

Lisa Shepherd proposes the following substitute bill:

Vacancy Replacement Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Lisa Shepherd

Senate Sponsor: Keven J. Stratton

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill address vacancies in elected office.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

▸ defines the term "interim vacancy period" to mean the period of time between a general election and the start of a newly elected officeholder's term of office;

▸ requires certain vacancies in elected office to be filled by appointment of an individual selected by the political party of which the prior officeholder was a member at the time the prior officeholder was last elected or appointed, including:

- a vacancy in the office of United States senator, state legislator, or State Board of Education member, to be filled by the governor; and

- a vacancy in a county office, to be filled by a county legislative body;

▸ for a vacancy in a municipal office, local school board office, or elected special district office that exists during an interim vacancy period, prohibits the local legislative body from appointing an individual to fill the vacancy until the interim vacancy period ends; and

▸ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

17B-1-302, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 388

17B-1-306, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 39, 161

29 **17B-2a-905**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 388
30 **20A-1-502**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448
31 **20A-1-503**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 90, 448
32 **20A-1-504**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 90
33 **20A-1-508**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 16
34 **20A-1-509.1**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 2
35 **20A-1-509.2**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 16
36 **20A-1-510**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 90, 448
37 **20A-1-511**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 16
38 **20A-1-512**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 161, 448
39 **20A-11-204**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 90, 448
40 **20A-11-1303**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 90, 448

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

43 Section 1. Section **17B-1-302** is amended to read:

44 **17B-1-302 . Board member qualifications -- Number of board members.**

- 45 (1) Except as provided in Section 17B-2a-905, each member of a special district board of
46 trustees shall be:
- 47 (a) a registered voter at the location of the member's residence; and
48 (b) except as otherwise provided in Subsection (2), (3), or (4), a resident within:
- 49 (i) the boundaries of the special district; and
50 (ii) if applicable, the boundaries of the division of the special district from which the
51 member is elected or appointed.
- 52 (2)(a) As used in this Subsection (2):
- 53 (i) "Proportional number" means the number of members of a board of trustees that
54 bears, as close as mathematically possible, the same proportion to all members of
55 the board that the number of seasonally occupied homes bears to all residences
56 within the district that receive service from the district.
- 57 (ii) "Seasonally occupied home" means a single-family residence:
- 58 (A) that is located within the special district;
59 (B) that receives service from the special district; and
60 (C) whose owner occupies the residence on a temporary or seasonal basis, rather
61 than as the principal place of residence as defined in Section 20A-2-105.
- 62 (b) If over 50% of the residences within a special district that receive service from the

special district are seasonally occupied homes, the requirement under Subsection (1)(b) is replaced, for a proportional number of members of the board of trustees, with the requirement that the member be an owner of land, or an agent or officer of the owner of land:

- (i) that receives, or intends to receive, service from the district; and
- (ii) that is located within the special district and, if applicable, the division from which the member is elected.

(3)(a) Subsection (3)(b) applies to a board of trustees member in:

- (i) a basic special district;
- (ii) any other type of special district that is located solely within a county of the fourth, fifth, or sixth class, that has within the district's boundaries fewer than one residential dwelling unit per 10 acres of land; or
- (iii) an infrastructure financing district.

(b) For a board of trustees member in a special district listed in Subsection (3)(a), the board of trustees may replace the requirement under Subsection (1)(b) with the requirement that the member be:

- (i) a resident within the boundaries of the special district; or
- (ii) an owner of land, or an agent or officer of the owner of land, that:
 - (A) is located within the special district ; and
 - (B) receives, or is expected to receive, service from the district.

(4) A board member of an infrastructure financing district is not required to be a resident within the boundary of the infrastructure financing district if:

- (a) all owners of surface property within the district waive the residency requirement;
- (b) the district boundary does not include any residents; or
- (c)(i) in the case of an appointed board position, no qualified individual timely files to be considered for appointment to the board; or
- (ii) in the case of an elected board position, no qualified individual files a declaration of candidacy for the board position under Subsection 17B-1-306(5).

(5) A member of the board of trustees of a service area described in Subsection 17B-2a-905(2)(a) or (3)(a), who is an elected official of the county appointing the individual, is not subject to the requirements described in Subsection (1)(b) if the elected official was elected at large by the voters of the county.

(6) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(b) and except as provided in Subsection (7), the county legislative body may appoint to the special district board one of the county legislative

body's own members, regardless of whether the member resides within the boundaries described in Subsection (1)(b), if:

(a) the county legislative body satisfies the procedures to fill a vacancy described in:

(i) for the appointment of a new board member, Subsections 17B-1-304(2) and (3); or

(ii) for an appointment to fill a midterm vacancy, [~~Subsection 20A-1-512(1)(a)(ii) or Subsection 20A-1-512(2)~~] Subsection 20A-1-512(2)(a)(ii) or Subsection 20A-1-512(6);

(b) fewer qualified candidates timely file to be considered for appointment to the special district board than are necessary to fill the board;

(c) the county legislative body appoints each of the qualified candidates who timely filed to be considered for appointment to the board; and

(d) the county legislative body appoints a member of the body to the special district board, in accordance with Subsection 17B-1-304(6) or Subsection [~~20A-1-512(1)(e)~~] 20A-1-512(4), who was:

(i) elected at large by the voters of the county;

(ii) elected from a division of the county that includes more than 50% of the geographic area of the special district; or

(iii) if the special district is divided into divisions under Section 17B-1-306.5, elected from a division of the county that includes more than 50% of the geographic area of the division of the special district in which there is a board vacancy.

(7) If it is necessary to reconstitute the board of trustees of a special district located solely within a county of the fourth, fifth, or sixth class because the term of a majority of the members of the board has expired without new trustees having been elected or appointed as required by law, even if sufficient qualified candidates timely file to be considered for a vacancy on the board, the county legislative body may appoint to the special district board no more than one of the county legislative body's own members who does not satisfy the requirements of Subsection (1).

(8)(a) Except as otherwise provided by statute, the number of members of each board of trustees of a special district that has nine or fewer members shall have an odd number of members that is no fewer than three.

(b) If a board of trustees of a special district has more than nine members, the number of members may be odd or even.

(9) For a newly created special district, the number of members of the initial board of trustees shall be the number specified:

- (a) for a special district whose creation was initiated by a petition under Subsection 17B-1-203(1)(a), (b), (c), or (d), in the petition; or
- (b) for a special district whose creation was initiated by a resolution under Subsection 17B-1-203(1)(e) or (f), in the resolution.

(10)(a) For an existing special district, the number of members of the board of trustees may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the board of trustees.

(b) No change in the number of members of a board of trustees under Subsection (10)(a) may:

- (i) violate Subsection (8); or
- (ii) serve to shorten the term of any member of the board.

Section 2. Section **17B-1-306** is amended to read:

17B-1-306 . Special district board -- Election procedures -- Notice.

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (12), each elected board member shall be selected as provided in this section.

(2)(a) Each election of a special district board member shall be held:

- (i) at the same time as the municipal general election or the regular general election, as applicable; and
- (ii) at polling places designated by the special district board in consultation with the county clerk for each county in which the special district is located, which polling places shall coincide with municipal general election or regular general election polling places, as applicable, whenever feasible.

(b) The special district board, in consultation with the county clerk, may consolidate two or more polling places to enable voters from more than one district to vote at one consolidated polling place.

(c)(i) Subject to Subsections (5)(h) and (i), the number of polling places under Subsection (2)(a)(ii) in an election of board members of an irrigation district shall be one polling place per division of the district, designated by the district board.

(ii) Each polling place designated by an irrigation district board under Subsection (2)(c)(i) shall coincide with a polling place designated by the county clerk under Subsection (2)(a)(ii).

(3)(a) The clerk of each special district with a board member position to be filled at the next municipal general election or regular general election, as applicable, shall provide notice of:

- (i) each elective position of the special district to be filled at the next municipal

- 165 general election or regular general election, as applicable;
- 166 (ii) the constitutional and statutory qualifications for each position; and
- 167 (iii) the dates and times for filing a declaration of candidacy.
- 168 (b) If the election is to be held at the same time as the municipal general election, a
- 169 declaration of candidacy shall be filed between June 1 and June 7 of any
- 170 odd-numbered year.
- 171 (c) If the election is to be held at the same time as the regular general election, a
- 172 declaration of candidacy shall be filed between June 1 and June 7 of any
- 173 even-numbered year.
- 174 (4) The clerk of the special district shall publish the notice described in Subsection (3)(a)
- 175 for the special district, as a class A notice under Section 63G-30-102, for at least 10 days
- 176 before the first day for filing a declaration of candidacy.
- 177 (5)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(c), to become a candidate for an elective
- 178 special district board position, an individual shall file a declaration of candidacy in
- 179 person with an official designated by the special district within the candidate filing
- 180 period for the applicable election year in which the election for the special district
- 181 board is held and:
- 182 (i) during the special district's standard office hours, if the standard office hours
- 183 provide at least three consecutive office hours each day during the candidate filing
- 184 period that is not a holiday or weekend;
- 185 (ii) if the standard office hours of a special district do not provide at least three
- 186 consecutive office hours each day, a three-hour consecutive time period each day
- 187 designated by the special district during the candidate filing period that is not a
- 188 holiday or weekend; or
- 189 (iii) during the special district's standard office hours if the special district has
- 190 adopted a four day standard work week with standard office hours of at least eight
- 191 hours each of those days.
- 192 (b) When the candidate filing deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, holiday, or a day that
- 193 is not a regular business day for the special district pursuant to Subsection (5)(a)(iii),
- 194 the filing time shall be extended until the close of normal office hours on the
- 195 following regular business day.
- 196 (c) Subject to Subsection (5)(f), an individual may designate an agent to file a
- 197 declaration of candidacy with the official designated by the special district if:
- 198 (i) the individual is located outside of the state during the entire filing period;

- (ii) the designated agent appears in person before the official designated by the special district; and
- (iii) the individual communicates with the official designated by the special district using an electronic device that allows the individual and official to see and hear each other.

(d)(i) Before the filing officer may accept any declaration of candidacy from an individual, the filing officer shall:

- (A) read to the individual the constitutional and statutory qualification requirements for the office that the individual is seeking; and
- (B) require the individual to state whether the individual meets those requirements.

(ii) If the individual does not meet the qualification requirements for the office, the filing officer may not accept the individual's declaration of candidacy.

(iii) If it appears that the individual meets the requirements of candidacy, the filing officer shall accept the individual's declaration of candidacy.

(e) The declaration of candidacy shall be in substantially the following form:

"I, (print name) _____, being first duly sworn, say that I reside at (Street) _____, City of _____, County of _____, state of Utah, (Zip Code) _____, (Telephone Number, if any) _____; that I meet the qualifications for the office of board of trustees member for _____ (state the name of the special district); that I am a candidate for that office to be voted upon at the next election; and that, if filing via a designated agent, I will be out of the state of Utah during the entire candidate filing period, and I hereby request that my name be printed upon the official ballot for that election.

(Signed) _____

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me by _____ on this _____ day of _____, ____.

(Signed) _____

(Clerk or Notary Public). "[=]"

(f) An agent designated under Subsection (5)(c) may not sign the form described in Subsection (5)(e).

(g) Each individual wishing to become a valid write-in candidate for an elective special district board position is governed by Section 20A-9-601.

(h) If at least one individual does not file a declaration of candidacy as required by this section, an individual shall be appointed to fill that board position in accordance with

the appointment provisions of Section 20A-1-512.

- (i) If only one candidate files a declaration of candidacy and there is no write-in candidate who complies with Section 20A-9-601, the board, in accordance with Section 20A-1-206, may:

- (i) consider the candidate to be elected to the position; and
 - (ii) cancel the election.

