that an individual whose signature appears on the political party
2687 registration petition signature sheet is not registered to vote in this state and
2688 does not intend to become registered to vote in this state.

2689 (b) An individual who violates this Subsection (9) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

2690 (10)(a) A voter who signs a petition under this section may have the voter's signature
2691 removed from the petition by, no later than three business days after the day on
2692 which the petition is filed with the lieutenant governor, submitting to the lieutenant
2693 governor a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

2694 (b) A statement described in Subsection (10)(a) shall comply with the requirements
2695 described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

2696 (c) The lieutenant governor shall use the procedures described in Subsection
2697 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a
2698 petition after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

2699 Section 29. Section **20A-9-405** is amended to read:

2700 **20A-9-405 (Effective 05/06/26). Nomination petitions for regular primary
2701 elections.**

2702 (1) This section applies to the form and circulation of nomination petitions for regular
2703 primary elections described in Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(a).

2704 (2) A candidate for elective office, and the agents of the candidate, may not circulate
2705 nomination petitions until the candidate has submitted a declaration of candidacy in
2706 accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(1).

2707 (3) For the manual candidate qualification process, the nomination petitions shall be in
2708 substantially the following form:

2709 (a) the petition shall be printed on paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

2710 (b) the petition shall be ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space
2711 above that line blank for purposes of binding;

2712 (c) the petition shall be headed by a caption stating the purpose of the petition and the
2713 name of the proposed candidate;

2714 (d) the petition shall feature the word "Warning" followed by the following statement in
2715 no less than eight-point, single leaded type: "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone
2716 to knowingly sign a nomination petition with any name other than the person's own
2717 name, or more than once for the same candidate, or if the person is not registered to
2718 vote in this state.";

2719 (e) the petition shall feature 10 lines spaced one-half inch apart and consecutively
2720 numbered one through 10;

2721 (f) the signature portion of the petition shall be divided into columns headed by the
2722 following titles:
2723 (i) Registered Voter's Printed Name;
2724 (ii) Signature of Registered Voter;
2725 (iii) Party Affiliation of Registered Voter;
2726 (iv) Birth Date or Age (Optional);
2727 (v) Street Address, City, Zip Code; and
2728 (vi) Date of Signature; and
2729 (g) a photograph of the candidate may appear on the nomination petition.

2730 (4) For the electronic candidate qualification process, the lieutenant governor shall design
2731 an electronic form, using progressive screens, that includes:

2732 (a) the following warning:

2733 "Warning: It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a nomination
2734 petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more than once for the same
2735 candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this state."; and

2736 (b) the following information for each individual who signs the petition:

2737 (i) name;

2738 (ii) party affiliation;

2739 (iii) date of birth or age, (optional);

2740 (iv) street address, city, zip code;

2741 (v) date of signature;

2742 (vi) other information required under Section 20A-21-201; and

2743 (vii) other information required by the lieutenant governor.

2744 [(5) For the manual candidate qualification process, if one or more nomination petitions are
2745 bound together, a page shall be bound to the nomination petition(s) that features the following
2746 printed verification statement to be signed and dated by the petition circulator:

2747 "Verification

2748 State of Utah, County of ____

2749 I, ____, of ____, hereby state that:

2750 I am at least 18 years old;

2751 All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were, to the best of
2752 my knowledge, signed by the persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear on
2753 the signature sheets, and each of them signed the person's name on the signature sheets in my
2754 presence;

2755 I believe that each has printed and signed the person's name and written the person's
2756 street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah."]

2757 [{6}] (5) For the manual candidate qualification process, if one or more nomination petitions
2758 are bound together, a final page shall be bound to the nomination petition(s) that
2759 contains the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

2760 (6) The lieutenant governor shall prepare and make public model nomination petition forms
2761 and associated instructions.

2762 (7) A nomination petition circulator:

2763 (a) must be at least 18 years old; and

2764 (b) may affiliate with any political party.

