1   **Signature Collection Modifications**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Michael L. Kohler

Senate Sponsor:

2

3   **LONG TITLE**

4   **General Description:**

5   This bill amends provisions related to nominations for elective office.

6   **Highlighted Provisions:**

7   This bill:

8   ‣ requires an election official to post the name and date of signature of a voter who signs a

9   nomination petition on the lieutenant governor's website for at least 90 days;

10   ‣ requires an election official to notify the county or district attorney if a person whose

11   signature appears on a nomination petition notifies the election official that the person

12   did not sign the nomination petition;

13   ‣ clarifies the deadlines for a voter who signs a nomination petition to submit a statement to

14   an election official requesting that the voter's signature be removed from the petition; and

15   ‣ makes technical and conforming changes.

16   **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

17   None

18   **Other Special Clauses:**

19   None

20   **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

21   AMENDS:

22   **20A-9-403**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 39, 448

23   **20A-9-405**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 38

24   **20A-9-406**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2

25   **20A-9-408**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2

26   **20A-9-502**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2

27

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

29   Section 1. Section **20A-9-403** is amended to read:

30   **20A-9-403 . Regular primary elections.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

42   manner described in this section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

50   shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

59   party's candidates.

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

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

62   5 p.m. on November 30 of each odd-numbered year.

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

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

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

66   20A-8-103.

67   (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(e), an individual who submits a declaration

68   of candidacy under Section 20A-9-202 shall appear as a candidate for elective office

69   on the regular primary ballot of the registered political party listed on the declaration

70   of candidacy only if the individual is certified by the appropriate filing officer as

71   having submitted a nomination petition that was:

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

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

74   political division of the office that the individual seeks.

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

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

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

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

79   the filing deadline.

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

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

82   20A-9-408(8) by counting the aggregate number of individuals residing in each

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

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

85   15 of each odd-numbered year.

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

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

88   (d) The filing officer shall:

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

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

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

92   candidate submits the signatures to the filing officer;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

103   individual's voter registration form; [and]

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

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

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

107   procedures to verify submitted nomination petition signatures in accordance with

108   rules made under Subsection (3)(f)[.] ; and

109   (vi) subject to Subsection 20A-9-405(11), no later than five business days after the

110   day on which the signature of an individual who signs a nomination petition is

111   verified under Subsection (3)(d)(v), post the individual's name and date of

112   signature on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location

113   designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 calendar days.

114   (e) Notwithstanding any other provision in this Subsection (3), a candidate for lieutenant

115   governor may appear on the regular primary ballot of a registered political party

116   without submitting [nomination petitions] a nomination petition if the candidate files

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

118   (f) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the

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

120   that:

121   (i) provide for the use of statistical sampling procedures that:

122   (A) [filing officers are] a filing officer is required to use to verify signatures under

123   Subsection (3)(d); and

124   (B) reflect a bona fide effort to determine the validity of a candidate's entire

125   submission, using widely recognized statistical sampling techniques; and

126   (ii) provide for the transparent, orderly, and timely submission, verification, and

127   certification of nomination petition signatures.

128   (g) The county clerk shall:

129   (i) review the declarations of candidacy filed by candidates for local boards of

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

131   (ii) place the names of all candidates who have filed a declaration of candidacy for a

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

133   two candidates have filed for the same seat; and

134   (iii) place the local board of education candidates' names on the ballot in accordance

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

136   (4)(a) Before the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-409(4)(c), the lieutenant

137   governor shall provide to [the county clerks] each county clerk:

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

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

140   (3)(a), along with instructions on how [those] the names shall appear on the

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

142   and

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

144   registered political party under Subsection (5)(c) and [instruct the county clerks]

145   instructions to exclude the unopposed candidates from the primary election ballot.

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

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

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

149   Subsection (4)(a), the county clerk shall post or publish a primary election notice in

150   substantially the following form:

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

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

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

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

155   Attest: county clerk."

156   (5)(a) A candidate who, at the regular primary election, receives the highest number of

157   votes cast for the office sought by the candidate is:

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

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

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

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

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

163   candidates' party for those positions.

