

Electronic Signature Collection Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jordan D. Teuscher

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends the electronic signature gathering and verification process.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines a term;
- requires the device used to electronically gather signatures for an initiative petition, a referendum petition, or a candidate nomination petition to be capable of scanning and extracting certain data from a driver license, state identification card, or another form of valid voter identification;

- ▶ beginning on January 1, 2028, requires the device described above to be capable of operating in an offline environment;

- ▶ beginning on January 1, 2030:

- requires the sponsors of an initiative or referendum petition, or an individual who circulates a candidate nomination petition, to gather signatures using the electronic signature gathering process; and

- prohibits a person described above from gathering signatures manually;

- adds a repeal date for sections related to manual signature gathering; and

- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

20A-7-304.5, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 107

20A-7-502.7, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

20A-7-602.7, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

31 **20A-7-602.8**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 16

32 **20A-7-604.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 107

33 **20A-21-101**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 325

34 **20A-21-201**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 381, 448

35 **63I-1-220**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special Session, Chapter 5

36 ENACTS:

37 **20A-21-202**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

40 Section 1. Section **20A-7-304.5** is amended to read:

41 **20A-7-304.5 . Posting referendum information.**

42 (1) On the day on which the lieutenant governor complies with Subsection 20A-7-304(3),

43 or provides the sponsors with access to the [website] system defined in Section

44 20A-21-101, the lieutenant governor shall post the following information together in a

45 conspicuous place on the lieutenant governor's website:

46 (a) the referendum petition;

47 (b) a copy of the law that is the subject of the referendum petition; and

48 (c) information describing how an individual may remove the individual's signature
49 from the referendum petition.

50 (2) The lieutenant governor shall:

51 (a) promptly update the information described in Subsection (1) if the information
52 changes; and

53 (b) maintain the information described in Subsection (1) on the lieutenant governor's
54 website until the referendum fails to qualify for the ballot or is passed or defeated at
55 an election.

56 Section 2. Section **20A-7-502.7** is amended to read:

57 **20A-7-502.7 . Referability to voters.**

58 (1) Within 20 calendar days after the day on which an eligible voter files an initiative

59 application under Section 20A-7-502, counsel for the county, city, or town to which the
60 initiative pertains shall:

61 (a) review the proposed law that is the subject of the initiative application to determine
62 whether the law is legally referable to voters; and

63 (b) notify the first three sponsors, in writing, whether the proposed law is:

64 (i) legally referable to voters; or

- (ii) rejected as not legally referable to voters.

(2) A proposed law that is the subject of an initiative application is legally referable to voters unless:

- (a) the proposed law:
 - (i) is patently unconstitutional;
 - (ii) is nonsensical;
 - (iii) is administrative, rather than legislative, in nature;
 - (iv) could not become law if passed; [or]
 - (v) contains more than one subject as evaluated in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-502(3); or
 - [~~(b)~~] (vi) is identical or substantially similar to a legally referable proposed law sought by an initiative application submitted to the local clerk, under Section 20A-7-502, within two years before the day on which the initiative application for the current proposed law is filed;
 - [~~(e)~~] (b) the subject of the proposed law is not clearly expressed in the law's title; or
 - [~~(d)~~] (c) the initiative application was not timely filed or does not comply with the requirements of this part.

(3) After the end of the 20-calendar-day period described in Subsection (1), a county, city, or town may not:

- (a) reject a proposed initiative as not legally referable to voters; or
- (b) bring a legal action, other than to appeal a court decision, challenging a proposed initiative on the grounds that the proposed initiative is not legally referable to voters.

(4) If a county, city, or town rejects a proposed initiative, a sponsor of the proposed initiative may, within 10 days after the day on which a sponsor is notified under Subsection (1)(b), appeal the decision to:

- (a) a district court; or
- (b) the Supreme Court, if the Supreme Court has original jurisdiction over the appeal.

(5) If, on appeal, the court determines that the law proposed by the initiative application is legally referable to voters, the local clerk shall comply with Subsection 20A-7-504(3), or give the sponsors access to the [website] system defined in Section 20A-21-101, within five calendar days after the day on which the determination, and any appeal of the determination, is final.