- (6)(a) A primary election may be held if:

- (i) the election is authorized by the special district board; and
 - (ii) the number of candidates for a particular local board position or office exceeds twice the number of persons needed to fill that position or office.

- (b) The primary election shall be conducted:

- (i) on the same date as the municipal primary election or the regular primary election, as applicable; and
 - (ii) according to the procedures for primary elections provided under Title 20A, Election Code.

- (7)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (7)(c), within one business day after the deadline for filing a declaration of candidacy, the special district clerk shall certify the candidate names to the clerk of each county in which the special district is located.

- (b)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (7)(c) and in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110, the clerk of each county in which the special district is located and the special district clerk shall coordinate placement of the name of each candidate for special district office in the nonpartisan section of the ballot with the appropriate election officer.

- (ii) If consolidation of the special district election ballot with the municipal general election ballot or the regular general election ballot, as applicable, is not feasible, the special district board of trustees, in consultation with the county clerk, shall provide for a separate special district election ballot to be administered by poll workers at polling places designated under Subsection (2).

- (c)(i) Subsections (7)(a) and (b) do not apply to an election of a member of the board of an irrigation district established under Chapter 2a, Part 5, Irrigation District Act.

- (ii) The board of an irrigation district shall:

- (A) subject to Subsections (7)(c)(ii)(B) and (C), establish the form of the ballot for a board member election;
 - (B) ensure that the ballot is in a nonpartisan format; and

- (C) ensure that the name of each candidate is placed on the ballot in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110.
- (8)(a) Each voter at an election for a board of trustees member of a special district shall:
- (i) be a registered voter within the district, except for an election of:
 - (A) an irrigation district board of trustees member; or
 - (B) a basic special district board of trustees member who is elected by property owners; and
 - (ii) meet the requirements to vote established by the district.
- (b) Each voter may vote for as many candidates as there are offices to be filled.
- (c) The candidates who receive the highest number of votes are elected.
- (9) Except as otherwise provided by this section, the election of special district board members is governed by Title 20A, Election Code.
- (10)(a) Except as provided in Subsection 17B-1-303(8), a person elected to serve on a special district board shall serve a four-year term, beginning at noon on the January 1 after the person's election.
- (b) A person elected shall be sworn in as soon as practical after January 1.
- (11)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (11)(b), each special district shall reimburse the county or municipality holding an election under this section for the costs of the election attributable to that special district.
- (b) Each irrigation district shall bear the district's own costs of each election the district holds under this section.
- (12) This section does not apply to an improvement district that provides electric or gas service.
- (13) Except as provided in Subsection 20A-3a-605(1)(b), the provisions of Title 20A, Chapter 3a, Part 6, Early Voting, do not apply to an election under this section.
- (14)(a) As used in this Subsection (14), "board" means:
- (i) a special district board; or
 - (ii) the administrative control board of a special service district that has elected members on the board.
- (b) If a board desires to hold elections for membership on the board at a regular general election instead of a municipal general election[-], or at a municipal general election instead of a regular general election, the board may submit an application to the lieutenant governor that:
- (i) requests permission to change the election year for membership on the board in a

- 301 manner described in this Subsection (14)(b);
- 302 (ii) indicates that a change in the election year is beneficial, based on potential cost
- 303 savings, a potential increase in voter turnout, or another material reason; and
- 304 (iii) if a change in the election year may result in shortening a board member's term
- 305 of office, indicates that the members of the board unanimously support the
- 306 lieutenant governor taking that action.
- 307 (c) Upon receipt of an application described in Subsection (14)(b), the lieutenant
- 308 governor may approve the if:
- 309 (i) the lieutenant governor concludes that changing the election year is beneficial
- 310 based on the criteria described in Subsection (14)(b)(ii); and
- 311 (ii) for an application that may result in shortening a board member's term of office,
- 312 the application satisfies the unanimity requirement described in Subsection
- 313 (14)(b)(iii).
- 314 (d) If the lieutenant governor approves a board's application described in this section:
- 315 (i) all future elections for membership on the board shall be held at the time of the
- 316 general election specified in the application; and
- 317 (ii) the board may not hold elections at the time of an election other than the general
- 318 election specified in the application, unless the board receives permission from the
- 319 lieutenant governor to change the election under the same procedure, and by
- 320 applying the same criteria, described in this Subsection (14).
- 321 (15)(a) This Subsection (15) applies to a special district if:
- 322 (i) the special district's board members are elected by the owners of real property, as
- 323 provided in Subsection 17B-1-1402(1)(b); and
- 324 (ii) the special district was created before January 1, 2020.
- 325 (b) The board of a special district described in Subsection (15)(a) may conduct an
- 326 election:
- 327 (i) to fill a board member position that expires at the end of the term for that board
- 328 member's position; and
- 329 (ii) notwithstanding Subsection [~~20A-1-512(1)(a)(i)~~] 20A-1-512(2)(a)(i), to fill a
- 330 vacancy in an unexpired term of a board member.
- 331 (c) An election under Subsection (15)(b) may be conducted as determined by the special
- 332 district board, subject to Subsection (15)(d).
- 333 (d)(i) The special district board shall provide to property owners eligible to vote at
- 334 the special district election:

(A) notice of the election; and

(B) a form to nominate an eligible individual to be elected as a board member.

(ii)(A) The special district board may establish a deadline for a property owner to submit a nomination form.

(B) A deadline under Subsection (15)(d)(ii)(A) may not be earlier than 15 days after the board provides the notice and nomination form under Subsection (15)(d)(i).

(iii)(A) After the deadline for submitting nomination forms, the special district board shall provide a ballot to all property owners eligible to vote at the special district election.

(B) A special district board shall allow at least five days for ballots to be returned.

(iv) A special district board shall certify the results of an election under this Subsection (15) during an open meeting of the board.

Section 3. Section **17B-2a-905** is amended to read:

17B-2a-905 . Service area board of trustees.

(1)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2), (3), or (4):

(i) the initial board of trustees of a service area located entirely within the unincorporated area of a single county may, as stated in the petition or resolution that initiated the process of creating the service area:

(A) consist of the county legislative body;

(B) be appointed, as provided in Section 17B-1-304; or

(C) be elected, as provided in Section 17B-1-306;

(ii) if the board of trustees of a service area consists of the county legislative body, the board may adopt a resolution providing for future board members to be appointed, as provided in Section 17B-1-304, or elected, as provided in Section 17B-1-306; and

(iii) members of the board of trustees of a service area shall be elected, as provided in Section 17B-1-306, if:

(A) the service area is not entirely within the unincorporated area of a single county;

(B) a petition is filed with the board of trustees requesting that board members be elected, and the petition is signed by registered voters within the service area equal in number to at least 10% of the number of registered voters within the service area who voted at the last gubernatorial election; or

- 369 (C) an election is held to authorize the service area's issuance of bonds.
- 370 (b) If members of the board of trustees of a service area are required to be elected under
- 371 Subsection (1)(a)(iii)(C) because of a bond election:
- 372 (i) board members shall be elected in conjunction with the bond election;
- 373 (ii) the board of trustees shall:
- 374 (A) establish a process to enable potential candidates to file a declaration of
- 375 candidacy sufficiently in advance of the election; and
- 376 (B) provide a ballot for the election of board members separate from the bond
- 377 ballot; and
- 378 (iii) except as provided in this Subsection (1)(b), the election shall be held as
- 379 provided in Section 17B-1-306.
- 380 (2)(a) This Subsection (2) applies to a service area created on or after May 5, 2003, if:
- 381 (i) the service area was created to provide:
- 382 (A) fire protection, paramedic, and emergency services; or
- 383 (B) law enforcement service;
- 384 (ii) in the creation of the service area, an election was not required under Subsection
- 385 17B-1-214(3)(d); and
- 386 (iii) the service area is not a service area described in Subsection (3).
- 387 (b)(i) Each county with unincorporated area that is included within a service area
- 388 described in Subsection (2)(a), whether in conjunction with the creation of the
- 389 service area or by later annexation, shall appoint up to three members to the board
- 390 of trustees.
- 391 (ii) Each municipality with an area that is included within a service area described in
- 392 Subsection (2)(a), whether in conjunction with the creation of the service area or
- 393 by later service area annexation or municipal incorporation or annexation, shall
- 394 appoint one member to the board of trustees, unless the area of the municipality is
- 395 withdrawn from the service area.
- 396 (iii) Each member that a county or municipality appoints under Subsection (2)(b)(i)
- 397 or (ii) shall be an elected official of the appointing county or municipality,
- 398 respectively.
- 399 (c) Notwithstanding Subsection 17B-1-302(8), the number of members of a board of
- 400 trustees of a service area described in Subsection (2)(a) shall be the number resulting
- 401 from application of Subsection (2)(b).
- 402 (3)(a) This Subsection (3) applies to a service area created on or after May 14, 2013, if:

- 403 (i) the service area was created to provide fire protection, paramedic, and emergency
404 services;
- 405 (ii) in the creation of the service area, an election was not required under Subsection
406 17B-1-214(3)(d); and
- 407 (iii) each municipality with an area that is included within the service area or county
408 with unincorporated area, whether in whole or in part, that is included within a
409 service area is a party to an agreement:
- 410 (A) entered into in accordance with Title 11, Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation
411 Act, with all the other municipalities or counties with an area that is included in
412 the service area;
- 413 (B) to provide the services described in Subsection (3)(a)(i); and
- 414 (C) at the time a resolution proposing the creation of the service area is adopted by
415 each applicable municipal or county legislative body in accordance with
416 Subsection 17B-1-203(1)(e).
- 417 (b)(i) Each county with unincorporated area, whether in whole or in part, that is
418 included within a service area described in Subsection (3)(a), whether in
419 conjunction with the creation of the service area or by later annexation, shall
420 appoint one member to the board of trustees.
- 421 (ii) Each municipality with an area that is included within a service area described in
422 Subsection (3)(a), whether in conjunction with the creation of the service area or
423 by later annexation, shall appoint one member to the board of trustees.
- 424 (iii) Each member that a county or municipality appoints under Subsection (3)(b)(i)
425 or (ii) shall be an elected official of the appointing county or municipality,
426 respectively.
- 427 (iv) A vote by a member of the board of trustees may be weighted or proportional.
- 428 (c) Notwithstanding Subsection 17B-1-302(8), the number of members of a board of
429 trustees of a service area described in Subsection (3)(a) is the number resulting from
430 the application of Subsection (3)(b).
- 431 (4)(a) This Subsection (4) applies to a service area if:
- 432 (i) the service area provides a service to a municipality in accordance with an
433 agreement between the service area and the municipality in accordance with Title
434 11, Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act;
- 435 (ii) the municipality is not included within the service area's boundary;
- 436 (iii) the governing body of the municipality petitions the service area to request

- 437 authority to appoint one member of the board of trustees of the service area; and
438 (iv) the service area board of trustees approves the petition.
- 439 (b) The governing body of a municipality described in Subsection (4)(a) may appoint a
440 member of a service area board of trustees as follows:
- 441 (i) the governing body shall make the appointment in accordance with:
- 442 (A) Section 17B-1-304; or
- 443 (B) to fill a mid-term vacancy, [~~Subsection 20A-1-512(1)~~] Subsections
444 20A-1-512(2) through (5);
- 445 (ii) the governing body may not appoint an individual who is not a registered voter
446 residing within the municipality;
- 447 (iii) the district boundary requirement in Subsection 17B-1-302(1) does not apply to
448 the governing body's appointee;
- 449 (iv) the governing body and the service area board of trustees may not shorten the
450 term of office of any member of the board due to the governing body's
451 appointment;
- 452 (v) notwithstanding Subsection 17B-1-302(8), the number of members of the board
453 of trustees of a service area described in Subsection (4)(a) may be odd or even; and
- 454 (vi) if the number of members of a service area board of trustees is odd before the
455 governing body's appointment, the member that the governing body appoints may
456 replace a member whose term is expiring or who otherwise leaves a vacancy on
457 the board or, if no expiring term or vacancy exists:
- 458 (A) the number of board members may temporarily be even, including the
459 member that the governing body appoints, until an expiring term or vacancy
460 exists that restores the board membership to an odd number; and
- 461 (B) no appointing authority may fill the expiring term or vacancy that restores the
462 board membership to an odd number.
- 463 (c)(i) The service area board of trustees may rescind the approval described in
464 Subsection (4)(a) at any time.
- 465 (ii) If the service area board of trustees rescinds the approval described in Subsection
466 (4)(a) during the term of a board member that the governing body appointed, the
467 appointee shall remain on the board for the remainder of the appointee's term.
- 468 Section 4. Section **20A-1-502** is amended to read:
- 469 **20A-1-502 . Midterm vacancy in office of United States senator.**
- 470 (1) Except as provided in Subsections (2) and (3), when a vacancy occurs in the office of