2765 (8) It is unlawful for any person to:

2766 (a) knowingly sign the nomination petition described in this section or Section
2767 20A-9-408:

2768 (i) with any name other than the person's own name;

2769 (ii) more than once for the same candidate; or

2770 (iii) if the person is not registered to vote in this state;

2771 (b) sign the verification of a signature for a nomination petition if the person:

2772 (i) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the
2773 nomination petition; or

2774 (ii) knows that a person whose signature appears on the nomination petition is not
2775 registered to vote in this state;

2776 (c) pay compensation to any person to sign a nomination petition; or

2777 (d) pay compensation to any person to circulate a nomination petition[, if the
2778 compensation is based directly on the number of signatures submitted to a filing
2779 officer rather than on the number of signatures verified or on some other basis.]
2780 unless the compensation is based on:

2781 (i) an hourly rate; or

(ii) a rate per signature declared valid under Section 20A-1-1002.

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

(10)(a) A voter who signs a nomination petition may have the voter's signature removed from the petition by, no later than three business days after the day on which the candidate files the petition with the appropriate filing officer, submitting to the filing officer a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

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

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

Section 30. Section **20A-9-502** is amended to read:

20A-9-502 (Effective 05/06/26). Certificate of nomination -- Contents --

Circulation -- Verification -- Criminal penalty -- Removal of petition signature.

(1) The candidate shall:

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

"State of Utah, County of

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

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

2813

Notary Public (or other officer

2814

qualified to administer oaths);

2815 (b) for each signature packet, bind signature sheets to a copy of the certificate of
2816 nomination and the circulator verification, that:

2817 (i) are printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

2818 (ii) are ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space above that
2819 line blank for the purpose of binding;2820 (iii) contain the name of the proposed candidate and the words "Unaffiliated
2821 Candidate Certificate of Nomination Petition" printed directly below the
2822 horizontal line;2823 (iv) contain the word "Warning" printed directly under the words described in
2824 Subsection (1)(b)(iii);2825 (v) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed in not less than
2826 eight-point, single leaded type:2827 "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a certificate of nomination
2828 signature sheet with any name other than the person's own name or more than once for the
2829 same candidate or if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
2830 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the signatures.";2831 (vi) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in Subsection
2832 (1)(b)(v):

2833 "Each signer says:

2834 I have personally signed this petition with a holographic signature;

2835 I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the
2836 county clerk certifies my signature; and

2837 My street address is written correctly after my name.";

2838 (vii) contain horizontally ruled lines, 3/8 inch apart under the statement described in
2839 Subsection (1)(b)(vi); and

2840 (viii) be vertically divided into columns as follows:

2841 (A) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be 5/8 inch wide,
2842 be headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical
2843 line down the middle;

2844 (B) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's

2845 Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)";

2846 (C) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Holographic Signature of
2847 Registered Voter";

2848 (D) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age
2849 (Optional)";

2850 (E) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip
2851 Code"; and

2852 (F) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age
2853 information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with
2854 voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may
2855 not be certified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition
2856 signatures are certified or if the information you provide does not match your
2857 voter registration records."; and

2858 (c) bind a final page to one or more signature sheets that contains the circulator
2859 verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

2860 [(e) bind a final page to one or more signature sheets that are bound together that contains,
2861 except as provided by Subsection (3), the following printed statement:

2862 "Verification

2863 State of Utah, County of _____

2864 I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:

2865 I am at least 18 years old;

2866 All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were signed by
2867 persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear on the signature sheets, and each
2868 of them signed the person's name on the signature sheets in my presence;

2869 I believe that each has printed and signed the person's name and written the person's
2870 street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah or will register to
2871 vote in Utah before the county clerk certifies the signatures on the signature sheet.

2873 (Signature) (Residence Address) (Date)".]

2874 (2) An agent designated to file a certificate of nomination under Subsection
2875 20A-9-503(2)(b) or (4)(b) may not sign the form described in Subsection (1)(a).

2876 (3)(a) The candidate shall circulate the nomination petition and ensure that the person in
2877 whose presence each signature sheet is signed:

2878 (i) is at least 18 years old; and

2879 (ii) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification bound to one or more
2880 signature sheets that are bound together.

2881 (b) A person may not sign the circulator verification if the person signed a signature
2882 sheet bound to the verification.

2883 (4)(a) It is unlawful for any person to:

2884 (i) knowingly sign a certificate of nomination signature sheet:

2885 (A) with any name other than the person's own name;

2886 (B) more than once for the same candidate; or

2887 (C) if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
2888 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the
2889 signatures; or

2890 (ii) sign the verification of a certificate of nomination signature sheet if the person:

2891 (A) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the
2892 certificate of nomination signature sheet; or

2893 (B) knows that a person whose signature appears on the certificate of nomination
2894 signature sheet is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
2895 become registered to vote in this state.