Section 3. Section **20A-7-602.7** is amended to read:

20A-7-602.7 . Referability to voters of local law other than land use law.

99 (1) Within 20 calendar days after the day on which an eligible voter files a referendum
100 application under Section 20A-7-602 for a local law other than a land use law, counsel
101 for the county, city, or town to which the referendum pertains shall:
102 (a) review the referendum application to determine whether the proposed referendum is
103 legally referable to voters; and
104 (b) notify the first three sponsors, in writing, whether the proposed referendum is:
105 (i) legally referable to voters; or
106 (ii) rejected as not legally referable to voters.

107 (2) For a local law other than a land use law, a proposed referendum is legally referable to
108 voters unless:
109 (a) the proposed referendum challenges an action that is administrative, rather than
110 legislative, in nature;
111 (b) the proposed referendum challenges more than one law passed by the local
112 legislative body; or
113 (c) the referendum application was not timely filed or does not comply with the
114 requirements of this part.

115 (3) After the end of the 20-calendar-day period described in Subsection (1), a county, city,
116 or town may not, for a local law other than a land use law:
117 (a) reject a proposed referendum as not legally referable to voters; or
118 (b) except as provided in Subsection (4), challenge, in a legal action or otherwise, a
119 proposed referendum on the grounds that the proposed referendum is not legally
120 referable to voters.

121 (4)(a) If, under Subsection (1)(b)(ii), a county, city, or town rejects a proposed
122 referendum concerning a local law other than a land use law, a sponsor of the
123 proposed referendum may, within 10 days after the day on which a sponsor is
124 notified under Subsection (1)(b), challenge or appeal the decision to:
125 (i) the Supreme Court, by means of an extraordinary writ, if possible; or
126 (ii) a district court, if the sponsor is prohibited from pursuing an extraordinary writ
127 under Subsection (4)(a)(i).
128 (b) Failure of a sponsor to timely challenge or appeal a rejection under Subsection (4)(a)
129 terminates the referendum.

130 (5) If, on a challenge or appeal, the court determines that the proposed referendum
131 described in Subsection (4) is legally referable to voters, the local clerk shall comply
132 with Subsection 20A-7-604(3), or give the sponsors access to the [website] system

133 defined in Section 20A-21-101, within five calendar days after the day on which the
134 determination, and any challenge or appeal of the determination, is final.

135 Section 4. Section **20A-7-602.8** is amended to read:

136 **20A-7-602.8 . Referability to voters of local land use law.**

137 (1) Within 20 calendar days after the day on which a referendum eligible voter files an
138 application under Section 20A-7-602 for a land use law, counsel for the county, city, or
139 town to which the referendum pertains shall:

140 (a) review the referendum application to determine whether the proposed referendum is
141 legally referable to voters; and
142 (b) notify the first three sponsors, in writing, whether the proposed referendum is:
143 (i) legally referable to voters; or
144 (ii) rejected as not legally referable to voters.

145 (2)(a) Subject to Subsection (2)(b), for a land use law, a proposed referendum is legally
146 referable to voters unless:

147 (i) the proposed referendum challenges an action that is administrative, rather than
148 legislative, in nature;
149 (ii) the proposed referendum challenges a land use decision, rather than a land use
150 regulation, as those terms are defined in Section 10-20-102 or 17-79-102;
151 (iii) the proposed referendum challenges more than one law passed by the local
152 legislative body; or
153 (iv) the referendum application was not timely filed or does not comply with the
154 requirements of this part.

155 (b) In addition to the limitations of Subsection (2)(a), a proposed referendum is not
156 legally referable to voters for a:

157 (i) municipal land use law, as defined in Section 20A-7-101, if the land use law was
158 passed by a unanimous vote of the local legislative body; or
159 (ii) transit area land use law, as defined in Section 20A-7-601, if the transit area land
160 use law was passed by a two-thirds vote of the local legislative body.

