

Candidate Petition Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor:

Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill amends provisions related to candidate nomination petitions.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- requires a candidate who seeks the nomination for an elective office by gathering signatures of registered voters to submit the signatures to the county clerk of each registered voter's residence;
- provides that a county clerk may only certify the signature of a registered voter described above if the registered voter is a resident of the county clerk's county;
- for a signature gathering candidate who seeks the nomination for an office in a district where the officeholder is elected by the voters from more than one county, requires the county clerk of each county to which the candidate submits signatures to:
 - count the number of valid signatures submitted by the candidate; and
 - certify the number of valid signatures to the lieutenant governor;
- for an elective office described above, requires the lieutenant governor to:
 - count the total number of valid signatures received from each county clerk; and
 - if the aggregate number of valid signatures is sufficient for the candidate to qualify for placement on the ballot, certify the signatures;
- amends the candidate nomination petition forms to specify that only a registered voter residing in the county where a candidate submits signatures for verification should sign the candidate's nomination petition;
- for a candidate for elective office seeking the nomination of a qualified political party through signature-gathering, shortens the deadline for the candidate to submit signatures to an election official from 14 to 21 days before the day on which the party holds a convention to nominate a candidate for the same elective office; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

20A-1-501, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 234

20A-1-1002, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 116

20A-3a-106, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 381, 448

20A-6-301, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 39

20A-6-302, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 39, 448

20A-6-304, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 136

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

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

20A-9-406, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 13

20A-9-408, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 38, 448

20A-9-502, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

20A-9-701, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 296

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

Section 1. Section **20A-1-501** is amended to read:

20A-1-501 . Candidate vacancies -- Procedure for filling.

(1) As used in this section, "central committee" means:

(a) the state central committee of a political party, for a candidate for:

(i) United States senator, United States representative, governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, state treasurer, or state auditor; or

(ii) state legislator if the legislative district encompasses all or a portion of more than one county; or

(b) the county central committee of a political party, for a party candidate seeking an office, other than an office described in Subsection (1)(a), elected at an election held in an even-numbered year.

(2) Except as provided in Subsection (6), the central committee may certify the name of another candidate to the appropriate election officer if:

(a) for a registered political party that will have a candidate on a ballot in a primary election:

- 65 (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing
66 through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor provides the list
67 described in Subsection [~~20A-9-403(4)(a)~~] 20A-9-403(9)(a), only one or two
68 candidates from that party have filed a declaration of candidacy for that office and
69 one or both dies, resigns as a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and
70 (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate
71 to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor
72 provides the list described in Subsection [~~20A-9-403(4)(a)~~] 20A-9-403(9)(a); and
73 (b) for a registered political party that does not have a candidate on the ballot in a
74 primary, but will have a candidate on the ballot for a regular general election:
75 (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing
76 through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor makes the
77 certification described in Section 20A-5-409, the party's candidate dies, resigns as
78 a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and
79 (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate
80 to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor
81 makes the certification described in Section 20A-5-409; or
82 (c) for a registered political party with a candidate certified as winning a primary
83 election:
84 (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing
85 through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor makes the
86 certification described in Section 20A-5-409, the party's candidate dies, resigns as
87 a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and
88 (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate
89 to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor
90 makes the certification described in Section 20A-5-409.
91 (3) If no more than two candidates from a political party have filed a declaration of
92 candidacy for an office elected at a regular general election and one resigns to become
93 the party candidate for another position, the central committee of that political party may
94 certify the name of another candidate to the appropriate election officer.
95 (4) Each replacement candidate shall file a declaration of candidacy as required by Title
96 20A, Chapter 9, Part 2, Candidate Qualifications and Declarations of Candidacy.
97 (5)(a) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(a) after the
98 deadline described in Subsection (2)(a)(ii) may not appear on the primary election

99 ballot.

100 (b) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(b) after the deadline
101 described in Subsection (2)(b)(ii) may not appear on the general election ballot.

102 (c) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(c) after the deadline
103 described in Subsection (2)(c)(ii) may not appear on the general election ballot.

104 (6) A political party may not replace a candidate who is disqualified for failure to timely
105 file a campaign disclosure financial report under Title 20A, Chapter 11, Campaign and
106 Financial Reporting Requirements, or Section 17-16-6.5.