United States senator, the governor shall, within seven calendar days after the day on which the vacancy occurs, issue a proclamation calling a special congressional election to fill the vacancy that:

- (a) sets a date for a primary congressional special election, and a later date for a general congressional special election, on the same day as one of the following elections:
 - (i) a municipal general election;
 - (ii) a presidential primary election;
 - (iii) a regular primary election; or
 - (iv) a regular general election;
- (b) sets the date of the primary congressional special election on the same day as the next election described in Subsections (1)(a)(i) through (iv) that is more than 90 calendar days after the day on which the governor issues the proclamation;
- (c) sets the date of the general special congressional election on the same day as the next election described in Subsection (1)(a) that is more than 90 calendar days after the primary special congressional election described in Subsection (1)(b);
- (d) provides each registered political party that is not a qualified political party at least 21 calendar days, but no more than 28 calendar days, to select one candidate, in a manner determined by the registered political party, as a candidate for the registered political party;
- (e) for each qualified political party, provides at least 21 calendar days, but no more than 28 calendar days:
 - (i) for the qualified political party to select one candidate, using the convention process described in Section 20A-9-407, as a candidate for the qualified political party; and
 - (ii) for a member of the qualified political party to submit signatures to qualify as a candidate for the qualified political party using the signature-gathering process described in Section 20A-9-408;
- (f) consistent with the requirements of this section, establishes the deadlines, time frames, and procedures for filing a declaration of candidacy, giving notice of an election, and other election requirements; and
- (g) requires an election officer to comply with the requirements of Chapter 16, Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act.

(2)(a) The governor may set a date for a primary special congressional election or a general special congressional election on a date other than a date described in

Subsection (1)(a) if:

- (i) on the same day on which the governor issues the proclamation described in Subsection (1) the governor calls a special session for the Legislature to appropriate money to hold the election on a different day; or
- (ii) if the governor issues the proclamation described in Subsection (1) on or after January 1, but before the end of the general session of the Legislature, and requests in the proclamation described in Subsection (1) that the Legislature appropriate money to hold the election on a different day.

(b) If the Legislature does not, under Subsection (2)(a), appropriate money to hold the election on a different day, the proclamation described in Subsection (1) is void and the governor shall, within seven calendar days after the day on which the Legislature declines to appropriate money to hold the election on a different day, issue a proclamation, in accordance with Subsection (1), that sets the special congressional primary and general elections on dates described in Subsections (1)(a)(i) through (iv).

(3) A special congressional election to fill a vacancy in the office of United States senator will not be held if:

- (a) the next regular general election that occurs after the day on which the vacancy occurs is the regular general election that occurs immediately before the six-year term for the senate office ends; and
- (b) the vacancy occurs after August 1 of the year before the regular general election described in Subsection (3)(a).

(4)(a) The governor shall appoint an individual to temporarily fill a vacancy in the office of United States senator from one of three individuals nominated by the Legislature, each of whom:

- (i) meets the qualifications for the office; and
- (ii) is a member of the registered political party of which the prior officeholder was a member at the time the prior officeholder was [elected] last elected or appointed.

(b) The individual appointed under Subsection (4)(a) shall serve as United States senator until the earlier of the day on which:

- (i) the vacancy is filled by election under Subsection (1) or (2); or
- (ii) the six-year term for the senate office ends.

(5) An individual elected to fill a vacancy under this section shall serve until the end of the current term in which the vacancy filled by the election occurs.

(6) A vacancy in the office of United States senator does not occur unless the senator:

- (a) has left the office; or
- (b) submits an irrevocable letter of resignation to the governor or to the president of the United States Senate.

Section 5. Section **20A-1-503** is amended to read:

20A-1-503 . Midterm vacancies in the Legislature.

(1) As used in this section:

- (a) "Filing deadline" means the final date for filing:
- (i) a declaration of candidacy as provided in Section 20A-9-202; and
 - (ii) a certificate of nomination as provided in Section 20A-9-503.
- (b) "Party liaison" means the political party officer designated to serve as a liaison with the lieutenant governor on all matters relating to the political party's relationship with the state as required by Section 20A-8-401.

(2) When a vacancy occurs for any reason in the office of representative in the Legislature, the governor shall fill the vacancy ~~[by immediately appointing the person whose name was submitted by the party liaison of the same political party as the prior representative.]~~ by immediately appointing the individual whose name is submitted by the party liaison of the registered political party of which the prior officeholder was a member at the time the prior officeholder was last elected or appointed;

(3)(a) Except as provided by Subsection (5), when a vacancy occurs for any reason in the office of senator in the Legislature, ~~[it]~~ the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term at the next regular general election.

(b) The governor shall fill the vacancy until the next regular general election ~~[by immediately appointing the person whose name was submitted by the party liaison of the same political party as the prior senator.]~~ by immediately appointing the individual whose name is submitted by the party liaison of the registered political party of which the prior officeholder was a member at the time the prior officeholder was last elected or appointed.

(4)(a) If a vacancy described in Subsection (3)(a) occurs after the filing deadline but before August 31 of an even-numbered year in which the term of office does not expire, the lieutenant governor shall:

- (i) establish a date and time, which is before the date for a candidate to be certified for the ballot under Section 20A-9-701 and no later than 21 calendar days after the day on which the vacancy occurred, by which a person intending to obtain a position on the ballot for the vacant office shall file:

- 573 (A) a declaration of candidacy; or
574 (B) a certificate of nomination; and
575 (ii) give notice of the vacancy and the date and time described in Subsection (4)(a)(i):
576 (A) on the lieutenant governor's website; and
577 (B) to each registered political party.
- 578 (b) A person intending to obtain a position on the ballot for the vacant office shall:
579 (i) before the date and time specified in Subsection (4)(a)(i), file a declaration of
580 candidacy or certificate of nomination according to the procedures and
581 requirements of Chapter 9, Candidate Qualifications and Nominating Procedures;
582 and
583 (ii) run in the regular general election if:
584 (A) nominated as a party candidate; or
585 (B) qualified as an unaffiliated candidate as provided by Chapter 9, Candidate
586 Qualifications and Nominating Procedures.
- 587 (c) If a vacancy described in Subsection (3)(a) occurs after the deadline described in
588 Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b) and before August 31[-] of an even-numbered year in
589 which the term of office does not expire, a party liaison from each registered political
590 party may submit a name of a person described in Subsection (4)(b) to the lieutenant
591 governor before 5 p.m. no later than August 30 for placement on the regular general
592 election ballot.
- 593 (5) If a vacancy described in Subsection (3)(a) occurs on or after August 31 of an
594 even-numbered year in which a term does not expire, the governor shall fill the vacancy
595 for the unexpired term [~~by immediately appointing the person whose name was~~
596 ~~submitted by the party liaison of the same political party as the prior senator.] in~~
597 accordance with Subsection (3)(b).
- 598 (6)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (6)(b), an individual seeking appointment to fill
599 a vacancy described in this section shall, no later than the deadline for the individual
600 to file an interim report under Subsection 20A-11-303(3)(a), make a complete
601 conflict of interest disclosure on the website described in Section 20A-11-1602.5.
- 602 (b) An individual described in Subsection (6)(a) is not required to comply with
603 Subsection (6)(a) if the individual:
604 (i)(A) currently holds the office of senator and is seeking appointment as a
605 representative; or
606 (B) currently holds the office of representative and is seeking appointment as a

- 607 senator;
- 608 (ii) already, that same year, filed a conflict of interest disclosure for the office
- 609 described in Subsection (6)(b)(i), in accordance with Section 20A-11-1604; and
- 610 (iii) no later than the deadline described in Subsection (6)(a), indicates, in a written
- 611 statement, that the conflict of interest disclosure described in Subsection (6)(b)(ii)
- 612 is updated and accurate as of the date of the written statement.
- 613 (7) The lieutenant governor shall make each conflict of interest disclosure made by an
- 614 individual described in Subsection (6)(a) available for public inspection in accordance
- 615 with Subsection 20A-11-1603(4).
- 616 (8) A vacancy in the office of senator or representative of the Legislature does not occur
- 617 unless the senator or representative:
- 618 (a) has left the office; or
- 619 (b) submits an irrevocable letter of resignation to:
- 620 (i) for a senator, the president of the Senate; or
- 621 (ii) for a representative, the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 622 Section 6. Section **20A-1-504** is amended to read:
- 623 **20A-1-504 . Midterm vacancies in the offices of attorney general, state treasurer,**
- 624 **state auditor, State Board of Education member, and lieutenant governor.**
- 625 (1)(a) When a vacancy occurs for any reason in the office of attorney general, state
- 626 treasurer, state auditor, or State Board of Education member, the vacancy shall be
- 627 filled for the unexpired term at the next regular general election.
- 628 [~~(b) The governor shall fill the vacancy until the next regular general election by:~~]
- 629 [~~(i) appointing a person who meets the qualifications for the office from three persons~~
- 630 ~~nominated by the state central committee of the same political party as the prior~~
- 631 ~~officeholder; or]~~
- 632 [~~(ii) for a State Board of Education vacancy, if the individual who is being replaced:]~~
- 633 [~~(A) was elected at a nonpartisan State Board of Education election, by~~
- 634 ~~appointing, with the advice and consent of the Senate, an individual who meets~~
- 635 ~~the qualifications and residency requirements for filling the vacancy described~~
- 636 ~~in Section 20A-14-103;]~~
- 637 [~~(B) was elected at a partisan State Board of Education election, but is not a~~
- 638 ~~member of a political party, by appointing, with the advice and consent of the~~
- 639 ~~Senate, an individual who meets the qualifications and residency requirements~~
- 640 ~~for filling the vacancy described in Section 20A-14-103; or]~~

- 641 ~~[(C) was elected at a partisan State Board of Education election, and is a member~~
642 ~~of a political party, by appointing an individual who meets the qualifications~~
643 ~~for the office from three persons nominated by the state central committee of~~
644 ~~the same political party as the prior officeholder.]~~
- 645 (b) The governor shall fill a vacancy described in Subsection (1)(a) until the next general
646 election by immediately appointing the individual whose name is submitted by the
647 party liaison of the registered political party of which the prior officeholder was a
648 member at the time the prior officeholder was last elected or appointed.
- 649 (2) If a vacancy occurs in the office of lieutenant governor, the governor shall, with the
650 advice and consent of the Senate, appoint a person to hold the office until the next
651 regular general election at which the governor stands for election.
- 652 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), an individual seeking appointment to fill
653 a vacancy described in this section shall make a complete conflict of interest
654 disclosure on the website described in Section 20A-11-1602.5:
- 655 (i) for a vacancy in the office of lieutenant governor, attorney general, state treasurer,
656 or state auditor, no later than the deadline for the individual to file an interim
657 report under Subsection 20A-11-204(3)(a); or
- 658 (ii) for a vacancy in the office of State Board of Education member, no later than the
659 deadline for the individual to file an interim report under Subsection
660 20A-11-1303(2)(a).
- 661 (b) An individual described in Subsection (3)(a) is not required to comply with
662 Subsection (3)(a) if the individual:
- 663 (i) currently holds an office described in Subsection (1)(a) or (2);
- 664 (ii) already, that same year, filed a conflict of interest disclosure for the office
665 described in Subsection (3)(b)(i), in accordance with Section 20A-11-1604; and
- 666 (iii) no later than the deadline described in Subsection (3)(a), indicates, in a written
667 statement, that the conflict of interest disclosure described in Subsection (3)(b)(ii)
668 is updated and accurate as of the date of the written statement.
- 669 (4) The lieutenant governor shall make each conflict of interest disclosure made by an
670 individual described in Subsection (3)(a) available for public inspection in accordance
671 with Subsection 20A-11-1603(4).
- 672 (5) A vacancy in an office described in Subsection (1)(a) or (2) does not occur unless the
673 individual occupying the office:
- 674 (a) has left the office; or

(b) submits an irrevocable letter of resignation to the governor.