161 (3) After the end of the 20-calendar-day period described in Subsection (1), a county, city,
162 or town may not, for a land use law:

163 (a) reject a proposed referendum as not legally referable to voters; or
164 (b) except as provided in Subsection (4), challenge, in a legal action or otherwise, a
165 proposed referendum on the grounds that the proposed referendum is not legally
166 referable to voters.

167 (4)(a) If a county, city, or town rejects a proposed referendum concerning a land use
168 law, a sponsor of the proposed referendum may, within seven days after the day on
169 which a sponsor is notified under Subsection (1)(b), challenge or appeal the decision
170 to:
171 (i) the Supreme Court, by means of an extraordinary writ, if possible; or
172 (ii) a district court, if the sponsor is prohibited from pursuing an extraordinary writ
173 under Subsection (4)(a)(i).
174 (b) Failure of a sponsor to timely challenge or appeal a rejection under Subsection (4)(a)
175 terminates the referendum.
176 (5) If, on challenge or appeal, the court determines that the proposed referendum is legally
177 referable to voters, the local clerk shall comply with Subsection 20A-7-604(3), or give
178 the sponsors access to the [website] system defined in Section 20A-21-101, within five
179 calendar days after the day on which the determination, and any challenge or appeal of
180 the determination, is final.

181 Section 5. Section **20A-7-604.5** is amended to read:

182 **20A-7-604.5 . Posting referendum information.**

183 (1) On the day on which the local clerk complies with Subsection 20A-7-604(3), or gives
184 the sponsors access to the [website] system defined in Section 20A-21-101, the local
185 clerk shall post the following information together in a conspicuous place on the local
186 clerk's website:
187 (a) the referendum petition;
188 (b) a copy of the law that is the subject of the referendum petition; and
189 (c) information describing how an individual may remove the individual's signature
190 from the referendum petition.
191 (2) The local clerk shall:
192 (a) promptly update the information described in Subsection (1) if the information
193 changes; and
194 (b) maintain the information described in Subsection (1) on the local clerk's website
195 until the referendum fails to qualify for the ballot or is passed or defeated at an
196 election.

197 Section 6. Section **20A-21-101** is amended to read:

198 **20A-21-101 . Definitions.**

199 As used in this chapter:

200 (1) "Approved device" means a device described in Subsection 20A-21-201(4).

201 (2) "Candidate qualification process" means the process, described in Section 20A-9-403 or
202 20A-9-408, of gathering signatures to seek the nomination of a registered political party.

203 (3) "Electronic candidate qualification process" means the same as that term is defined in
204 Section 20A-9-101.

205 (4) "Electronic initiative process" means the same as that term is defined in Section
206 20A-7-101.

207 (5) "Electronic referendum process" means the same as that term is defined in Section
208 20A-7-101.

209 (6) "Manual candidate qualification process" means the same as that term is defined in
210 Section 20A-9-101.

211 (7) "Petition" means:

212 (a) as it relates to the electronic initiative process or the electronic referendum process,
213 the electronic record that an individual signs to indicate the individual is in favor of
214 placing the initiative or referendum on the ballot; or

215 (b) as it relates to electronic candidate qualification process, the electronic record that an
216 individual signs to indicate the individual is in favor of placing an individual's name
217 on the ballot to run for a particular elective office.

218 (8) "Signature" means:

219 (a) as it relates to a signature gathered for an initiative or referendum, the same as that
220 term is defined in Section 20A-7-101; or

221 (b) as it relates to a signature gathered for the candidate qualification process, the same
222 as that term is defined in Section 20A-9-101.

223 (9) ["Website"] "System" means:

224 (a) as it relates to the electronic initiative process or the electronic referendum process,
225 the [website] web-based or application-based interface designated by the lieutenant
226 governor for collecting the signatures and other information relating to the electronic
227 initiative process or the electronic referendum process; or

228 (b) as it relates to the electronic candidate qualification process, [a-website] the
229 web-based or application-based interface designated by the lieutenant governor for
230 collecting the signatures and other information relating to the electronic candidate
231 qualification process.