2896 (b) Any person violating this Subsection (4) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

2897 (5)(a) To qualify for placement on the general election ballot, the candidate shall, no
2898 earlier than the start of the applicable declaration of candidacy period described in
2899 Section 20A-9-201.5 and no later than 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in which the
2900 election will be held:

2901 (i) comply with Subsection 20A-9-503(1); and

2902 (ii) submit each signature packet to the county clerk where the majority of the
2903 signatures in the packet were collected, with signatures totaling:

2904 (A) at least 1,000 registered voters residing within the state when the nomination
2905 is for an office to be filled by the voters of the entire state; or

2906 (B) at least 300 registered voters residing within a political division or at least 5%
2907 of the registered voters residing within a political division, whichever is less,
2908 when the nomination is for an office to be filled by the voters of any political
2909 division smaller than the state.

2910 (b) A candidate has not complied with Subsection (5)(a)(ii), unless the county clerks
2911 verify that each required signature is a valid signature of a registered voter who is
2912 eligible to sign the signature packet and has not signed a signature packet to nominate

2913 another candidate for the same office.

2914 (c) In reviewing the signature packets, the county clerk shall count and certify only those
2915 persons who signed with a holographic signature, who:
2916 (i) are registered voters within the political division that the candidate seeks to
2917 represent; and
2918 (ii) did not sign any other certificate of nomination for that office.
2919 (d) The county clerk shall count and certify the number of registered voters who validly
2920 signed a signature packet, no later than 30 calendar days after the day on which the
2921 candidate submits the signature packet.
2922 (e) The candidate may supplement the signatures or amend the certificate of nomination
2923 or declaration of candidacy at any time on or before 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in
2924 which the election will be held.
2925 (f) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to
2926 determine whether a signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature
2927 packet.

2928 (6)(a) A voter who signs a signature packet under this section may have the voter's
2929 signature removed from the signature packet by, no later than 5 p.m. three business
2930 days after the day on which the candidate submits the signature packet to the county
2931 clerk, submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature
2932 be removed.
2933 (b) A statement described in Subsection (6)(a) shall comply with the requirements
2934 described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
2935 (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to
2936 determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a signature packet after
2937 receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

2938 Section 31. Section **20A-21-201** is amended to read:

2939 **20A-21-201 (Effective 05/06/26). Electronic signature gathering for an initiative,**
2940 **a referendum, or candidate qualification.**

2941 (1) After filing a petition for a statewide initiative or a statewide referendum, and before
2942 gathering signatures, the sponsors shall, after consulting with the Office of the
2943 Lieutenant Governor, sign a form provided by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor
2944 indicating whether the sponsors will gather signatures manually, electronically, or both.
2945 (2) After filing a petition for a local initiative or a local referendum, and before gathering
2946 signatures, the sponsors shall, after consulting with the local clerk's office, sign a form

2947 provided by the local clerk's office indicating whether the sponsors will gather
2948 signatures manually, electronically, or both.

2949 (3) After a candidate files a notice of intent to gather signatures to qualify for a ballot, and
2950 before gathering signatures, the candidate shall, after consulting with the election
2951 officer, sign a form provided by the election officer indicating whether the candidate
2952 will gather signatures manually, electronically, or both.

2953 (4) To gather a signature electronically, a signature-gatherer shall:

2954 (a) use a device provided by the signature-gatherer or a sponsor of the petition that:

2955 (i) is approved by the lieutenant governor;

2956 (ii) except as provided in Subsection (4)(a)(iii), does not store a signature or any
2957 other information relating to an individual signing the petition in any location
2958 other than the location used by the website to store the information;

2959 (iii) does not, on the device, store a signature or any other information relating to an
2960 individual signing the petition except for the minimum time necessary to upload
2961 information to the website;

2962 (iv) does not contain any applications, software, or data other than those approved by
2963 the lieutenant governor; and

2964 (v) complies with cyber-security and other security protocols required by the
2965 lieutenant governor;

2966 (b) use the approved device to securely access a website designated by the lieutenant
2967 governor, directly, or via an application designated by the lieutenant governor; and

2968 (c) while connected to the website, present the approved device to an individual
2969 considering signing the petition and, while the signature-gatherer is in the physical
2970 presence of the individual:

2971 (i) wait for the individual to reach each screen presented to the individual on the
2972 approved device; and

2973 (ii) wait for the individual to advance to each subsequent screen by clicking on the
2974 acknowledgement at the bottom of the screen.