Section 7. Section **20A-1-508** is amended to read:

**20A-1-508 . Midterm vacancies in county elected offices -- Temporary manager
-- Interim replacement.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a)(i) "County offices" includes the county executive, members of the county legislative body, the county treasurer, the county sheriff, the county clerk, the county auditor, the county recorder, the county surveyor, and the county assessor.

(ii) "County offices" does not include the office of county attorney, district attorney, or judge.

(b) "Party liaison" means the political party officer designated to serve as a liaison with each county legislative body on all matters relating to the political party's relationship with a county as required by Section 20A-8-401.

(2)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(d), until a county legislative body appoints an interim replacement to fill a vacant county office under Subsection (3), the following shall temporarily discharge the duties of the county office as a temporary manager:

(i) for a county office with one chief deputy, the chief deputy;

(ii) for a county office with more than one chief deputy:

(A) the chief deputy with the most cumulative time served as a chief deputy for the county office; or

(B) notwithstanding Subsection (2)(a)(ii)(A), if, before the vacating county officer vacates the office, the county officer files with the county clerk a written statement designating one of the county officer's chief deputies to discharge the duties of the county office in the event the county officer vacates the office, the designated chief deputy; or

(iii) for a county office without a chief deputy:

(A) if one management-level employee serving under the county office has a higher-seniority management level than any other employee serving under the county office, that management-level employee;

(B) if two or more management-level employees serving under the county office have the same and highest-seniority management level, the highest-seniority management-level employee with the most cumulative time served in the employee's current position; or

- 709 (C) notwithstanding Subsection (2)(a)(iii)(A) or (B), if, before the vacating county
710 officer vacates the office, the county officer files with the county clerk a
711 written statement designating one of the county officer's employees to
712 discharge the county officer's duties in the event the county officer vacates the
713 office, the designated employee.
- 714 (b) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(c), a temporary manager described in
715 Subsection (2)(a) who temporarily discharges the duties of a county office holds the
716 powers and duties of the county office until the county legislative body appoints an
717 interim replacement under Subsection (3).
- 718 (c) The temporary manager described in Subsection (2)(a) who temporarily discharges
719 the duties of a county office:
- 720 (i) may not take an oath of office for the county office as a temporary manager;
- 721 (ii) shall comply with Title 17, Chapter 63, Fiscal Authority and Processes, and the
722 county's budget ordinances and policies;
- 723 (iii) unless approved by the county legislative body, may not change the
724 compensation of an employee;
- 725 (iv) unless approved by the county legislative body, may not promote or demote an
726 employee or change an employee's job title;
- 727 (v) may terminate an employee only if the termination is conducted in accordance
728 with:
- 729 (A) personnel rules described in Subsection 17-75-602(2) that are approved by the
730 county legislative body; and
- 731 (B) applicable law;
- 732 (vi) unless approved by the county legislative body, may not exceed by more than 5%
733 an expenditure that was planned before the county office for which the temporary
734 manager discharges duties was vacated;
- 735 (vii) except as provided in Subsection (2)(c)(viii), may not receive a change in title or
736 compensation; and
- 737 (viii) if approved by the county legislative body, may receive a performance award
738 after:
- 739 (A) the county legislative body appoints an interim replacement under Subsection
740 (3); and
- 741 (B) the interim replacement is sworn into office.
- 742 (d) This Subsection (2) does not apply to a vacancy in the office of county legislative

body member.

(3)(a) Until a replacement is selected as provided in this section and has qualified, the county legislative body shall appoint an interim replacement to fill the vacant office by following the procedures and requirements of this Subsection (3).

(b) In addition to this Subsection (3), an interim replacement appointed to the office of county auditor in a county of the first class is subject to the requirements described in Section 17-69-202.

(c)(i) To appoint an interim replacement, the county legislative body shall, within 10 calendar days after the day on which the vacancy occurs, give notice of the vacancy to:

(A) the county clerk; and

(B) ~~[the party liaison of the same political party of the prior office holder]~~ the party liaison of the registered political party of which the prior officeholder was a member at the time the prior officeholder was last elected or appointed.

(ii) The county legislative body shall invite the party liaison described in Subsection (3)(c)(i)(B) to submit the name of an individual to fill the vacancy.

(iii) The party liaison shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the party liaison receives the notice described in Subsection (3)(c)(i)(B), or if the party liaison does not receive the notice, no later than 5 p.m. on the first business day that is at least 40 calendar days after the day on which the vacancy occurs, submit to the county legislative body the name of an individual the party selects in accordance with the party's constitution or bylaws to serve as the interim replacement.

(iv) The county legislative body shall, no later than seven calendar days after the day on which a party liaison submits the name of the individual to serve as the interim replacement, appoint the individual to serve out the unexpired term.

(d)(i) If the county legislative body fails to appoint an interim replacement to fill the vacancy in accordance with Subsection (3)(c)(iv), the county clerk shall, no later than seven calendar days after the day of the deadline described in Subsection (3)(c)(iv), send to the governor a letter that:

(A) informs the governor that the county legislative body has failed to appoint a replacement within the statutory time period; and

(B) contains the name of the individual submitted by the party liaison to fill the vacancy.

- 777 (ii) The governor shall, within 10 calendar days after the day on which the governor
778 receives the letter described in Subsection (3)(d)(i), appoint the individual named
779 by the party liaison as an interim replacement to fill the vacancy.
- 780 (e) An individual appointed as interim replacement under this Subsection (3) shall hold
781 office until a successor is elected and has qualified.
- 782 (4)(a) The requirements of this Subsection (4) apply to all county offices that become
783 vacant if:
- 784 (i) the vacant office has an unexpired term of two years or more; and
785 (ii) the vacancy occurs after the election at which the officeholder was elected, but
786 before the first day of the declaration of candidacy filing period described in
787 Section 20A-9-201.5.
- 788 (b)(i) When the conditions described in Subsection (4)(a) are met, the county clerk
789 shall as soon as practicable, but no later than 180 calendar days before the next
790 regular general election, notify the public and each registered political party that
791 the vacancy exists.
- 792 (ii) An individual intending to become a party candidate for the vacant office shall
793 file a declaration of candidacy in accordance with:
- 794 (A) Chapter 9, Part 2, Candidate Qualifications and Declarations of Candidacy;
795 and
796 (B) for a county commission office, Subsection 17-62-201(6) or 17-62-202(6), if
797 applicable.
- 798 (iii) An individual who is nominated as a party candidate, who qualifies as an
799 unaffiliated candidate for the vacant office under Chapter 9, Part 5, Candidates not
800 Affiliated with a Party, or who qualifies as a write-in candidate for the vacant
801 office under Chapter 9, Part 6, Write-in Candidates, shall run in the regular
802 general election.
- 803 (5)(a) The requirements of this Subsection (5) apply to all county offices that become
804 vacant if:
- 805 (i) the vacant office has an unexpired term of two years or more; and
806 (ii) the vacancy occurs on or after the first day of the declaration of candidacy filing
807 period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, but more than 75 calendar days before
808 the regular primary election.
- 809 (b) When the conditions described in Subsection (5)(a) are met, the county clerk shall as
810 soon as practicable, but no later than 70 calendar days before the next regular primary

election, notify the public and each registered political party:

(i) that the vacancy exists; and

(ii) of the deadlines described in Subsection (5)(c)(i) and the deadlines established under Subsection (5)(d)(ii).

(c)(i) An individual intending to become a party candidate for a vacant office shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the first business day that is at least five calendar days after the day on which the notice is given, file a declaration of candidacy for the vacant office in accordance with:

(A) Chapter 9, Part 2, Candidate Qualifications and Declarations of Candidacy; and

(B) for a county commission office, Subsection 17-62-201(6) or 17-62-202(6), if applicable.

(ii) The county central committee of each party shall:

(A) select a candidate or candidates from among those qualified candidates who have filed declarations of candidacy; and

(B) certify the name of the candidate or candidates to the county clerk as soon as practicable, but no later than 5 p.m. on the last business day that is at least 60 calendar days before the day of the regular primary election.

(d)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(d)(ii), an individual intending to become a candidate for a vacant office who does not wish to affiliate with a registered political party shall file a verified certificate of nomination described in Section 20A-9-502 with the county clerk in accordance with Chapter 9, Part 5, Candidates not Affiliated with a Party.

(ii)(A) The county clerk shall establish, in the clerk's reasonable discretion, a deadline that is no later than 5 p.m. on the last business day that is at least 65 calendar days before the day of the next regular general election by which an individual who is not affiliated with a registered political party is required to submit a certificate of nomination under Subsection (5)(d)(i).

(B) The county clerk shall establish the deadline described in Subsection (5)(d)(ii)(A) in a manner that gives an unaffiliated candidate an equal opportunity to access the regular general election ballot.

(e) An individual who is nominated as a party candidate for the vacant office, who qualifies as an unaffiliated candidate for the vacant office under Chapter 9, Part 5, Candidates not Affiliated with a Party, or who qualifies as a write-in candidate for the

vacant office under Chapter 9, Part 6, Write-in Candidates, shall run in the regular general election.

(6)(a) The requirements of this Subsection (6) apply to all county offices that become vacant:

- (i) if the vacant office has an unexpired term of two years or more; and
- (ii) when 75 calendar days or less remain before the day of the regular primary election but more than 65 calendar days remain before the day of the regular general election.

(b) When the conditions described in Subsection (6)(a) are met, the county clerk shall, as soon as practicable, notify the public and each registered political party:

- (i) that the vacancy exists; and
- (ii) of the deadlines established under Subsection (6)(d).

(c)(i) Before the deadline that the county clerk establishes under Subsection (6)(d)(i)(A), the county central committee of each registered political party that wishes to submit a candidate for the office shall certify the name of one candidate to the county clerk for placement on the regular general election ballot.

- (ii) Before the deadline that the county clerk establishes under Subsection (6)(d)(i)(B), a candidate who does not wish to affiliate with a registered political party shall file a verified certificate of nomination described in Section 20A-9-502 with the county clerk in accordance with Chapter 9, Part 5, Candidates not Affiliated with a Party.

(iii) Before the deadline that the county clerk establishes under Subsection (6)(d)(i)(C), a write-in candidate shall submit to the county clerk a declaration of candidacy described in Section 20A-9-601.

(d)(i) The county clerk shall establish, in the clerk's reasonable discretion, deadlines that are no later than 5 p.m. on the last business day that is at least 65 calendar days before the day of the next regular general election by which:

- (A) a registered political party is required to certify a name under Subsection (6)(c)(i);
- (B) an individual who does not wish to affiliate with a registered political party is required to submit a certificate of nomination under Subsection (6)(c)(ii); and
- (C) a write-in candidate is required to submit a declaration of candidacy under Subsection (6)(c)(iii).