107 (7) This section does not apply to a candidate vacancy for a nonpartisan office.

108 Section 2. Section **20A-1-1002** is amended to read:

109 **20A-1-1002 . Verification of voter registration.**

110 (1) A clerk shall use the ~~[following]~~ procedures described in this section to determine
111 whether a signer of a petition is a registered voter and to determine the address where
112 the voter is registered to vote[.].

113 ~~[(a)]~~ (2) Except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-403(4)(b)(i), 20A-9-408(9)(d)(ii)(A), or
114 20A-9-502(6)(a):

115 (a) if a signer's name and address provided by the individual with the individual's
116 petition signature exactly match a name and address shown on the official register
117 and the signer's signature appears substantially similar to the signature on the
118 statewide voter registration database, the clerk shall declare the signature valid for the
119 district or jurisdiction in which the signer is registered to vote;

120 (b) if there is no exact match of an address and a name, the clerk shall declare the
121 signature valid for the district or jurisdiction in which the signer is registered to vote,
122 if:

123 (i) the address provided by the individual with the individual's petition signature
124 matches the address of an individual on the official register with a substantially
125 similar name; and

126 (ii) the signer's signature appears substantially similar to the signature on the
127 statewide voter registration database of the individual described in Subsection [
128 ~~(1)(b)(i)]~~ (2)(b)(i); or

129 (c) if there is no match of an address and a substantially similar name, the clerk shall
130 declare the signature valid for the district or jurisdiction in which the signer is
131 registered to vote if:

132 (i) the birth date or age provided by the individual with the individual's petition

signature matches the birth date or age of an individual on the official register with a substantially similar name; and

- (ii) the signer's signature appears substantially similar to the signature on the statewide voter registration database of the individual described in Subsection [~~(1)(e)(i)~~] (2)(c)(i).

~~[(2)] (3)~~ If a signature is not declared valid under Subsection ~~[(1)(a)] (2)(a)~~, (b), or (c), the clerk shall declare the signature to be invalid.

Section 3. Section **20A-3a-106** is amended to read:

20A-3a-106 . Rulemaking authority relating to conducting an election.

The director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, may make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, establishing requirements for:

- (1) a return envelope, to ensure uniformity and security of the envelopes;
- (2) complying with the signature comparison audit requirements described in Section 20A-3a-402.5;
- (3) conducting and documenting the identity verification process described in Subsection 20A-3a-401(7)(b); or
- (4) establishing specific requirements and procedures for an election officer to:
 - (a) perform the signature comparison audits described in Subsection ~~[20A-9-408(9)(e)]~~ 20A-9-408(9)(h); or
 - (b) fulfill the chain of custody requirements described in Section 20A-9-408.3.

Section 4. Section **20A-6-301** is amended to read:

20A-6-301 . Manual ballots -- Regular general election.

- (1) Each election officer shall ensure that:
 - (a) all manual ballots furnished for use at the regular general election contain:
 - (i) no captions or other endorsements except as provided in this section;
 - (ii) no symbols, markings, or other descriptions of a political party or group, except for a registered political party that has chosen to nominate its candidates in accordance with Section 20A-9-403; and
 - (iii) no indication that a candidate for elective office has been nominated by, or has been endorsed by, or is in any way affiliated with a political party or group, unless the candidate has been nominated by a registered political party in accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection ~~[20A-9-403(5)]~~ 20A-9-403(10);
 - (b) at the top of the ballot, the following endorsements are printed in 18 point bold type:

- (i) "Official Ballot for ____ County, Utah";
- (ii) the date of the election; and
- (iii) the words "certified by the Clerk of _____ County" or, as applicable, the name of a combined office that includes the duties of a county clerk;
- (c) unaffiliated candidates, candidates not affiliated with a registered political party, and all other candidates for elective office who were not nominated by a registered political party in accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)~~ 20A-9-403(10)], are listed with the other candidates for the same office in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110, without a party name or title;
- (d) each ticket containing the lists of candidates, including the party name and device, are separated by heavy parallel lines;
- (e) the offices to be filled are plainly printed immediately above the names of the candidates for those offices;
- (f) the names of candidates are printed in capital letters, not less than one-eighth nor more than one-fourth of an inch high in heavy-faced type not smaller than 10 point, between lines or rules three-eighths of an inch apart; and
- (g) on a ticket for a race in which a voter is authorized to cast a write-in vote and in which a write-in candidate is qualified under Section 20A-9-601:
- (i) the ballot includes a space for a write-in candidate immediately following the last candidate listed on that ticket; or
- (ii) for the offices of president and vice president and governor and lieutenant governor, the ballot includes two spaces for write-in candidates immediately following the last candidates on that ticket, one placed above the other, to enable the entry of two valid write-in candidates.
- (2) An election officer shall ensure that:
- (a) each individual nominated by any registered political party under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)~~ 20A-9-403(10)], and no other individual, is placed on the ballot:
- (i) under the registered political party's name, if any; or
- (ii) under the title of the registered political party as designated by them in their certificates of nomination or petition, or, if none is designated, then under some suitable title;
- (b) the names of all unaffiliated candidates that qualify as required in Chapter 9, Part 5, Candidates not Affiliated with a Party, are placed on the ballot;

(c) the names of the candidates for president and vice president are used on the ballot instead of the names of the presidential electors; and

(d) the ballots contain no other names.

(3) When the ballot contains a nonpartisan section, the election officer shall ensure that:

(a) the designation of the office to be filled in the election and the number of candidates to be elected are printed in type not smaller than eight point;

(b) the words designating the office are printed flush with the left-hand margin;

(c) the words, "Vote for one" or "Vote for up to ____ (the number of candidates for which the voter may vote)" extend to the extreme right of the column;

(d) the nonpartisan candidates are grouped according to the office for which they are candidates;

(e) the names in each group are placed in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110, with the surnames last; and

(f) each group is preceded by the designation of the office for which the candidates seek election, and the words, "Vote for one" or "Vote for up to ____ (the number of candidates for which the voter may vote)," according to the number to be elected.

(4) Each election officer shall ensure that:

(a) proposed amendments to the Utah Constitution are listed on the ballot in accordance with Section 20A-6-107;

(b) ballot propositions submitted to the voters are listed on the ballot in accordance with Section 20A-6-107;

(c) bond propositions that have qualified for the ballot are listed on the ballot under the title assigned to each bond proposition under Section 11-14-206; and

(d) the judicial retention section of the ballot includes a statement at the beginning directing voters to the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's website in accordance with Subsection 20A-12-201(4).

Section 5. Section **20A-6-302** is amended to read:

20A-6-302 . Manual ballots -- Placement of candidates' names.

(1) An election officer shall ensure, for manual ballots in regular general elections, that:

(a) each candidate is listed by party, if nominated by a registered political party under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection ~~[20A-9-403(5)]~~ 20A-9-403(10);

(b) candidates' surnames are listed in alphabetical order on the ballots when two or more candidates' names are required to be listed on a ticket under the title of an office; and

(c) the names of candidates are placed on the ballot in:

- 235 (i) the manner described in Section 20A-6-109; and
- 236 (ii) the order described in Section 20A-6-110.
- 237 (2)(a) When there is only one candidate for county attorney at the regular general
- 238 election in counties that have three or fewer registered voters of the county who are
- 239 licensed active members in good standing of the Utah State Bar, the county clerk
- 240 shall cause that candidate's name and party affiliation, if any, to be placed on a
- 241 separate section of the ballot with the following question: "Shall (name of candidate)
- 242 be elected to the office of county attorney? Yes ____ No ____."
- 243 (b) If the number of "Yes" votes exceeds the number of "No" votes, the candidate is
- 244 elected to the office of county attorney.
- 245 (c) If the number of "No" votes exceeds the number of "Yes" votes, the candidate is not
- 246 elected and may not take office, nor may the candidate continue in the office past the
- 247 end of the term resulting from any prior election or appointment.
- 248 (d) When the name of only one candidate for county attorney is printed on the ballot
- 249 under authority of this Subsection (2), the county clerk may not count any write-in
- 250 votes received for the office of county attorney.
- 251 (e) If no qualified individual files for the office of county attorney or if the candidate is
- 252 not elected by the voters, the county legislative body shall appoint the county
- 253 attorney as provided in Section 20A-1-509.2.
- 254 (f) If the candidate whose name would, except for this Subsection (2)(f), be placed on
- 255 the ballot under Subsection (2)(a) has been elected on a ballot under Subsection (2)(a)
- 256 to the two consecutive terms immediately preceding the term for which the candidate
- 257 is seeking election, Subsection (2)(a) does not apply and that candidate shall be
- 258 considered to be an unopposed candidate the same as any other unopposed candidate
- 259 for another office, unless a petition is filed with the county clerk before 5 p.m. no
- 260 later than the day before that year's primary election that:
- 261 (i) requests the procedure set forth in Subsection (2)(a) to be followed; and
- 262 (ii) contains the signatures of registered voters in the county representing in number
- 263 at least 25% of all votes cast in the county for all candidates for governor at the
- 264 last election at which a governor was elected.
- 265 (3)(a) When there is only one candidate for district attorney at the regular general
- 266 election in a prosecution district that has three or fewer registered voters of the
- 267 district who are licensed active members in good standing of the Utah State Bar, the
- 268 county clerk shall cause that candidate's name and party affiliation, if any, to be

placed on a separate section of the ballot with the following question: "Shall (name of candidate) be elected to the office of district attorney? Yes ____ No ____."

- (b) If the number of "Yes" votes exceeds the number of "No" votes, the candidate is elected to the office of district attorney.
- (c) If the number of "No" votes exceeds the number of "Yes" votes, the candidate is not elected and may not take office, nor may the candidate continue in the office past the end of the term resulting from any prior election or appointment.
- (d) When the name of only one candidate for district attorney is printed on the ballot under authority of this Subsection (3), the county clerk may not count any write-in votes received for the office of district attorney.
- (e) If no qualified individual files for the office of district attorney, or if the only candidate is not elected by the voters under this subsection, the county legislative body shall appoint a new district attorney for a four-year term as provided in Section 20A-1-509.2.
- (f) If the candidate whose name would, except for this Subsection (3)(f), be placed on the ballot under Subsection (3)(a) has been elected on a ballot under Subsection (3)(a) to the two consecutive terms immediately preceding the term for which the candidate is seeking election, Subsection (3)(a) does not apply and that candidate shall be considered to be an unopposed candidate the same as any other unopposed candidate for another office, unless a petition is filed with the county clerk before 5 p.m. no later than the day before that year's primary election that:
 - (i) requests the procedure set forth in Subsection (3)(a) to be followed; and
 - (ii) contains the signatures of registered voters in the county representing in number at least 25% of all votes cast in the county for all candidates for governor at the last election at which a governor was elected.

Section 6. Section **20A-6-304** is amended to read:

20A-6-304 . Regular general election -- Mechanical ballots.

- (1) Each election officer shall ensure that:
 - (a) the format and content of a mechanical ballot is arranged in approximately the same order as manual ballots;
 - (b) the titles of offices and the names of candidates are displayed in vertical columns or in a series of separate displays;
 - (c) the mechanical ballot is of sufficient length to include, after the list of candidates:
 - (i) the names of candidates for judicial offices and any other nonpartisan offices; and

- (ii) any ballot propositions submitted to the voters for their approval or rejection;
- (d) the office titles are displayed above or at the side of the names of candidates so as to indicate clearly the candidates for each office and the number to be elected;
- (e) the party designation of each candidate who has been nominated by a registered political party under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(10) is displayed adjacent to the candidate's name; and
- (f) if possible, all candidates for one office are grouped in one column or upon one display screen.

(2) Each election officer shall ensure that:

- (a) proposed amendments to the Utah Constitution are displayed in accordance with Section 20A-6-107;
- (b) ballot propositions submitted to the voters are displayed in accordance with Section 20A-6-107;
- (c) bond propositions that have qualified for the ballot are displayed under the title assigned to each bond proposition under Section 11-14-206; and
- (d) the judicial retention section of the ballot includes a statement at the beginning directing voters to the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's website in accordance with Subsection 20A-12-201(4).