2975 (5) Each screen shown on an approved device as part of the signature-gathering process
2976 shall appear as a continuous electronic document that, if the entire document does not
2977 appear on the screen at once, requires the individual viewing the screen to, before
2978 advancing to the next screen, scroll through the document until the individual reaches
2979 the end of the document.

2980 (6) After advancing through each screen required for the petition, the signature process

2981 shall proceed as follows:

2982 (a) except as provided in Subsection (6)(b):

2983 (i) the individual desiring to sign the petition shall present the individual's driver
2984 license or state identification card to the signature-gatherer;

2985 (ii) the signature-gatherer shall verify that the individual pictured on the driver
2986 license or state identification card is the individual signing the petition;

2987 (iii) the signature-gatherer shall scan or enter the driver license number or state
2988 identification card number through the approved device; and

2989 (iv) immediately after the signature-gatherer complies with Subsection (6)(a)(iii), the
2990 website shall determine whether the individual desiring to sign the petition is
2991 eligible to sign the petition;

2992 (b) if the individual desiring to sign the petition is unable to provide a driver license or
2993 state identification card to the signature gatherer:

2994 (i) the individual may present other valid voter identification;

2995 (ii) if the valid voter identification contains a picture of the individual, the
2996 signature-gatherer shall verify that the individual pictured is the individual signing
2997 the petition;

2998 (iii) if the valid voter identification does not contain a picture of the individual, the
2999 signature-gatherer shall, to the extent reasonably practicable, use the individual's
3000 address or other available means to determine whether the identification relates to
3001 the individual presenting the identification;

3002 (iv) the signature-gatherer shall scan an image of the valid voter identification and
3003 immediately upload the image to the website; and

3004 (v) the individual:

3005 (A) shall enter the individual's address; and

3006 (B) may, at the discretion of the individual, enter the individual's date of birth or
3007 age after the individual clicks on the screen acknowledging that they have read
3008 and understand the following statement, "Birth date or age information is not
3009 required, but may be used to verify your identity with voter registration
3010 records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be verified as a
3011 valid signature if you change your address before your signature is verified or
3012 if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records.";
3013 and

3014 (c) after completing the process described in Subsection (6)(a) or (b), the screen shall:

3015 (i) except for a petition to qualify a candidate for the ballot, give the individual
3016 signing the petition the opportunity to enter the individual's email address after the
3017 individual reads the following statement, "If you provide your email address, you
3018 may receive an email with additional information relating to the petition you are
3019 signing. "; and

3020 (ii)(A) if the website determines, under Subsection (6)(a)(iv), that the individual is
3021 eligible to sign the petition, permit the individual to enter the individual's name
3022 as the individual's electronic signature and, immediately after the
3023 signature-gather timely complies with Subsection (10), certify the signature; or
3024 (B) if the individual provides valid voter identification under Subsection (6)(b),
3025 permit the individual to enter the individual's name as the individual's
3026 electronic signature.

3027 (7) If an individual provides valid voter identification under Subsection (6)(b), the county
3028 clerk shall, within seven calendar days after the day on which the individual submits the
3029 valid voter identification, certify the signature if:

3030 (a) the individual is eligible to sign the petition;
3031 (b) the identification provided matches the information on file; and
3032 (c) the signature-gatherer timely complies with Subsection (10).

3033 (8) For each signature submitted under this section, the website shall record:

3034 (a) the information identifying the individual who signs;
3035 (b) the date the signature was collected; and
3036 (c) the name of the signature-gatherer.

3037 (9) An individual who is a signature-gatherer may not sign a petition unless another
3038 individual acts as the signature-gatherer when the individual signs the petition.

