

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

31 elective office.

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

34 (a) the mass communication is mailed to a person in response to that person making an

35 inquiry of the public official;

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

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

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

39 (e) the mass communication:

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

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

42 (A) holds or seeks the elective office; or

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

44 (iii) presents each individual described in Subsection (2)(e)(ii) in a substantially

45 similar manner, without promoting or opposing any individual's candidacy for, or

46 election to, an elective office.

47 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

48 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.