164   (c)(i) As used in this Subsection (5)(c), a candidate is "unopposed" if:

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

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

167   registered political party for a particular elective office; or

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

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

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

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

172   office.

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

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

175   without appearing on the primary election ballot.

176 (6) The expense of providing all ballots, blanks, or other supplies to be used at any primary

177   election provided for by this section, and all expenses necessarily incurred in the

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

179   the county or state, in the same manner as for the regular general elections.

180 (7) An individual may not file a declaration of candidacy for a registered political party of

181   which the individual is not a member, except to the extent that the registered political

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

183   Section 2. Section **20A-9-405** is amended to read:

184   **20A-9-405 . Nomination petitions for regular primary elections.**

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

186   primary elections described in Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(a) and Section 20A-9-408.

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

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

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

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

191   substantially the following form:

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

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

194   above that line blank for purposes of binding;

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

196   name of the proposed candidate;

197 (d) the petition shall feature the word "Warning" followed by the following statement in

198   no less than eight-point, single leaded type: "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone

199   to knowingly sign a nomination petition with any name other than the person's own

200   name, or more than once for the same candidate, or if the person is not registered to

201   vote in this state.";

202   (e) the petition shall feature 10 lines spaced one-half inch apart and consecutively

203   numbered one through 10;

204   (f) the signature portion of the petition shall be divided into columns headed by the

205   following titles:

206   (i) Registered Voter's Printed Name;

207   (ii) Signature of Registered Voter;

208   (iii) Party Affiliation of Registered Voter;

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

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

211   (vi) Date of Signature; and

212   (g) a photograph of the candidate may appear on the nomination petition.

213 (4) For the electronic candidate qualification process, the lieutenant governor shall design

214   an electronic form, using progressive screens, that includes:

215 (a) the following warning:

216   "Warning: It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a nomination

217   petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more than once for the same

218   candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this state."; and

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

220   (i) name;

221   (ii) party affiliation;

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

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

224   (v) date of signature;

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

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

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

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

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

230   "Verification

231   State of Utah, County of ____

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

233   I am at least 18 years old;

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

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

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

237   presence;

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

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

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

241   and associated instructions.

242   (7) A nomination petition circulator:

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

244   (b) may affiliate with any political party.

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

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

247   20A-9-408:

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

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

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

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

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

253   nomination petition; or

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

255   registered to vote in this state;

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

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

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

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

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

261   (10) If a person whose signature appears on a nomination petition notifies the filing officer

262   that the person did not sign the nomination petition, the filing officer shall, after making

263   a reasonable attempt to determine the accuracy of the person's allegation, but no later

264   than three business days after the day on which the allegation is received, notify the

265   county or district attorney of:

266   (a) the nature of the allegation; and

267   (b) the name of, and available contact information for:

268   (i) the person making the allegation; and

269   (ii) the person who collected the signature.

270   [(10)] (11)(a) A voter who signs a nomination petition may have the voter's signature

271   removed from the petition by[, no later than three business days after the day on

272   which the candidate files the petition with the appropriate filing officer, submitting to

273   the filing officer a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.]

274   submitting to the filing officer a statement requesting that the voter's signature be

275   removed no later than 5 p.m. three business days after the day on which:

276   (i) the candidate files the petition with the filing officer; or

277   (ii) if the voter electronically signed the petition under Section 20A-21-201:

278   (A) the website defined in Section 20A-21-101 certifies the voter's signature under

279   Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(a); or

280   (B) the filing officer certifies the voter's signature under Subsection 20A-21-201(7).

281   (b) A statement described in Subsection [(10)(a)] (11)(a) shall comply with the

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

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

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

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

286   (12)(a) If a filing officer timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under

287   Subsection (11)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from the

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

289   (i) remove the voter's name and date of signature from the nomination petition and

290   the posting described in Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(d)(vi), 20A-9-408(9)(d), or

291   20A-9-408(10)(d), as applicable; and

292   (ii) update the nomination petition signature totals.