3039 [(10) Except for a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political party,
3040 each individual who gathers a signature under this section shall, within one business day after
3041 the day on which the individual gathers a signature, electronically sign and submit the
3042 following statement to the website:

3043 **"VERIFICATION OF SIGNATURE GATHERER**

3044 State of Utah, County of _____

3045 I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

3046 I am at least 18 years old;

3047 All the signatures that I collected on [Date signatures were gathered] were signed by
3048 individuals who professed to be the individuals whose signatures I gathered, and each of the

3049 individuals signed the petition in my presence;

3050 I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law or proposed
3051 law to which the petition relates;

3052 I believe that each individual has signed the individual's name and written the
3053 individual's residence correctly, that each signer has read and understands the law to which the
3054 petition relates, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah;

3055 Each signature correctly reflects the date on which the individual signed the petition;
3056 and

3057 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this petition to
3058 encourage that individual to sign it."]

3059 [11] (10) Except for a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered
3060 political party, each individual who gathers a signature under this section shall, within
3061 one business day after the day on which the individual gathers a signature, electronically
3062 sign and submit the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1)
3063 to the website.

3064 (11) Except for a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political
3065 party:

3066 (a) the county clerk may not certify a signature that is not timely verified in accordance
3067 with Subsection (10); and

3068 (b) if a signature certified by a county clerk under Subsection (6)(c)(ii)(A) is not timely
3069 verified in accordance with Subsection (10), the county clerk shall:

3070 (i) revoke the certification;

3071 (ii) remove the signature from the posting described in Subsection 20A-7-217(4),
3072 20A-7-315(4), 20A-7-516(4), or 20A-7-616(4); and

3073 (iii) update the totals described in Subsections 20A-7-217(5)(a)(ii),
3074 20A-7-315(5)(a)(ii), 20A-7-516(5)(a)(ii), and 20A-7-616(5)(a)(ii).

3075 [12) For a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political party, each
3076 individual who gathers a signature under this section shall, within one business day after the
3077 day on which the individual gathers a signature, electronically sign and submit the following
3078 statement to the lieutenant governor in the manner specified by the lieutenant governor:

3079 **"VERIFICATION OF SIGNATURE-GATHERER**

3080 State of Utah, County of ____

3081 I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:

3082 I am at least 18 years old;

3083 All the signatures that I collected on [Date signatures were gathered] were signed by
3084 individuals who professed to be the individuals whose signatures I gathered, and each of the
3085 individuals signed the petition in my presence;
3086

3087 I believe that each individual has signed the individual's name and written the
3088 individual's residence correctly and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah; and

3089 Each signature correctly reflects the date on which the individual signed the petition."]

3090 (12) For a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political party,
3091 each individual who gathers a signature under this section shall, within one business day
3092 after the day on which the individual gathers a signature, electronically sign and submit
3093 the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1) to the lieutenant
3094 governor in the manner specified by the lieutenant governor.

3095 (13) For a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political party, the
3096 election officer may not certify a signature that is not timely verified in accordance with
3097 Subsection (12).

3098 Section 32. Section **63I-2-220** is amended to read:

3099 **63I-2-220 (Effective 05/06/26). Repeal dates: Title 20A.**

3100 (1) Section 20A-7-103.1, Constitutional amendments proposed during specified timeframe
3101 -- Analysis -- Arguments -- Publication, is repealed July 1, 2025.

3102 [(2) Title 20A, Chapter 4, Part 6, Municipal Alternate Voting Methods Pilot Project, is
3103 repealed January 1, 2026.]

3104 (2) Subsection 20A-7-105(5)(c), regarding the email that the sponsors of an initiative
3105 petition send to certain individuals before delivering an initiative packet to the county
3106 clerk, is repealed January 1, 2027.

3107 (3) Subsection 20A-7-105(5)(d), regarding the email recipient list and written verification
3108 that the sponsors of a statewide initiative petition submit to the lieutenant governor, is
3109 repealed January 1, 2027.

3110 (4) Subsection 20A-7-105(5)(e), regarding the email recipient list and written verification
3111 that the sponsors of a local initiative petition submit to the local clerk, is repealed
3112 January 1, 2027.

3113 (5) Subsection 20A-7-105(5)(f), regarding the validity of signatures gathered for an
3114 initiative petition, is repealed January 1, 2027.

3115 Section 33. **Effective Date.**

3116 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), this bill takes effect May 6, 2026.

3117 (2) The actions affecting Section 20A-1-1002 (Effective 07/01/27) take effect on July 1,

3117

2027.