(ii) The county clerk shall establish deadlines under Subsection (6)(d)(i) in a manner

- 879 that gives an unaffiliated candidate or a write-in candidate an equal opportunity to
880 access the regular general election ballot.
- 881 (e) An individual who is certified as a party candidate for the vacant office, who
882 qualifies as an unaffiliated candidate for the vacant office under Chapter 9, Part 5,
883 Candidates not Affiliated with a Party, or who qualifies as a write-in candidate for the
884 vacant office under Chapter 9, Part 6, Write-in Candidates, shall run in the regular
885 general election.
- 886 (7)(a) The requirements of this Subsection (7) apply to all county offices that become
887 vacant:
- 888 (i) if the vacant office has an unexpired term of less than two years; or
889 (ii) if the vacant office has an unexpired term of two years or more but 65 calendar
890 days or less remain before the day of the next regular general election.
- 891 (b)(i) When the conditions described in Subsection (7)(a) are met, the county
892 legislative body shall as soon as practicable, but no later than 10 calendar days
893 after the day on which the vacancy occurs, give notice of the vacancy to:
- 894 (A) the county clerk; and
895 (B) ~~[the party liaison of the same political party as the prior office holder]~~ the party
896 liaison of the registered political party of which the prior officeholder was a
897 member at the time the prior officeholder was last elected or appointed.
- 898 (ii) The county legislative body shall invite the party liaison described in Subsection
899 (7)(b)(i)(B) to submit the name of an individual to fill the vacancy.
- 900 (iii) The party liaison shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the first business day that is at
901 least 30 calendar days after the day on which the party liaison receives the notice
902 described in Subsection (7)(b)(i)(B), or if the party liaison does not receive the
903 notice, no later than 5 p.m. on the first business day that is at least [-]40 calendar
904 days after the day on which the vacancy occurs, submit to the county legislative
905 body the name of an individual to fill the vacancy.
- 906 (iv) The county legislative body shall, no later than seven calendar days after the day
907 on which a party liaison submits the name of the individual to fill the vacancy,
908 appoint the individual to serve out the unexpired term.
- 909 (c)(i) If the county legislative body fails to appoint an individual to fill the vacancy in
910 accordance with Subsection (7)(b)(iv), the county clerk shall send to the governor
911 a letter that:
- 912 (A) informs the governor that the county legislative body has failed to appoint an

- individual to fill the vacancy within the statutory time period; and
- (B) contains the name of the individual submitted by the party liaison to fill the vacancy.
- (ii) The governor shall, within 10 calendar days after the day on which the governor receives the letter described in Subsection (7)(c)(i), appoint the individual named by the party liaison to fill the vacancy.
- (d) An individual appointed to fill the vacancy under this Subsection (7) shall hold office until a successor is elected and has qualified.
- (8) Except as otherwise provided by law, the county legislative body may appoint replacements to fill all vacancies that occur in those offices filled by appointment of the county legislative body.
- (9) Nothing in this section prohibits a candidate that does not wish to affiliate with a political party from filing a certificate of nomination for a vacant office within the same time limits as a candidate that is affiliated with a political party.
- (10)(a) Each individual elected under Subsection (4), (5), or (6) to fill a vacancy in a county office shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term of the individual who created the vacancy and until a successor is elected and qualified.
- (b) Nothing in this section may be construed to contradict or alter the provisions of Section 17-66-202.
- (11)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (11)(b), for an individual seeking appointment to fill a vacancy described in Subsection (3) or (7) the individual shall, no later than the deadline for the individual to file a financial report under Section 17-70-403:
- (i) complete a conflict of interest disclosure statement in accordance with Section 17-70-304; and
- (ii) submit the conflict of interest disclosure statement to the county legislative body and the county clerk.
- (b) An individual described in Subsection (11)(a) is not required to comply with Subsection (11)(a) if the individual:
- (i) currently holds an office described in Subsection (1)(a)(i);
- (ii) already, that same year, filed a conflict of interest disclosure statement for the office described in Subsection (11)(b)(i), in accordance with Section 17-70-509; and
- (iii) no later than the deadline described in Subsection (11)(a), indicates, in a written notice submitted to the county clerk, that the conflict of interest disclosure

statement described in Subsection (11)(b)(ii) is updated and accurate as of the date of the written notice.

(12)(a) The county clerk shall make each conflict of interest disclosure statement made by an individual described in Subsection (11)(a) available for public inspection by posting an electronic copy of the statement on the county's website for at least 10 calendar days after the day on which the county legislative body:

(i) appoints an interim replacement under Subsection (3); or

(ii) appoints an individual to fill a vacancy under Subsection (7).

(b) The county clerk shall post the electronic statement described in Subsection (12)(a) no later than two business days after the day on which the county clerk receives the statement.

(13) A vacancy in a county office does not occur unless the individual occupying the office:

(a) has left the office; or

(b) submits an irrevocable letter of resignation to the county legislative body.

Section 8. Section **20A-1-509.1** is amended to read:

20A-1-509.1 . Procedure for filling midterm vacancy in county or district with 15 or more attorneys.

(1) When a vacancy occurs in the office of county or district attorney in a county or district having 15 or more attorneys who are licensed active members in good standing with the Utah State Bar and registered voters, the vacancy shall be filled as provided in this section.

(2)(a) The requirements of this Subsection (2) apply when the office of county attorney or district attorney becomes vacant and:

(i) the vacant office has an unexpired term of two years or more; and

(ii) the vacancy occurs before the first day of the applicable declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5.

(b) When the conditions established in Subsection (2)(a) are met, the county clerk shall notify the public and each registered political party that the vacancy exists.

(c) All persons intending to become candidates for the vacant office shall:

(i) file a declaration of candidacy according to the procedures and requirements of Chapter 9, Part 2, Candidate Qualifications and Declarations of Candidacy;

(ii) if nominated as a party candidate or qualified as an independent or write-in candidate under Chapter 9, Candidate Qualifications and Nominating Procedures, run in the regular general election; and

- 981 (iii) if elected, complete the unexpired term of the person who created the vacancy.
- 982 (d) If the vacancy occurs during the applicable declaration of candidacy filing period
- 983 described in Section 20A-9-201.5:
- 984 (i) the time for filing a declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-202 shall be
- 985 extended until 5 p.m. on the first business day that is no later than seven calendar
- 986 days after the last day of the applicable declaration of candidacy filing period
- 987 described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and
- 988 (ii) the county clerk shall notify the public and each registered political party that the
- 989 vacancy exists.
- 990 (3)(a) The requirements of this Subsection (3) apply when the office of county attorney
- 991 or district attorney becomes vacant and:
- 992 (i) the vacant office has an unexpired term of two years or more; and
- 993 (ii) the vacancy occurs after the third Thursday in March of the even-numbered year
- 994 but more than 75 calendar days before the regular primary election.
- 995 (b) When the conditions established in Subsection (3)(a) are met, the county clerk shall:
- 996 (i) notify the public and each registered political party that the vacancy exists; and
- 997 (ii) identify the date and time by which a person interested in becoming a candidate
- 998 shall file a declaration of candidacy.
- 999 (c) All persons intending to become candidates for the vacant office shall:
- 1000 (i) no later than 5 p.m. on the first business day that is at least five calendar days after
- 1001 the day on which the county clerk gives the notice described in Subsection (3)(b)(i),
- 1002 file a declaration of candidacy for the vacant office as required by Chapter 9, Part
- 1003 2, Candidate Qualifications and Declarations of Candidacy; and
- 1004 (ii) if elected, complete the unexpired term of the person who created the vacancy.
- 1005 (d) The county central committee of each party shall:
- 1006 (i) select a candidate or candidates from among those qualified candidates who have
- 1007 filed declarations of candidacy; and
- 1008 (ii) certify the name of the candidate or candidates to the county clerk:
- 1009 (A) no later than 5 p.m. on the last business day that is at least 60 calendar days
- 1010 before the day of the regular primary election; or
- 1011 (B) electronically, before midnight no later than 60 calendar days before the day
- 1012 of the regular primary election.
- 1013 (4)(a) The requirements of this Subsection (4) apply when the office of county attorney
- 1014 or district attorney becomes vacant and:

- 1015 (i) the vacant office has an unexpired term of two years or more; and
1016 (ii) 75 calendar days or less remain before the regular primary election but more than
1017 65 calendar days remain before the regular general election.
- 1018 (b) When the conditions established in Subsection (4)(a) are met, the county central
1019 committees of each registered political party that wishes to submit a candidate for the
1020 office shall, not later than five calendar days after the day on which the vacancy
1021 occurs, certify the name of one candidate to the county clerk for placement on the
1022 regular general election ballot.
- 1023 (c) The candidate elected shall complete the unexpired term of the person who created
1024 the vacancy.
- 1025 (5)(a) The requirements of this Subsection (5) apply when the office of county attorney
1026 or district attorney becomes vacant and:
- 1027 (i) the vacant office has an unexpired term of less than two years; or
1028 (ii) the vacant office has an unexpired term of two years or more but 65 calendar days
1029 or less remain before the next regular general election.
- 1030 (b) When the conditions established in Subsection (5)(a) are met, the county legislative
1031 body shall give notice of the vacancy to:
- 1032 (i) the county clerk; and
1033 (ii) ~~[the county central committee of the same political party of the prior officeholder]~~
1034 the county central committee of the registered political party of which the prior
1035 officeholder was a member at the time the prior officeholder was last elected or
1036 appointed.
- 1037 (c) The county legislative body shall invite the committee described in Subsection
1038 (5)(b)(ii) to submit the names of three nominees to fill the vacancy.
- 1039 (d) The county central committee shall, within 30 calendar days after the day on which
1040 the county legislative body gives the notice described in Subsection (5)(b)(ii), submit
1041 to the county legislative body the names of three nominees to fill the vacancy.
- 1042 (e) The county legislative body shall, within 45 calendar days after the vacancy occurs,
1043 appoint one of those nominees to serve out the unexpired term.
- 1044 (f) If the county legislative body fails to appoint a person to fill the vacancy within 45
1045 calendar days, the county clerk shall send to the governor a letter that:
- 1046 (i) informs the governor that the county legislative body has failed to appoint a
1047 person to fill the vacancy within the statutory time period; and
1048 (ii) contains the list of nominees submitted by the party central committee.

(g) The governor shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy from that list of nominees within 30 calendar days after the day on which the governor receives the letter described in Subsection (5)(f).

(h) A person appointed to fill the vacancy under this Subsection (5) shall complete the unexpired term of the person who created the vacancy.

(6) A person seeking appointment to fill a vacancy described in Subsection (5)(a) shall, no later than the deadline for the person to file a financial report under Section 17-70-403:

(a) complete a conflict of interest disclosure statement in accordance with Section 17-70-304; and

(b) submit the conflict of interest disclosure statement to the county legislative body and the county clerk.

(7)(a) The county clerk shall make each conflict of interest disclosure statement made by a person described in Subsection (6) available for public inspection by posting an electronic copy of the statement on the county's website for at least 10 calendar days after the day on which the county legislative body appoints a person to fill the vacancy.

(b) The county clerk shall post the electronic statement described in Subsection (7)(a) no later than two business days after the day on which the county clerk receives the statement.

(8) A vacancy in the office described in Subsection (1) does not occur unless the person occupying the office:

(a) has left the office; or

(b) submits an irrevocable letter of resignation to the county legislative body.

(9) Nothing in this section prevents or prohibits independent candidates from filing a declaration of candidacy for the office within the required time limits.

Section 9. Section **20A-1-509.2** is amended to read:

20A-1-509.2 . Procedure for filling vacancy in county or district with fewer than 15 attorneys.