232 Section 7. Section **20A-21-201** is amended to read:

233 **20A-21-201 . Electronic signature gathering for an initiative, a referendum, or**
234 **candidate qualification.**

235 (1) After filing a petition for a statewide initiative or a statewide referendum, and before
236 gathering signatures, the sponsors shall, after consulting with the Office of the
237 Lieutenant Governor, sign a form provided by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor
238 indicating whether the sponsors will gather signatures manually, electronically, or both.

239 (2) After filing a petition for a local initiative or a local referendum, and before gathering
240 signatures, the sponsors shall, after consulting with the local clerk's office, sign a form
241 provided by the local clerk's office indicating whether the sponsors will gather
242 signatures manually, electronically, or both.

243 (3) After a candidate files a notice of intent to gather signatures to qualify for a ballot, and
244 before gathering signatures, the candidate shall, after consulting with the election
245 officer, sign a form provided by the election officer indicating whether the candidate
246 will gather signatures manually, electronically, or both.

247 (4) To gather a signature electronically, a signature-gatherer shall:

248 (a) use a device provided by the signature-gatherer or a sponsor of the petition that:

249 (i) is approved by the lieutenant governor;

250 (ii) is capable of uploading to the system the personal identifying information relating
251 to an individual who signs the petition;

252 [(iii)] (iii) except as provided in [Subsektion (4)(a)(iii), does not store a signature or
253 any other information relating to an individual signing the petition in any location
254 other than the location used by the website to store the information] Subsections
255 (4)(a)(iv) and (v), does not, on the device, store the information described in
256 Subsection (4)(a)(ii);

257 [(iv)] (iv) beginning on January 1, 2028, is capable of operating offline by
258 temporarily storing, on the device, the information described in Subsection
259 (4)(a)(ii) that would otherwise be uploaded in real time to the system;

260 (v) [does not, on the device, store a signature or any other information relating to an
261 individual signing the petition except for the minimum time necessary to upload
262 information to the website] when connected to a wireless communication
263 technology, does not, on the device, retain the information described in Subsection
264 (4)(a)(ii) for longer than is necessary to upload the information to the system;

265 [(iv)] (vi) is capable of scanning, reading, and extracting to the device:
266 (A) the driver license number from a driver license;
267 (B) the state identification card number from a state identification card; or
268 (C) an image of another form of valid voter identification;

269 (vii) does not contain any applications, software, or data other than those approved by
270 the lieutenant governor; and
271 [(v)] (viii) complies with cyber-security and other security protocols required by the
272 lieutenant governor;

273 (b) use the approved device to securely access [a website] the system designated by the
274 lieutenant governor, directly, or via an application designated by the lieutenant
275 governor; and
276 (c) while connected to the [website] system, present the approved device to an individual
277 considering signing the petition and, while the signature-gatherer is in the physical
278 presence of the individual:
279 (i) wait for the individual to reach each screen presented to the individual on the
280 approved device; and
281 (ii) wait for the individual to advance to each subsequent screen by clicking on the
282 acknowledgement at the bottom of the screen.

283 (5) Each screen shown on an approved device as part of the signature-gathering process
284 shall appear as a continuous electronic document that, if the entire document does not
285 appear on the screen at once, requires the individual viewing the screen to, before
286 advancing to the next screen, scroll through the document until the individual reaches
287 the end of the document.

288 (6) After advancing through each screen required for the petition, the signature process
289 shall proceed as follows:
290 (a) except as provided in Subsection (6)(b):
291 (i) the individual desiring to sign the petition shall present the individual's driver
292 license or state identification card to the signature-gatherer;
293 (ii) the signature-gatherer shall verify that the individual pictured on the driver
294 license or state identification card is the individual signing the petition;
295 (iii) the signature-gatherer shall scan [or enter] the driver license number or state
296 identification card number through the approved device; and
297 (iv) immediately after the signature-gatherer complies with Subsection (6)(a)(iii), the [
298 website] system shall determine whether the individual desiring to sign the petition
299 is eligible to sign the petition;