293   (b) The filing officer shall comply with Subsection (12)(a) no later than 5 p.m. the day

294   before the day of:

295   (i) if the candidate to which the petition relates is seeking the nomination of a

296   registered political party that is not a qualified political party, the deadline

297   described in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b); or

298   (ii) if the candidate to which the petition relates is seeking the nomination of a

299   qualified political party, the convention described in Subsection 20A-9-408(11)

300   ((c).

301   Section 3. Section **20A-9-406** is amended to read:

302   **20A-9-406 . Qualified political party -- Requirements and exemptions.**

303   The following provisions apply to a qualified political party:

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

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

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

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

308   candidates;

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

310   (a) Subsections 20A-9-403(1) through (3)(b) and Subsections (3)(d)(ii) through (4)(a);

311   and

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

313   [(c) Section 20A-9-405;]

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

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

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

317   20A-9-408, and 20A-9-409;

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

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

320   by a qualified political party:

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

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

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

324   designated, then under some suitable title;

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

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

327   qualified political party is listed by party;

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

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

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

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

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

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

334   office, or county office;

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

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

337   (10) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-403(3), the qualified political party is entitled to

338   have each of the qualified political party's candidates for elective office appear on the

339   primary ballot of the qualified political party with an indication that each candidate is a

340   candidate for the qualified political party;

341   (11) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-403(4)(a), the lieutenant governor shall include on

342   the list provided by the lieutenant governor to the county clerks:

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

344   multicounty, and county offices; and

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

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

347   from the primary-election ballot;

348   (12) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-403(5)(c), a candidate who is unopposed for an

349   elective office in the regular primary election of the qualified political party is

350   nominated by the party for that office without appearing on the primary ballot; and

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

352   20A-9-405, the qualified political party is entitled to have the names of its candidates for

353   elective office featured with party affiliation on the ballot at a regular general election.

354   Section 4. Section **20A-9-408** is amended to read:

355   **20A-9-408 . Signature-gathering process to seek the nomination of a qualified**

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

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

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

359   the signature-gathering process described in this section.

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

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

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

363   described in Section 20A-9-408.5.

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

365   20A-9-202(4), a member of a qualified political party who, under this section, is seeking

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

367   the next general election shall:

368   (a) except to the extent otherwise provided in Subsection (13)(a), during the applicable

369   declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, and before

370   gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing officer on a form approved

371   by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy that
372   includes:
373   (i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a registered
374   political party under this section;
375   (ii) the name of the registered political party for which the member is seeking
376   nomination;
377   (iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;
378   (iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and
379   (v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;
380   (b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in
381   person, with the filing officer during the applicable declaration of candidacy filing
382   period described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and
383   (c) pay the filing fee.
384   (4) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(2)(a), a member of a qualified political party
385   who, under this section, is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for the
386   office of district attorney within a multicounty prosecution district that is to be filled at
387   the next general election shall:
388   (a) during the applicable declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section
389   20A-9-201.5, and before gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing
390   officer on a form approved by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather
391   signatures for candidacy that includes:
392   (i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a registered
393   political party under this section;
394   (ii) the name of the registered political party for which the member is seeking
395   nomination;
396   (iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;
397   (iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and
398   (v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;
399   (b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in
400   person, with the filing officer during the applicable declaration of candidacy filing
401   period described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and
402   (c) pay the filing fee.
403   (5) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(3)(a)(iii), a lieutenant governor candidate who
404   files as the joint-ticket running mate of an individual who is nominated by a qualified

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

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

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

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

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

410   20A-9-701(1) also includes the name of each candidate nominated by a qualified

411   political party under this section.

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

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

414   political party that nominated the candidate.