(1) When a vacancy occurs in the office of county or district attorney, including a vacancy created by the failure of a person to file as a candidate for the office of county or district attorney in an election, in a county or district having fewer than 15 attorneys who are licensed, active members in good standing with the Utah State Bar and registered voters, the vacancy shall be filled as provided in this section.

(2) The county clerk shall send a letter to each attorney residing in the county or district

who is a licensed, active member in good standing with the Utah State Bar and a registered voter that:

- (a) informs the attorney of the vacancy;
- (b) invites the attorney to apply for the vacancy; and
- (c) informs the attorney that if the attorney does not respond before 5 p.m. on the first business day that is at least 10 calendar days after the day on which the county clerk sends the letter, the attorney's candidacy to fill the vacancy will not be considered.

(3)(a)(i) If, before the deadline described in Subsection (2)(c), more than three attorneys who are licensed, active members in good standing with the Utah State Bar and registered voters in the county or district have applied for the vacancy, the county clerk shall, except as provided in Subsection (3)(a)(ii), submit the applications to the county central committee ~~[of the same political party of the prior officeholder]~~ of the registered political party of which the prior officeholder was a member at the time the prior officeholder was last elected or appointed.

(ii) In multicounty prosecution districts, the clerk shall submit the applications to the county central committee of each county within the prosecution district.

(b) The central committee shall nominate three of the applicants and forward the applicants' names to the county legislative body no later than 5 p.m. on the first business day that is at least 20 calendar days after the day on which the county clerk submits the applicants' names under Subsection (3)(a).

(c) The county legislative body shall appoint one of the nominees to fill the vacant position.

(d) If the central committee of the political party fails to submit at least three names to the county legislative body before the deadline described in Subsection (3)(b), the county legislative body shall appoint one of the applicants to fill the vacant position.

(e) If the county legislative body fails to appoint a person to fill the vacancy within 120 calendar days after the day on which the vacancy occurs, the county clerk shall mail to the governor:

(i) a letter informing the governor that the county legislative body has failed to appoint a person to fill the vacancy; and

(ii)(A) the list of nominees, if any, submitted by the central committee of the political party; or

(B) if the party central committee has not submitted a list of at least three nominees within the required time, the names of the persons who submitted

1117 applications for the vacant position to the county clerk.

1118 (f) The governor shall appoint, within 30 calendar days after the day on which the
1119 governor receives the letter described in Subsection (3)(e), a person from the list to
1120 fill the vacancy.

1121 (4)(a) If, before the deadline described in Subsection (2)(c), three or fewer attorneys who
1122 are licensed, active members in good standing with the Utah State Bar and registered
1123 voters in the county or district have applied for the vacancy, the county legislative
1124 body may:

1125 (i) appoint one of them to be county or district attorney; or

1126 (ii) solicit additional applicants and appoint a county or district attorney as provided
1127 in Subsection (4)(b).

1128 (b)(i) If three or fewer attorneys who are licensed members in good standing of the
1129 Utah State Bar and registered voters in the county or district submit applications,
1130 the county legislative body may publicly solicit and accept additional applications
1131 for the position from licensed, active members in good standing of the Utah State
1132 Bar who are not residents of the county or prosecution district.

1133 (ii) The county legislative body shall consider the applications submitted by the
1134 attorneys who are residents of and registered voters in the county or prosecution
1135 district and the applications submitted by the attorneys who are not residents of
1136 the county or prosecution district and shall appoint one of the applicants to be
1137 county attorney or district attorney.

1138 (c) If the legislative body fails to appoint a person to fill the vacancy within 120 calendar
1139 days after the day on which the vacancy occurs, the county clerk shall:

1140 (i) notify the governor that the legislative body has failed to fill the vacancy within
1141 the required time period; and

1142 (ii) provide the governor with a list of all the applicants.

1143 (d) The governor shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy within 30 calendar days after
1144 the day on which the governor receives the notification described in Subsection (4)(c).

1145 (5) The person appointed to fill the vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term of the person
1146 who created the vacancy.

1147 (6) A person seeking appointment to fill a vacancy under this section shall, no later than the
1148 deadline for the person to file a financial report under Section 17-70-403:

1149 (a) complete a conflict of interest disclosure statement in accordance with Section
1150 17-70-304; and

(b) submit the conflict of interest disclosure statement to the county legislative body and the county clerk.

(7)(a) The county clerk shall make each conflict of interest disclosure statement made by a person described in Subsection (6) available for public inspection by posting an electronic copy of the statement on the county's website for at least 10 calendar days after the day on which the county legislative body appoints a person to fill the vacancy.

(b) The county clerk shall post the electronic statement described in Subsection (7)(a) no later than two business days after the day on which the county clerk receives the statement.

(8) A vacancy in the office described in Subsection (1) does not occur until the person occupying the office:

(a) has left the office; or

(b) submits an irrevocable letter of resignation to the county legislative body.

Section 10. Section **20A-1-510** is amended to read:

20A-1-510 . Midterm vacancies in municipal offices.

(1)[(a)] As used in this section:

(a) "Interim vacancy period" means the period of time that:

(i) begins on the day on which an election is held to elect a municipal executive or member of a municipal legislative body; and

(ii) ends on the day on which an individual elected to an office described in Subsection (1)(a)(i) begins the individual's term of office.

[(+)] (b) "Vacancy," subject to Subsection [(1)(a)(ii)] (1)(c), means the same as that term is defined in Section 20A-1-102.

[(ii)] (c) "Vacancy," if due to resignation, occurs:

[(A)] (i) for a municipal executive, on the effective date of an irrevocable letter of resignation submitted by the municipal executive to the municipal legislative body; or

[(B)] (ii) for a member of a municipal legislative body, on the effective date of an irrevocable letter of resignation submitted by the member to the municipal legislative body.

[(b)] (2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, if [any] a vacancy occurs in the office of municipal executive or member of a municipal legislative body, the municipal legislative body shall, within 30 calendar days after the day on which the

vacancy occurs, appoint a registered voter in the municipality who meets the qualifications for office described in Section 10-3-301 to fill the unexpired term of the vacated office.

(b)(i) If a vacancy described in Subsection (2)(a) exists at any time during an interim vacancy period, a municipal legislative body:

(A) may not appoint an individual to fill the vacancy during the interim vacancy period; and

(B) shall, within 30 calendar days after the day on which the interim vacancy period ends, appoint a registered voter described in Subsection (2)(a) to fill the unexpired term of the vacated office.

(ii) A municipal legislative body may not take an action under Subsection (2)(c) or (d) during an interim vacancy period.

(c) Before acting to fill the vacancy, the municipal legislative body shall:

(i) immediately notify the municipal recorder or clerk;

(ii) give public notice of the vacancy at least 14 calendar days before the day on which the municipal legislative body meets to fill the vacancy;

(iii) identify, in the notice:

(A) the date, time, and place of the meeting where the vacancy will be filled;

(B) the person to whom an individual interested in being appointed to fill the vacancy may submit the interested individual's name for consideration; and

(C) the deadline for submitting an interested individual's name; and

(iv) in an open meeting, interview each individual whose name is submitted for consideration, and who meets the qualifications for office, regarding the individual's qualifications.

(d)(i) The municipal legislative body shall take an initial vote to fill the vacancy from among the names of the candidates interviewed under Subsection ~~[(1)(e)(iv)]~~

(2)(c)(iv).

(ii)(A) If no candidate receives a majority vote of the municipal legislative body in the initial vote described in Subsection ~~[(1)(d)(i)]~~ (2)(d)(i), the two candidates that received the most votes in the initial vote, as determined by the tie-breaking procedures described in Subsections ~~[(1)(d)(ii)(B)]~~ (2)(d)(ii)(B) through (D) if necessary, shall be placed before the municipal legislative body for a second vote to fill the vacancy.

(B) If the initial vote results in a tie for second place, the candidates tied for

second place shall be reduced to one by a coin toss conducted in accordance with Subsection ~~[(1)(d)(ii)(D)]~~ (2)(d)(ii)(D), and the second vote described in Subsection ~~[(1)(d)(ii)(A)]~~ (2)(d)(ii)(A) shall be between the candidate that received the most votes in the initial vote and the candidate that wins the coin toss described in this Subsection ~~[(1)(d)(ii)(B)]~~ (2)(d)(ii)(B).

(C) If the initial vote results in a tie among three or more candidates for first place, the candidates tied for first place shall be reduced to two by a coin toss conducted in accordance with Subsection ~~[(1)(d)(ii)(D)]~~ (2)(d)(ii)(D), and the second vote described in Subsection ~~[(1)(d)(ii)(A)]~~ (2)(d)(ii)(A) shall be between the two candidates that remain after the coin toss described in this Subsection (1)(d)(ii)(C).

(D) A coin toss required under this Subsection ~~[(1)(d)]~~ (2)(d) shall be conducted by the municipal clerk or recorder in the presence of the municipal legislative body.

(iii) If, in the second vote described in Subsection ~~[(1)(d)(ii)(A)]~~ (2)(d)(ii)(A), neither candidate receives a majority vote of the municipal legislative body, the vacancy shall be determined by a coin toss between the two candidates in accordance with Subsection ~~[(1)(d)(ii)(D)]~~ (2)(d)(ii)(D).

(e) If the municipal legislative body does not timely comply with Subsections ~~[(1)(b)]~~ (2)(a) through (d), the municipal clerk or recorder shall immediately notify the lieutenant governor.

(f) After receiving notice that a municipal legislative body has failed to timely comply with Subsections ~~[(1)(b)]~~ (2)(a) through (d), the lieutenant governor shall:

(i) notify the municipal legislative body of the violation; and

(ii) direct the municipal legislative body to, within 30 calendar days after the day on which the lieutenant governor provides the notice described in this Subsection ~~[(1)(f)]~~ (2)(f), appoint an eligible individual to fill the vacancy in accordance with Subsections ~~[(1)(e)]~~ (2)(c) and (d).

(g) If the municipality fails to timely comply with a directive described in Subsection ~~[(1)(f)]~~ (2)(f):

(i) the lieutenant governor shall notify the governor of the municipality's failure to fill the vacancy; and

(ii) the governor shall, within 45 calendar days after the day on which the governor receives the notice described in Subsection ~~[(1)(g)(i)]~~ (2)(g)(i), provide public

notice soliciting candidates to fill the vacancy in accordance with Subsection [~~(1)(e)~~] (2)(c) and appoint an individual to fill the vacancy.

~~[(2)]~~ (3)(a) A vacancy in the office of municipal executive or member of a municipal legislative body shall be filled by an interim appointment, followed by an election to fill a two-year term, if:

(i) the vacancy occurs, or a letter of resignation is received, by the municipal executive at least 14 calendar days before the deadline for filing for election in an odd-numbered year; and

(ii) two years of the vacated term will remain after the first Monday of January following the next municipal election.

(b) In appointing an interim replacement, the municipal legislative body shall:

(i) comply with the notice requirements of this section; and

(ii) in an open meeting, interview each individual whose name is submitted for consideration, and who meets the qualifications for office, regarding the individual's qualifications.

~~[(3)]~~ (4)(a) ~~[In]~~ Except as provided in Subsection (4)(b), in a municipality operating under the council-mayor form of government, as defined in Section 10-3b-102:

(i) the council may appoint an individual to fill a vacancy in the office of mayor before the effective date of the mayor's resignation by making the effective date of the appointment the same as the effective date of the mayor's resignation; and

(ii) if a vacancy in the office of mayor occurs before the effective date of an appointment under Subsection ~~[(1) or (2)]~~ (2) or (3) to fill the vacancy, the remaining council members shall, by majority vote, ~~[shall]~~ appoint a council member to serve as acting mayor during the time between the creation of the vacancy and the effective date of the appointment to fill the vacancy.