300 (b) if the individual desiring to sign the petition is unable to provide a driver license or
301 state identification card to the signature gatherer:
302 (i) the individual may present other valid voter identification;

303 (ii) if the valid voter identification contains a picture of the individual, the
304 signature-gatherer shall verify that the individual pictured is the individual signing
305 the petition;

306 (iii) if the valid voter identification does not contain a picture of the individual, the
307 signature-gatherer shall, to the extent reasonably practicable, use the individual's
308 address or other available means to determine whether the identification relates to
309 the individual presenting the identification;

310 (iv) the signature-gatherer shall scan an image of the valid voter identification and
311 immediately upload the image to the [website] system; and

312 (v) the individual:
313 (A) shall enter the individual's address; and
314 (B) may, at the discretion of the individual, enter the individual's date of birth or
315 age after the individual clicks on the screen acknowledging that they have read
316 and understand the following statement, "Birth date or age information is not
317 required, but may be used to verify your identity with voter registration
318 records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be verified as a
319 valid signature if you change your address before your signature is verified or
320 if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records. ";
321 and

322 (c) after completing the process described in Subsection (6)(a) or (b), the screen shall:
323 (i) except for a petition to qualify a candidate for the ballot, give the individual
324 signing the petition the opportunity to enter the individual's email address after the
325 individual reads the following statement, "If you provide your email address, you
326 may receive an email with additional information relating to the petition you are
327 signing. "; and

328 (ii)(A) if the [website] system determines, under Subsection (6)(a)(iv), that the
329 individual is eligible to sign the petition, permit the individual to enter the
330 individual's name as the individual's electronic signature and, immediately after
331 the signature-gatherer timely complies with Subsection (10), certify the
332 signature; or

333 (B) if the individual provides valid voter identification under Subsection (6)(b),
334 permit the individual to enter the individual's name as the individual's
335 electronic signature.

336 (7) If an individual provides valid voter identification under Subsection (6)(b), the county

337 clerk shall, within seven calendar days after the day on which the individual submits the
338 valid voter identification, certify the signature if:

339 (a) the individual is eligible to sign the petition;
340 (b) the identification provided matches the information on file; and
341 (c) the signature-gatherer timely complies with Subsection (10).

342 (8) For each signature submitted under this section, the [website] system shall record:

343 (a) the information identifying the individual who signs;
344 (b) the date the signature was collected; and
345 (c) the name of the signature-gatherer.

346 (9) An individual who is a signature-gatherer may not sign a petition unless another
347 individual acts as the signature-gatherer when the individual signs the petition.

348 (10) Except for a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political party,
349 each individual who gathers a signature under this section shall, within one business day after
350 the day on which the individual gathers a signature, electronically sign and submit the
351 following statement to the [website] system:

352 "VERIFICATION OF SIGNATURE-GATHERER

353 State of Utah, County of _____

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

355 I am at least 18 years old;

356 All the signatures that I collected on [Date signatures were gathered] were signed by
357 individuals who professed to be the individuals whose signatures I gathered, and each of the
358 individuals signed the petition in my presence;

359 I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law or proposed
360 law to which the petition relates;

361 I believe that each individual has signed the individual's name and written the
362 individual's residence correctly, that each signer has read and understands the law to which the
363 petition relates, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah;

364 Each signature correctly reflects the date on which the individual signed the petition; and

365 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this petition to
366 encourage that individual to sign it."

367 (11) Except for a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political
368 party:

369 (a) the county clerk may not certify a signature that is not timely verified in accordance
370 with Subsection (10); and

371 (b) if a signature certified by a county clerk under Subsection (6)(c)(ii)(A) is not timely
372 verified in accordance with Subsection (10), the county clerk shall:
373 (i) revoke the certification;
374 (ii) remove the signature from the posting described in Subsection 20A-7-217(4),
375 20A-7-315(4), 20A-7-516(4), or 20A-7-616(4); and
376 (iii) update the totals described in Subsections 20A-7-217(5)(a)(ii),
377 20A-7-315(5)(a)(ii), 20A-7-516(5)(a)(ii), and 20A-7-616(5)(a)(ii).