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

416   political party for an elective office by:

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

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

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

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

421   deadline described in Subsection (12), in the following amounts:

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

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

424   candidates in a primary election;

425   (ii) except as provided in Subsection (13)(b), for a congressional district race, 7,000

426   signatures of registered voters who are residents of the congressional district and

427   are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political

428   party's candidates in a primary election;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

439	(B) 3% of the registered voters of the qualified political party who are residents of
440	the applicable State Board of Education district; and
441	(vi) for a county office race, signatures of 3% of the registered voters who are
442	residents of the area permitted to vote for the county office and are permitted by
443	the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in
444	a primary election.
445	(9)(a) This Subsection (9) applies only to the manual candidate qualification process.
446	(b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the
447	qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, using
448	the manual candidate qualification process, the member shall:
449	(i) collect the signatures on a form approved by the lieutenant governor, using the
450	same circulation and verification requirements described in [Sections 20A-7-105
451	and 20A-7-204] Section 20A-9-405; and
452	(ii) in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, submit the signatures to the election
453	officer before the applicable deadline described in Subsection (12).
454	(c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), and in
455	accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, the election officer shall, no later than the
456	earlier of 14 calendar days after the day on which the election officer receives the
457	signatures, or one day before the day on which the qualified political party holds the
458	convention to select a nominee for the elective office to which the signature packets
459	relate:
460	(i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature
461	packet to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old;
462	(ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (9)(c)(i) who is not at
463	least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney;
464	(iii) with the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, determine whether each
465	signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the petition, using the same
466	method, described in Section 20A-1-1002, used to verify a signature on a petition;
467	and
468	(iv) certify whether each name is that of a registered voter who is qualified to sign the
469	signature packet.
470	(d) Subject to Subsection 20A-9-405(11), an election officer shall, no later than five
471	business days after the day on which the signature of an individual who signs a
472	petition is certified under Subsection (9)(c)(iv), post the individual's name and date of

473   signature on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated

474   by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 calendar days.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

485   requesting removal of the signature.]

486   (e)(i) An election officer shall, in accordance with this Subsection (9)(e) and rules

487   made under Section 20A-3a-106, conduct regular audits of signature comparisons

488   made between signatures gathered under this section and voter signatures

489   maintained by the election officer.

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

491   may not audit the individual's own work.

492   (iii) The election officer shall:

493   (A) audit 1% of all signature comparisons described in Subsection (9)(e)(i) to

494   determine the accuracy of the comparisons made;

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

496   (C) record the audit results;

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

498   results of an audit described in Subsection (9)(e)(i); and

499   (E) record any remedial action taken.

500   (iv) The audit results described in Subsection (9)(e)(iii)(C) are a public record.

501   (f) An election officer who certifies signatures under Subsection (9)(c) or

502   20A-9-403(3)(d) shall, after certifying enough signatures to establish that a candidate

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

504   20A-9-403(3)(a), as applicable, continue to certify signatures submitted for the

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

506   either:

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

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

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

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

511   process.

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

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

514   member shall, before the deadline described in Subsection (12), collect signatures

515   electronically:

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

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

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

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

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

521   which the election officer receives the signatures, or one day before the day on which

522   the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee for the elective

523   office to which the signature packets relate:

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

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

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

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

528   (d) Subject to Subsection 20A-9-405(11), an election officer shall, no later than five

529   business days after the day on which the signature of an individual who signs a

530   petition is certified under Section 20A-21-201, post the name and date of signature of

531   the individual on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location

532   designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 calendar days.

533   (11)(a) An individual may not gather signatures under this section until after the

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

535   section.

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

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

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

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

540   required to comply with; and

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

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

543   in Subsection (11)(b)(i).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

554   lieutenant governor posts a declaration of candidacy.

555 (12) The deadline before which a member of a qualified political party must collect and

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

557   day that is at least 14 calendar days before the day on which the qualified political

558   party's convention for the office begins.

559 (13) For the 2026 election year only, an individual who desires to gather signatures to seek

560   the nomination of a qualified political party for the office of United States representative

561   shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

570   candidates in a primary election.