(b) The council may not make an appointment under Subsection (4)(a)(i) if the effective date of the mayor's resignation occurs during an interim vacancy period.

~~[(b)]~~ (c) A council member serving as acting mayor under Subsection ~~[(3)(a)(ii)]~~ (4)(a)(ii) continues to:

(i) act as a council member; and

(ii) vote at council meetings.

~~[(4)]~~ (5)(a)(i) For a vacancy of a member of a municipal legislative body as described in this section, the municipal legislative body member whose resignation creates the vacancy on the municipal legislative body may:

(A) interview an individual whose name is submitted for consideration under Subsection ~~[(1)(e)(iv)]~~ (2)(c)(iv) or ~~[(2)(b)(ii)]~~ (3)(b)(ii); and

(B) vote on the appointment of an individual to fill the vacancy.

(ii) Notwithstanding Subsection ~~[(4)(a)(i)]~~ (5)(a)(i), a member of a legislative body who is removed from office in accordance with state law may not cast a vote under Subsection ~~[(4)(a)(i)]~~ (5)(a)(i).

(b) A member of a municipal legislative body who submits his or her resignation to the municipal legislative body may not rescind the resignation.

(c) A member of a municipal legislative body may not vote on an appointment under this section for himself or herself to fill a vacancy in the municipal legislative body.

~~[(5)]~~ (6) In a municipality operating under the council-mayor form of government, the mayor may not:

(a) participate in the vote to fill a vacancy;

(b) veto a decision of the council to fill a vacancy; or

(c) vote in the case of a tie.

~~[(6)]~~ (7) A mayor whose resignation from the municipal legislative body is due to election or appointment as mayor may, in the case of a tie, participate in the vote under this section.

~~[(7)]~~ (8) A municipal legislative body may, consistent with the provisions of state law, adopt procedures governing the appointment, interview, and voting process for filling vacancies in municipal offices.

~~[(8)]~~ (9)(a) Except as provided in Subsection ~~[(8)(b)]~~ (9)(b), an individual seeking appointment to fill a vacancy under this section shall, no later than the deadline for the individual to file a campaign finance statement under Section 10-3-208:

(i) complete a conflict of interest disclosure statement in accordance with Section 10-3-301.5; and

(ii) submit the conflict of interest disclosure statement to the municipal legislative body and the municipal clerk or recorder.

(b) An individual described in Subsection ~~[(8)(a)]~~ (9)(a) is not required to comply with Subsection ~~[(8)(a)]~~ (9)(a) if the individual:

(i) currently holds an office described in Subsection ~~[(1)(b)]~~ (2)(b);

(ii) already, that same year, filed a conflict of interest disclosure statement for the office described in Subsection ~~[(8)(b)(i)]~~ (9)(b)(i), in accordance with Section 10-3-1313; and

- 1321 (iii) no later than the deadline described in Subsection [(8)(a)] (9)(a), indicates, in a
 1322 written notice submitted to the municipal clerk or recorder, that the conflict of
 1323 interest disclosure statement described in Subsection [(8)(b)(ii)] (9)(b)(ii) is
 1324 updated and accurate as of the date of the written notice.
- 1325 [(9)] (10)(a) The municipal clerk or recorder shall make each conflict of interest
 1326 disclosure statement made by an individual described in Subsection [(8)(a)] (9)(a)
 1327 available for public inspection by posting an electronic copy of the statement on:
- 1328 (i) the municipality's website; or
 - 1329 (ii) if the municipality does not have a website, on the website of the county in which
 1330 the municipality is located.
- 1331 (b) The municipal clerk or recorder shall:
- 1332 (i) post the electronic statement described in Subsection [(9)(a)] (10)(a) no later than
 1333 two business days after the day on which the municipal recorder or clerk receives
 1334 the statement; and
 - 1335 (ii) ensure that the electronic statement remains posted on the website described in
 1336 Subsection [(9)(a)] (10)(a) for at least 10 calendar days after the day on which the
 1337 municipal legislative body appoints an individual to fill the vacancy.
- 1338 Section 11. Section **20A-1-511** is amended to read:
- 1339 **20A-1-511 . Midterm vacancy on a local school board.**
- 1340 [(1)(a) A local school board shall fill a vacancy on the local school board by
 1341 appointment, except as otherwise provided in Subsections (1)(b) and (2).]
- 1342 [(b) The county legislative body, or municipal legislative body in a city district, shall fill
 1343 a vacancy on a local school board by appointment if the local school board fails to
 1344 make an appointment to fill the vacancy:]
- 1345 [(i) except as provided in Subsection (1)(b)(ii), within 30 calendar days after a
 1346 vacancy occurs on the local school board; or]
- 1347 [(ii) within 45 calendar days after a vacancy occurs on the local school board due to
 1348 the death of a local school board member.]
- 1349 [(c) A member appointed and qualified under this Subsection (1) shall serve until a
 1350 successor is elected or appointed and qualified.]
- 1351 (1) As used in this section, "interim vacancy period" means the period of time that:
- 1352 (a) begins on the day on which an election is held to elect a member of a local school
 1353 board; and
 - 1354 (b) ends on the day on which the member-elect begins the member's term of office.

- 1355 (2) Except as provided in Subsection (3) or (4), if a vacancy occurs in the office of local
1356 school board member, the local school board shall appoint an individual to fill the
1357 vacancy:
- 1358 (a) within 30 calendar days after the day on which the vacancy occurs; or
1359 (b) if the vacancy occurs due to the death of a local school board member, within 45
1360 calendar days after the day on which the vacancy occurs.
- 1361 (3)(a) If a vacancy described in Subsection (2) exists at any time during an interim
1362 vacancy period, the local school board:
- 1363 (i) may not appoint an individual to fill the vacancy during the interim vacancy
1364 period; and
- 1365 (ii) shall, within 45 calendar days after the day on which the interim vacancy period
1366 ends, appoint an individual to fill the vacated office.
- 1367 (b) A local school board may not take an action under Subsection (7) during an interim
1368 vacancy period.
- 1369 (4) If a local school board does not timely comply with Subsection (2) or (3), the county
1370 legislative body, or municipal legislative body in a city district, shall appoint an
1371 individual to fill the vacancy.
- 1372 (5) A member appointed and qualified under Subsection (2), (3), or (4) shall serve until a
1373 successor is elected or appointed and qualified.
- 1374 ~~[(2)]~~ (6)(a) A vacancy on the board shall be filled by an interim appointment, followed
1375 by an election to fill a two-year term if:
- 1376 (i) the vacancy on the board occurs, or a letter of resignation is received by the board,
1377 at least 14 calendar days before the deadline for filing a declaration of candidacy;
1378 and
- 1379 (ii) two years of the vacated term will remain after the first Monday of January
1380 following the next school board election.
- 1381 (b) A member elected under this Subsection ~~[(2)]~~ (6) shall serve for the remaining two
1382 years of the vacated term and until a successor is elected and qualified.
- 1383 ~~[(3)]~~ (7) Before appointing an individual to fill a vacancy under this section, the local school
1384 board shall:
- 1385 (a) immediately notify the county clerk;
1386 (b) give public notice of the vacancy at least two weeks before the local school board
1387 meets to fill the vacancy;
1388 (c) identify, in the public notice:

- 1389 (i) the date, time, and place of the meeting where the vacancy will be filled; and
1390 (ii) the person to whom and the date and time before which an individual interested in
1391 being appointed to fill the vacancy may submit the individual's name for
1392 consideration; and
- 1393 (d) in an open meeting, interview each individual whose name is submitted for
1394 consideration and who meets the qualifications for office, regarding the individual's
1395 qualifications.
- 1396 ~~[(4)]~~ (8)(a) ~~[Subject to Subsection (4)(b), a local school board may appoint an individual~~
1397 ~~to fill a vacancy described in Subsection (1) or (2) before the vacancy occurs if a~~
1398 ~~member of the local school board submits a letter of resignation]~~ Except as provided
1399 in Subsection (8)(b), if a member of a local school board submits a letter of
1400 resignation, the local school board may appoint an individual to fill the vacancy
1401 before the effective date of the member's resignation if the local school board makes
1402 the effective date of the appointment the same as the effective date of the member's
1403 resignation.
- 1404 ~~[(b) An individual appointed under Subsection (4)(a) may not take office until on or~~
1405 ~~after the day on which the vacancy occurs for which the individual is appointed.]~~
- 1406 (b) A local school board may not make an appointment under Subsection (8)(a) if the
1407 effective date of the member's resignation occurs during an interim vacancy period.
- 1408 (c) A member of a local school board who submits a letter of resignation under
1409 Subsection ~~[(4)(a)]~~ (8)(a) may not rescind the resignation after the local school board
1410 makes an appointment to fill the vacancy created by the resignation.
- 1411 ~~[(5)]~~ (9) An individual seeking appointment to fill a vacancy on a local school board shall,
1412 no later than the deadline for the individual to file a financial report under Section
1413 17-70-403:
- 1414 (a) complete a conflict of interest disclosure statement in accordance with Section
1415 17-70-304; and
- 1416 (b) submit the conflict of interest disclosure statement to the county legislative body and
1417 the county clerk.
- 1418 ~~[(6)]~~ (10)(a) The county clerk shall make each conflict of interest disclosure statement
1419 made by an individual described in Subsection ~~[(5)]~~ (9) available for public inspection
1420 by posting an electronic copy of the statement on the county's website for at least 10
1421 calendar days after the day on which the county legislative body appoints an
1422 individual to fill the vacancy.

(b) The county clerk shall post the electronic statement described in Subsection ~~[(6)(a)]~~
~~(10)(a)~~ no later than two business days after the day on which the county clerk
 receives the statement.

Section 12. Section **20A-1-512** is amended to read:

20A-1-512 . Midterm vacancies on special district boards -- Notice.

(1) As used in this section, "interim vacancy period" means the period of time that:

(a) begins on the day on which an election is held to elect a member of a special district
 board; and

(b) ends on the day on which the member-elect begins the member's term of office.

~~[(4)]~~ (2)(a) ~~[When]~~ Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), if a vacancy occurs on any
 special district board for any reason, the following shall, within 90 calendar days
 after the day on which the vacancy occurs, appoint a replacement to serve out the
 unexpired term in accordance with this section:

(i) the special district board, if the person vacating the position was elected; or

(ii) the appointing authority, as that term is defined in Section 17B-1-102, if the
 appointing authority appointed the person vacating the position.

~~(b)(i)~~ If a vacancy described in Subsection (2)(a)(i) exists at any time during an
 interim vacancy period, the special district board:

(A) may not appoint an individual to fill the vacancy during the interim vacancy
 period; and

(B) shall, within 90 calendar days after the day on which the interim vacancy
 period ends, appoint an individual to complete the elected board member's term
 of office.

(ii) A special district board may not take an action under Subsection (3) during an
 interim vacancy period.

~~[(b)]~~ (3) Except as provided in Subsection ~~[(1)(e) or (d)]~~ (4) or (5), before acting to fill the
 vacancy, the special district board or appointing authority shall:

~~[(i)]~~ (a) give public notice of the vacancy for at least two weeks before the special district
 board or appointing authority meets to fill the vacancy by publishing the notice, as a
 class A notice under Section 63G-30-102, for the special district; and

~~[(ii)]~~ (b) identify, in the notice:

~~[(A)]~~ (i) the date, time, and place of the meeting where the vacancy will be filled;

~~[(B)]~~ (ii) the individual to whom an individual who is interested in an appointment to
 fill the vacancy may submit the individual's name for consideration; and

1457 ~~[(C)]~~ (iii) any submission deadline.

1458 ~~[(e)]~~ (4) An appointing authority is not subject to Subsection ~~[(1)(b)]~~ (3) if:

1459 ~~[(i)]~~ (a)~~[(A)]~~ (i) the appointing authority appoints one of the appointing authority's

1460 own members; and

1461 ~~[(B)]~~ (ii) that member meets all applicable statutory board member qualifications; or

1462 ~~[(ii)]~~ (b) the vacancy is on the board of trustees of an infrastructure financing district with

1463 no residents within the district's boundary.

