

Elected Official Publicity Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Stephanie Pitcher

House Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill creates an exception to a restriction on publicly funded mass communications.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- creates an exception to the 60-day restriction on certain publicly funded mass communications for neutral, informational communications that include more than one individual related to an elective office or governing body; and
- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

20A-11-1203.5, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 96

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

Section 1. Section **20A-11-1203.5** is amended to read:

20A-11-1203.5 . Public official prohibited from expending public funds on certain communications.

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), a public official may not make an expenditure from public funds for a billboard or mass communication that:

- (a)(i) includes a photograph, image, or likeness of the public official; or
- (ii) contains the name of the public official in a font size that is larger than any other font size on the billboard or mass communication; and
- (b) is posted, displayed, or mailed less than 60 calendar days before the date of any caucus, political convention, or election at which the public official is a candidate for

elective office.

(2) A public official may make an expenditure from public funds for a mass communication described in Subsection (1) if:

(a) the mass communication is mailed to a person in response to that person making an inquiry of the public official;

(b) the mass communication is sent to another public official;

(c) the mass communication is a news release sent to a news media organization; ~~[or]~~

(d) the public official is legally required to mail the mass communication~~[-]~~ ; or

(e) the mass communication:

(i) is informational in nature and relates to an elective office or governing body;

(ii) includes the names of more than one individual who:

(A) holds or seeks the elective office; or

(B) is a member of the governing body; and

(iii) presents each individual described in Subsection (2)(e)(ii) in a substantially similar manner, without promoting or opposing any individual's candidacy for, or election to, an elective office.

Section 2. **Effective Date.**

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.