571   Section 5. Section **20A-9-502** is amended to read:

572   **20A-9-502 . Certificate of nomination -- Contents -- Circulation -- Verification --**

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

574   (1) The candidate shall:

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

576   "State of Utah, County of _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

587   and removal of my name from the ballot.

588

                                        _____

589

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

590

                                        _____

591

      Notary Public (or other officer

592

      qualified to administer oaths)";

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

594   nomination and the circulator verification, that:

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

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

597   line blank for the purpose of binding;

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

599   Candidate Certificate of Nomination Petition" printed directly below the

600   horizontal line;

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

602   Subsection (1)(b)(iii);

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

604   eight-point, single leaded type:

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

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

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

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

609   (vi) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in Subsection

610   (1)(b)(v):

611   "Each signer says:

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

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

614   county clerk certifies my signature; and

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

616   (vii) contain horizontally ruled lines, 3/8 inch apart under the statement described in

617   Subsection (1)(b)(vi); and

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

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

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

621   line down the middle;

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

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

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

625   Registered Voter";

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

627   (Optional)";

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

629   Code"; and

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

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

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

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

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

635   voter registration records."; and

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

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

638   "Verification

639   State of Utah, County of _____

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

641   I am at least 18 years old;

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

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

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

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

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

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

648   _____

649   (Signature)   (Residence Address)   (Date)."[-]

650   (2) An agent designated to file a certificate of nomination under Subsection 20A-9-503

651   (2)(b) or (4)(b) may not sign the form described in Subsection (1)(a).

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

653   whose presence each signature sheet is signed:

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

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

656   signature sheets that are bound together.

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

658   sheet bound to the verification.

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

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

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

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

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

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

665   signatures; or

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

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

668   certificate of nomination signature sheet; or

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

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

671   become registered to vote in this state.

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

673   (c) If a person whose signature appears on a nomination petition notifies the county

674   clerk that the person did not sign the nomination petition, the county clerk shall, after

675   making a reasonable attempt to determine the accuracy of the person's allegation, but

676   no later than three business days after the day on which the allegation is received,

677   notify the county or district attorney of:

678   (i) the nature of the allegation; and

679   (ii) the name of, and available contact information for:

680   (A) the person making the allegation; and

681   (B) the person who collected the signature.

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

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

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

685   election will be held:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

694   division smaller than the state.

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

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

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

698   another candidate for the same office.

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

700   persons who signed with a holographic signature, who:

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

702   represent; and

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

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

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

706   candidate submits the signature packet.

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

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

709   which the election will be held.

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

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

712   packet.

713   (6) Subject to Subsection (7), the county clerk shall, no later than five business days after

714   the day on which the signature of a voter who signs a signature packet is certified under

715   Subsection (5)(d), post the voter's name and date of signature on the lieutenant

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

717   at least 90 calendar days.

718   [(6)] (7)(a) A voter who signs a signature packet under this section may have the voter's

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

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

721   clerk, submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature

722   be removed.] submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's

723   signature be removed no later than 5 p.m. three business days after the day on which:

724   (i) the candidate submits the signature packet to the county clerk under Subsection

725   (5)(a); or

726   (ii) if the voter electronically signed the nomination petition under Section

727   20A-21-201:

728   (A) the website defined in Section 20A-21-101 certifies the voter's signature under

729   Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(a); or

730   (B) the county clerk certifies the voter's signature under Subsection 20A-21-201(7).

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

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

733   (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to

734   determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a signature packet after

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

736   (8)(a) If a county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under

737   Subsection (7)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from the

738   nomination petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the county clerk shall:

739   (i) remove the voter's name and date of signature from the nomination petition and

740   the posting described in Subsection (6); and

741   (ii) update the nomination petition signature totals.

742   (b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection (8)(a) no later than the day of the

743   deadline described in Subsection (5)(d).

744   Section 6. **Effective Date.**

745   This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.