Michael L. Kohler proposes the following substitute bill:

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, no later than five business days after the day on which the

9 signature of an individual who signs a nomination petition is verified, to post the name

10 and date of signature of the individual on the lieutenant governor's website for at least 90

11 days after the date of the primary election;

12   ‣ requires an election official to notify the county or district attorney if an individual whose

13 signature appears on a nomination petition informs the election official that the

14 individual did not sign the nomination petition;

15   ‣ clarifies the deadlines for a voter who manually or electronically signs a nomination

16 petition to submit a statement to an election official requesting that the voter's signature

17 be removed from the petition;

18   ‣ includes a coordination clause to standardize a defined term in this bill with the same

19 term in H.B. 223, Electronic Signature Collection Amendments; and

20   ‣ makes technical and conforming changes.

21 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

22   None

23 **Other Special Clauses:**

24   This bill provides a coordination clause.

25 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

26 AMENDS:

27   **20A-9-403**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 39, 448

28   **20A-9-405**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 38

29   **20A-9-406**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2

30   **20A-9-408**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2

31   **20A-9-502**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2

32   **Utah Code Sections affected by Coordination Clause:**

33   **20A-9-405 (05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 38

34   **20A-9-502 (05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session,

35   Chapter 2

36   ══

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

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

39   **20A-9-403 . Regular primary elections.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

51   manner described in this section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

59   shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

68   party's candidates.

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

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

71   5 p.m. on November 30 of each odd-numbered year.

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

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

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

75   20A-8-103.

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

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

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

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

80   having submitted a nomination petition that was:

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

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

83   political division of the office that the individual seeks.

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

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

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

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

88   the filing deadline.

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

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

91   20A-9-408(8) by counting the aggregate number of individuals residing in each

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

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

94   15 of each odd-numbered year.

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

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

97 (d) The filing officer shall:

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

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

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

101   candidate submits the signatures to the filing officer;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

112   individual's voter registration form; [and]

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

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

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

116   procedures to verify submitted nomination petition signatures in accordance with

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

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

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

120   verified under Subsection (3)(d)(v) or Section 20A-21-201, post the individual's

121   name and date of signature on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous

122   location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 calendar days after

123   the date of the primary election.

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

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

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

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

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

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

130   that:

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

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

133   Subsection (3)(d); and

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

135   submission, using widely recognized statistical sampling techniques; and

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

137   certification of nomination petition signatures.

138   (g) The county clerk shall:

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

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

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

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

143   two candidates have filed for the same seat; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

152   and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

160   substantially the following form:

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

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

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

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

165   Attest: county clerk."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

173   candidates' party for those positions.

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

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

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

177   registered political party for a particular elective office; or

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

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

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

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

182   office.

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

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

185   without appearing on the primary election ballot.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

193   *The following section is affected by a coordination clause at the end of this bill.*

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

195   **20A-9-405 . Nomination petitions for regular primary elections.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

202   substantially the following form:

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

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

205   above that line blank for purposes of binding;

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

207   name of the proposed candidate;

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

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

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

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

212   vote in this state.";

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

214   numbered one through 10;

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

216   following titles:

217   (i) Registered Voter's Printed Name;

218   (ii) Signature of Registered Voter;

219   (iii) Party Affiliation of Registered Voter;

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

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

222   (vi) Date of Signature; and

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

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

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

226   (a) the following warning:

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

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

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

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

231   (i) name;

232   (ii) party affiliation;

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

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

235   (v) date of signature;

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

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

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

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

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

241   "Verification

242   State of Utah, County of ____

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

244   I am at least 18 years old;

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

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

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

248   presence;

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

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

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

252   and associated instructions.

253   (7) A nomination petition circulator:

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

255   (b) may affiliate with any political party.

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

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

258   20A-9-408:

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

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

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

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

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

264   nomination petition; or

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

266   registered to vote in this state;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

276   county or district attorney of:

277   (a) the nature of the allegation; and

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

279   (i) the person making the allegation; and

280   (ii) the person who collected the signature.

281   [(10)] (11)(a) A voter who signs a nomination petition may have the voter's signature

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

302   20A-9-408(10)(d), as applicable; and

303   (ii) update the nomination petition signature totals.

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

305   before the day of:

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

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

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

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

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

311   ((c).