1464 ~~[(d)]~~ (5) When a vacancy occurs on the board of a water conservancy district located in

1465 more than one county:

1466 ~~[(i)]~~ (a) the board shall give notice of the vacancy to the county legislative bodies that

1467 nominated the vacating trustee as provided in Section 17B-2a-1005;

1468 ~~[(ii)]~~ (b) the county legislative bodies described in Subsection ~~[(1)(d)(i)]~~ (5)(b) shall

1469 collectively compile a list of three nominees to fill the vacancy; and

1470 ~~[(iii)]~~ (c) the governor shall, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint an

1471 individual to fill the vacancy from nominees submitted as provided in Subsection

1472 17B-2a-1005(2)(c).

1473 ~~[(2)]~~ (6) If the special district board fails to ~~[appoint an individual to complete an elected~~

1474 ~~board member's term within 90 calendar days after the day on which the vacancy occurs]~~

1475 timely comply with Subsection (2)(a)(i) or (b)(i), the vacancy shall be filled:

1476 (a) in accordance with the procedure for a special district described in Subsection ~~[(1)(b)]~~

1477 (3); and

1478 (b) by, as applicable:

1479 (i) the legislative body of the county or municipality that created the special district;

1480 or

1481 (ii) for a vacancy on a board of trustees of an infrastructure financing district, the

1482 legislative body of the county whose unincorporated area contains or the

1483 municipality whose boundary contains more of the area within the infrastructure

1484 financing district than is contained within the unincorporated area of any other

1485 county or within the boundary of any other municipality.

1486 ~~[(3)]~~ (7) If the body identified in Subsection ~~[(2)(b)]~~ (6)(b) has failed to appoint an individual

1487 to complete an elected board member's term within 90 calendar days after becoming the

1488 appointing authority under Subsection ~~[(2)(b)]~~ (6)(b) and a board quorum, as defined in

1489 Subsection 17B-1-310(1), exists, the vacancy shall be filled by the special district board

1490 in accordance with the procedure described in Subsection ~~[(1)(b)]~~ (3).

Section 13. Section **20A-11-204** is amended to read:

20A-11-204 . State office candidate and state officeholder -- Financial reporting requirements -- Interim reports.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Campaign account" means a separate campaign account required under Subsection 20A-11-201(1)(a) or (c).

(b) "Received" means:

(i) for a cash contribution, that the cash is given to a state office candidate or a member of the state office candidate's personal campaign committee;

(ii) for a contribution that is a negotiable instrument or check, that the negotiable instrument or check is negotiated;

(iii) for a direct deposit made into a campaign account by a person not associated with the campaign, the earlier of:

(A) the day on which the state office candidate or a member of the state office candidate's personal campaign committee becomes aware of the deposit and the source of the deposit;

(B) the day on which the state office candidate or a member of the state office candidate's personal campaign committee receives notice of the deposit and the source of the deposit by mail, email, text, or similar means; or

(C) 31 calendar days after the day on which the direct deposit occurs; or

(iv) for any other type of contribution, that any portion of the contribution's benefit inures to the state office candidate.

(2) Except as provided in Subsection (3), each state office candidate shall file an interim report at the following times in any year in which the candidate has filed a declaration of candidacy for a public office:

(a)(i) seven calendar days before the candidate's political convention; or

(ii) for an unaffiliated candidate, the fourth Saturday in March;

(b) seven calendar days before the regular primary election date;

(c) September 30; and

(d) seven calendar days before the regular general election date.

(3) If a state office candidate is a state office candidate seeking appointment for a midterm vacancy, the state office candidate:

(a) shall file an interim report:

(i) no later than three business days before the day on which the political party of the

- 1525 party for which the state office candidate seeks nomination meets to declare a
1526 nominee for the governor to appoint in accordance with Subsection [
1527 ~~20A-1-504(1)(a)] 20A-1-504(1)(b); or~~
- 1528 (ii) if a state office candidate decides to seek the appointment with less than three
1529 business days before the day [~~on which the political party meets~~] described in
1530 Subsection (3)(a)(i), or the political party schedules the meeting [~~to declare a~~
1531 ~~nominee~~] described in Subsection (3)(a)(i) less than three business days before the
1532 day of the meeting, no later than 5 p.m. on the last day of business before the day
1533 on which the political party meets; and
- 1534 (b) is not required to file an interim report at the times described in Subsection (2).
- 1535 (4) Each interim report shall include the following information:
- 1536 (a) the net balance of the last summary report, if any;
- 1537 (b) a single figure equal to the total amount of receipts reported on all prior interim
1538 reports, if any, during the calendar year in which the interim report is due;
- 1539 (c) a single figure equal to the total amount of expenditures reported on all prior interim
1540 reports, if any, filed during the calendar year in which the interim report is due;
- 1541 (d) a detailed listing of:
- 1542 (i) for a state office candidate, each contribution received since the last summary
1543 report that has not been reported in detail on a prior interim report; or
- 1544 (ii) for a state officeholder, each contribution and public service assistance received
1545 since the last summary report that has not been reported in detail on a prior
1546 interim report;
- 1547 (e) for each nonmonetary contribution:
- 1548 (i) the fair market value of the contribution with that information provided by the
1549 contributor; and
- 1550 (ii) a specific description of the contribution;
- 1551 (f) a detailed listing of each expenditure made since the last summary report that has not
1552 been reported in detail on a prior interim report;
- 1553 (g) for each nonmonetary expenditure, the fair market value of the expenditure;
- 1554 (h) a net balance for the year consisting of the net balance from the last summary report,
1555 if any, plus all receipts since the last summary report minus all expenditures since the
1556 last summary report;
- 1557 (i) a summary page in the form required by the lieutenant governor that identifies:
- 1558 (i) beginning balance;

- 1559 (ii) total contributions and public service assistance received during the period since
 1560 the last statement;
- 1561 (iii) total contributions and public service assistance received to date;
- 1562 (iv) total expenditures during the period since the last statement; and
- 1563 (v) total expenditures to date; and
- 1564 (j) the name of a political action committee for which the state office candidate or state
 1565 officeholder is designated as an officer who has primary decision-making authority
 1566 under Section 20A-11-601.
- 1567 (5)(a) In preparing each interim report, all receipts and expenditures shall be reported as
 1568 of five calendar days before the required filing date of the report.
- 1569 (b) Any negotiable instrument or check received by a state office candidate or state
 1570 officeholder more than five calendar days before the required filing date of a report
 1571 required by this section shall be included in the interim report.
- 1572 Section 14. Section **20A-11-1303** is amended to read:
- 1573 **20A-11-1303 . School board office candidate and school board officeholder --**
 1574 **Financial reporting requirements -- Interim reports.**
- 1575 (1)(a) As used in this section, "received" means:
- 1576 (i) for a cash contribution, that the cash is given to a school board office candidate or
 1577 a member of the school board office candidate's personal campaign committee;
- 1578 (ii) for a contribution that is a check or other negotiable instrument, that the check or
 1579 other negotiable instrument is negotiated;
- 1580 (iii) for a direct deposit made into a campaign account by a person not associated
 1581 with the campaign, the earlier of:
- 1582 (A) the day on which the school board office candidate or a member of the school
 1583 board office candidate's personal campaign committee becomes aware of the
 1584 deposit and the source of the deposit;
- 1585 (B) the day on which the school board office candidate or a member of the school
 1586 board office candidate's personal campaign committee receives notice of the
 1587 deposit and the source of the deposit by mail, email, text, or similar means; or
- 1588 (C) 31 calendar days after the day on which the direct deposit occurs; or
- 1589 (iv) for any other type of contribution, that any portion of the contribution's benefit
 1590 inures to the school board office candidate.
- 1591 (b) As used in this Subsection (1), "campaign account" means a separate campaign
 1592 account required under Subsection 20A-11-1301(1)(a)(i) or (c)(i).

(c) Except as provided in Subsection (2), each school board office candidate shall file an interim report at the following times in any year in which the candidate has filed a declaration of candidacy for a public office:

(i) May 15;

(ii) seven calendar days before the regular primary election date;

(iii) September 30; and

(iv) seven calendar days before the regular general election date.

(2) If a school board office candidate is a school board office candidate seeking appointment for a midterm vacancy, the school board office candidate:

(a) shall file an interim report:

~~[(i) for a vacancy described in Subsection 20A-1-504(1)(b)(ii)(A) or (B), no later than three business days before the day on which the Senate meets to consider the school board office candidate's nomination; or]~~

~~[(ii) for a vacancy described in Subsection 20A-1-504(1)(b)(ii)(C):]~~

~~[(A) no later than three business days before the day on which the political party of the party for which the school board office candidate seeks nomination meets to declare a nominee for the governor to appoint; or]~~

~~[(B) if the school board office candidate decides to seek the appointment with less than three business days before the day on which the political party meets, or the political party schedules the meeting to declare a nominee less than three business days before the day of the meeting, no later than 5 p.m. on the last day of business before the day on which the political party meets; and]~~

(i) no later than three business days before the day on which the political party of the party for which the school board office candidate seeks nomination meets to declare a nominee for the governor to appoint in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-504(1)(b); or

(ii) if the school board office candidate decides to seek the appointment with less than three business days before the day described in Subsection (2)(a)(i), or the political party schedules the meeting described in Subsection (2)(a)(i) less than three business days before the day of the meeting, no later than 5 p.m. on the last day of business before the day on which the political party meets; and

(b) is not required to file an interim report at the times described in Subsection (1)(c).

(3) Each interim report shall include the following information:

(a) the net balance of the last summary report, if any;

- 1627 (b) a single figure equal to the total amount of receipts reported on all prior interim
1628 reports, if any, during the calendar year in which the interim report is due;
- 1629 (c) a single figure equal to the total amount of expenditures reported on all prior interim
1630 reports, if any, filed during the calendar year in which the interim report is due;
- 1631 (d) a detailed listing of:
- 1632 (i) for a school board office candidate, each contribution received since the last
1633 summary report that has not been reported in detail on a prior interim report; or
1634 (ii) for a school board officeholder, each contribution and public service assistance
1635 received since the last summary report that has not been reported in detail on a
1636 prior interim report;
- 1637 (e) for each nonmonetary contribution:
- 1638 (i) the fair market value of the contribution with that information provided by the
1639 contributor; and
1640 (ii) a specific description of the contribution;
- 1641 (f) a detailed listing of each expenditure made since the last summary report that has not
1642 been reported in detail on a prior interim report;
- 1643 (g) for each nonmonetary expenditure, the fair market value of the expenditure;
- 1644 (h) a net balance for the year consisting of the net balance from the last summary report,
1645 if any, plus all receipts since the last summary report minus all expenditures since the
1646 last summary report;
- 1647 (i) a summary page in the form required by the lieutenant governor that identifies:
- 1648 (i) beginning balance;
- 1649 (ii) total contributions during the period since the last statement;
- 1650 (iii) total contributions to date;
- 1651 (iv) total expenditures during the period since the last statement; and
1652 (v) total expenditures to date; and
- 1653 (j) the name of a political action committee for which the school board office candidate
1654 or school board officeholder is designated as an officer who has primary
1655 decision-making authority under Section 20A-11-601.
- 1656 (4)(a) In preparing each interim report, all receipts and expenditures shall be reported as
1657 of five calendar days before the required filing date of the report.
- 1658 (b) Any negotiable instrument or check received by a school board office candidate or
1659 school board officeholder more than five calendar days before the required filing date
1660 of a report required by this section shall be included in the interim report.

1661 Section 15. **Effective Date.**

1662 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.