378 (12) For a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political party, each
379 individual who gathers a signature under this section shall, within one business day after the
380 day on which the individual gathers a signature, electronically sign and submit the following
381 statement to the lieutenant governor in the manner specified by the lieutenant governor:

382 "VERIFICATION OF SIGNATURE-GATHERER

383 State of Utah, County of _____

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

385 I am at least 18 years old;

386 All the signatures that I collected on [Date signatures were gathered] were signed by
387 individuals who professed to be the individuals whose signatures I gathered, and each of the
388 individuals signed the petition in my presence;

389 I believe that each individual has signed the individual's name and written the
390 individual's residence correctly and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah; and

391 Each signature correctly reflects the date on which the individual signed the petition."

392 (13) For a petition for a candidate to seek the nomination of a registered political party, the
393 election officer may not certify a signature that is not timely verified in accordance with
394 Subsection (12).

395 Section 8. Section **20A-21-202** is enacted to read:

396 **20A-21-202 . Electronic signature gathering -- Exclusive method of collecting**
397 **signatures.**

398 (1) Beginning on January 1, 2030, the sponsors of a statewide or local initiative petition:
399 (a) shall gather signatures using the electronic initiative process; and
400 (b) may not gather signatures manually.

401 (2) Beginning on January 1, 2030, the sponsors or a statewide or local referendum petition:
402 (a) shall gather signatures using the electronic referendum process; and
403 (b) may not gather signatures manually.

404 (3) Beginning on January 1, 2030, an individual who gathers signatures for a candidate

405 nomination petition:

406 (a) shall gather signatures using the electronic candidate qualification process; and

407 (b) may not gather signatures using the manual candidate qualification process.

408 Section 9. Section **63I-1-220** is amended to read:

409 **63I-1-220 . Repeal dates: Title 20A.**

410 (1) [Reserved.] Section 20A-7-105, Manual petition processes -- Obtaining signatures --
411 Verification -- Submitting the petition -- Certification of signatures -- Transfer to
412 lieutenant governor -- Removal of signature, is repealed January 1, 2030.

413 (2) Section 20A-7-203, Manual initiative process -- Form of initiative petition and signature
414 sheets, is repealed January 1, 2030.

415 (3) Section 20A-7-204, Manual initiative process -- Circulation requirements -- Lieutenant
416 governor to provide sponsors with materials, is repealed January 1, 2030.

417 (4) Section 20A-7-303, Manual referendum process -- Form of referendum petition and
418 signature sheets, is repealed January 1, 2030.

419 (5) Section 20A-7-304, Manual referendum process -- Circulation requirements --
420 Lieutenant governor to provide sponsors with materials, is repealed January 1, 2030.

421 (6) Section 20A-7-503, Manual initiative process -- Form of initiative petition and signature
422 sheet, is repealed January 1, 2030.

423 (7) Section 20A-7-504, Manual initiative process -- Circulation requirements -- Local clerk
424 to provide sponsors with materials, is repealed January 1, 2030.

425 (8) Section 20A-7-603, Manual referendum process -- Form of referendum petition and
426 signature sheet, is repealed January 1, 2030.

427 (9) Section 20A-7-604, Manual referendum process -- Circulation requirements -- Local
428 clerk to provide sponsors with materials, is repealed January 1, 2030.

429 (10) Subsection 20A-9-405(3), regarding the manual candidate nomination process, is
430 repealed January 1, 2030.

431 (11) Subsection 20A-9-405(5), regarding the manual candidate nomination process, is
432 repealed January 1, 2030.

433 (12) Subsection 20A-9-408(9), regarding the manual candidate nomination process, is
434 repealed January 1, 2030.

435 (13) Section 20A-9-408.3, Submission of candidate signature packet -- Requirements for
436 submission -- Signature packet chain of custody and storage, is repealed January 1, 2030.

437 Section 10. **Effective Date.**

438 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.