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

313   **20A-9-406 . Qualified political party -- Requirements and exemptions.**

314   The following provisions apply to a qualified political party:

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

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

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

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

319   candidates;

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

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

322   20A-9-403(3)(d)(ii) through (4)(a); and

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

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

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

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

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

328   20A-9-408, and 20A-9-409;

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

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

331   by a qualified political party:

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

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

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

335   designated, then under some suitable title;

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

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

338   qualified political party is listed by party;

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

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

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

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

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

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

345   office, or county office;

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

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

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

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

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

351   candidate for the qualified political party;

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

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

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

355   multicounty, and county offices; and

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

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

358   from the primary-election ballot;

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

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

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

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

363   20A-9-405, the qualified political party is entitled to have the names of its candidates for

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

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

366   **20A-9-408 . Signature-gathering process to seek the nomination of a qualified**

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

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

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

370   the signature-gathering process described in this section.

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

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

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

374   described in Section 20A-9-408.5.

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

376   20A-9-202(4), a member of a qualified political party who, under this section, is seeking

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

378   the next general election shall:

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

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

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

382   by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy that

383   includes:

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

385   political party under this section;

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

387   nomination;

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

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

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

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

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

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

394   (c) pay the filing fee.

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

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

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

398   the next general election shall:

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

400   20A-9-201.5, and before gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing

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

402   signatures for candidacy that includes:

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

404   political party under this section;

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

406   nomination;

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

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

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

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

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

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

413   (c) pay the filing fee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

421   20A-9-701(1) also includes the name of each candidate nominated by a qualified

422   political party under this section.

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

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

425   political party that nominated the candidate.

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

427   political party for an elective office by:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

435   candidates in a primary election;

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

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

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

439   party's candidates in a primary election;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

451   the applicable State Board of Education district; and

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

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

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

455   a primary election.

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

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

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

459   the manual candidate qualification process, the member shall:

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

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

462   and 20A-7-204; and

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

464   officer before the applicable deadline described in Subsection (12).

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

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

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

468   signatures, or one day before the day on which the qualified political party holds the

469   convention to select a nominee for the elective office to which the signature packets

470   relate:

471   (i)   check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature
472   packet to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old;
473   (ii)   submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (9)(c)(i) who is not at
474   least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney;
475   (iii) with the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, determine whether each
476   signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the petition, using the same
477   method, described in Section 20A-1-1002, used to verify a signature on a petition;
478   and
479   (iv) certify whether each name is that of a registered voter who is qualified to sign the
480   signature packet.
481   (d) Subject to Subsection 20A-9-405(11), an election officer shall, no later than five
482   business days after the day on which the signature of an individual who signs a
483   petition is certified under Subsection (9)(c)(iv), post the individual's name and date of
484   signature on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated
485   by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 calendar days after the date of the primary
486   election.
487   [(d)(i) A registered voter who physically signs a form under Subsections (8) and
488   (9)(b) may have the voter's signature removed from the form by, no later than 5
489   p.m. three business days after the day on which the member submits the signature
490   form to the election officer, submitting to the election officer a statement
491   requesting that the voter's signature be removed.]
492   [(ii) A statement described in Subsection (9)(d)(i) shall comply with the requirements
493   described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).]
494   [(iii) With the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, the election officer shall
495   use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether
496   to remove an individual's signature after receiving a timely, valid statement
497   requesting removal of the signature.]
498   (e)(i) An election officer shall, in accordance with this Subsection (9)(e) and rules
499   made under Section 20A-3a-106, conduct regular audits of signature comparisons
500   made between signatures gathered under this section and voter signatures
501   maintained by the election officer.
502   (ii) An individual who conducts an audit of signature comparisons under this section
503   may not audit the individual's own work.
504   (iii) The election officer shall:

505   (A) audit 1% of all signature comparisons described in Subsection (9)(e)(i) to
506   determine the accuracy of the comparisons made;
507   (B) record the individuals who conducted the audit;
508   (C) record the audit results;
509   (D) provide additional training or staff reassignments, as needed, based on the
510   results of an audit described in Subsection (9)(e)(i); and
511   (E) record any remedial action taken.
512   (iv) The audit results described in Subsection (9)(e)(iii)(C) are a public record.
513   (f) An election officer who certifies signatures under Subsection (9)(c) or
514   20A-9-403(3)(d) shall, after certifying enough signatures to establish that a candidate
515   has reached the applicable signature threshold described in Subsection (8) or
516   20A-9-403(3)(a), as applicable, continue to certify signatures submitted for the
517   candidate in excess of the number of signatures required, until the election officer
518   either:
519   (i) certifies signatures equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold; or
520   (ii) has reviewed all signatures submitted for the candidate before reaching an
521   amount equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold.
522   (10)(a) This Subsection (10) applies only to the electronic candidate qualification
523   process.
524   (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the
525   qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, the
526   member shall, before the deadline described in Subsection (12), collect signatures
527   electronically:
528   (i) in accordance with Section 20A-21-201; and
529   (ii) using progressive screens, in a format approved by the lieutenant governor, that
530   complies with Subsection 20A-9-405(4).
531   (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and [(9)(b)] (10)(b),
532   the election officer shall, no later than the earlier of 14 calendar days after the day on
533   which the election officer receives the signatures, or one day before the day on which
534   the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee for the elective
535   office to which the signature packets relate:
536   (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature
537   to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old; and
538   (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (10)(c)(i) who is not

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

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

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

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

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

544   designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 calendar days after the date of

545   the primary election.

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

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

548   section.

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

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

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

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

553   required to comply with; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

567   lieutenant governor posts a declaration of candidacy.

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

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

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

571   party's convention for the office begins.

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

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

574   shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

583   candidates in a primary election.

584   *The following section is affected by a coordination clause at the end of this bill.*

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

586   **20A-9-502 . Certificate of nomination -- Contents -- Circulation -- Verification --**

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

588   (1) The candidate shall:

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

590   "State of Utah, County of _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

601   and removal of my name from the ballot.

602

                                                         _____

603

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

604

605

_____

Notary Public (or other officer

606

qualified to administer oaths)";

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

608   nomination and the circulator verification, that:

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

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

611   line blank for the purpose of binding;

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

613   Candidate Certificate of Nomination Petition" printed directly below the

614   horizontal line;

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

616   Subsection (1)(b)(iii);

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

618   eight-point, single leaded type:

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

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

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

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

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

624   (1)(b)(v):

625   "Each signer says:

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

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

628   county clerk certifies my signature; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

635   line down the middle;

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

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

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

639   Registered Voter";

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

641   (Optional)";

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

643   Code"; and

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

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

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

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

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

649   voter registration records."; and

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

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

652   "Verification

653   State of Utah, County of _____

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

655   I am at least 18 years old;

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

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

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

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

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

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

662   _____

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

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

665   20A-9-503(2)(b) or (4)(b) may not sign the form described in Subsection (1)(a).

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

667   whose presence each signature sheet is signed:

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

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

670   signature sheets that are bound together.

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

672   sheet bound to the verification.

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

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

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

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

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

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

679   signatures; or

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

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

682   certificate of nomination signature sheet; or

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

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

685   become registered to vote in this state.

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

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

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

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

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

691   notify the county or district attorney of:

692   (i) the nature of the allegation; and

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

694   (A) the person making the allegation; and

695   (B) the person who collected the signature.

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

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

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

699   election will be held:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

708   division smaller than the state.

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

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

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

712   another candidate for the same office.

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

714   persons who signed with a holographic signature, who:

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

716   represent; and

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

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

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

720   candidate submits the signature packet.

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

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

723   which the election will be held.

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

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

726   packet.

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

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

729   Subsection (5)(d) or Section 20A-21-201, post the voter's name and date of signature on

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

731   governor, until at least the day of the deadline described in Subsection

732   20A-9-403(3)(d)(vi).

733 [(6)] (7)(a) A voter who signs a signature packet under this section may have the voter's

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

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

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

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

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

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

740   (5)(a); or

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

742   20A-21-201:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

755   the posting described in Subsection (6); and

756   (ii) update the nomination petition signature totals.

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

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

759   Section 6. **Effective Date.**

760   This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.

761   Section 7. **Coordinating H.B. 167 with H.B. 223.**

762   If H.B. 167, Signature Collection Modifications, and H.B. 223, Electronic Signature

763   Collection Amendments, both pass and become law, the Legislature intends that, on May 6,

764   2026:

765   (1) Subsection 20A-9-405(11)(a)(ii)(A), enacted in H.B. 167, be amended to read:

766   "(A) the system defined in Section 20A-21-101 certifies the voter's signature under

767   Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(a); or"; and

768   (2) Subsection 20A-9-502(7)(a)(ii)(A), enacted in H.B. 167, be amended to read:

769   "(A) the system defined in Section 20A-21-101 certifies the voter's signature under

770   Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(a); or".