Section 7. Section **20A-9-403** is amended to read:

20A-9-403 . Regular primary elections.

- (1)(a) Candidates for elective office that are to be filled at the next regular general election shall be nominated in a regular primary election by direct vote of the people in the manner prescribed in this section. The regular primary election is held on the date specified in Section 20A-1-201.5. Nothing in this section shall affect a candidate's ability to qualify for a regular general election's ballot as an unaffiliated candidate under Section 20A-9-501 or to participate in a regular general election as a write-in candidate under Section 20A-9-601.
- (b) Each registered political party that chooses to have the names of the registered political party's candidates for elective office featured with party affiliation on the ballot at a regular general election shall comply with the requirements of this section and shall nominate the registered political party's candidates for elective office in the manner described in this section.
- (c) A filing officer may not permit an official ballot at a regular general election to be produced or used if the ballot denotes affiliation between a registered political party

or any other political group and a candidate for elective office who is not nominated in the manner prescribed in this section or in Subsection 20A-9-202(4).

(d) Unless noted otherwise, the dates in this section refer to those that occur in each even-numbered year in which a regular general election will be held.

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

(i) either declare the registered political party's intent to participate in the next regular primary election or declare that the registered political party chooses not to have the names of the registered political party's candidates for elective office featured on the ballot at the next regular general election; and

(ii) if the registered political party participates in the upcoming regular primary election, identify one or more registered political parties whose members may vote for the registered political party's candidates and whether individuals identified as unaffiliated with a political party may vote for the registered political party's candidates.

(b)(i) A registered political party that is a continuing political party shall file the statement described in Subsection (2)(a) with the lieutenant governor no later than 5 p.m. on November 30 of each odd-numbered year.

(ii) An organization that is seeking to become a registered political party under Section 20A-8-103 shall file the statement described in Subsection (2)(a) at the time that the registered political party files the petition described in Section 20A-8-103.

(3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection [(3)(e)] (6), an individual who submits a declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-202 shall appear as a candidate for elective office on the regular primary ballot of the registered political party listed on the declaration of candidacy only if the individual is certified by the appropriate filing officer as having submitted a nomination petition that was:

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

(ii) signed by at least 2% of the registered political party's members who reside in the political division of the office that the individual seeks.

(b)(i) A candidate for elective office shall, in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, submit signatures for a nomination petition to the ~~[appropriate filing officer]~~ county clerk of the nomination petition signer's residence for verification and certification no later than 5 p.m. on March 31.

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

(c)(i) The lieutenant governor shall determine for each elective office the total number of signatures that must be submitted under Subsection (3)(a)(ii) or 20A-9-408(8) by counting the aggregate number of individuals residing in each elective office's political division who have designated a particular registered political party on the individuals' voter registration forms on or before November 15 of each odd-numbered year.

(ii) The lieutenant governor shall publish the determination for each elective office no later than November 30 of each odd-numbered year.

(d) The county clerk shall:

(i) consider an active and inactive voter eligible to sign a nomination petition;

(ii) consider an individual who signs a nomination petition a member of a registered political party for purposes of Subsection (3)(a)(ii) if the individual has designated the registered political party as the individual's party membership on the individual's voter registration form;

(iii) except as provided in Subsection (4) or Section 20A-21-201, and in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to verify submitted nomination petition signatures in a transparent and orderly manner, or use statistical sampling procedures to verify submitted nomination petition signatures in accordance with rules made under Subsection (7), no later than 14 calendar days after the day on which a candidate submits the signatures to the county clerk; and

(iv) except as provided in Subsection (5), for each qualifying candidate for elective office who submits a nomination petition to the county clerk, issue the certification described in Subsection (3)(a) no later than the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b).

~~[(d) The filing officer shall:]~~

~~[(i) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201, and in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, verify signatures on nomination petitions in a transparent and orderly manner, no later than 14 calendar days after the day on which a candidate submits the signatures to the filing officer;]~~

~~[(ii) for all qualifying candidates for elective office who submit nomination petitions to the filing officer, issue certifications referenced in Subsection (3)(a) no later~~

- than the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b);]
- [(iii) consider active and inactive voters eligible to sign nomination petitions;]
- [(iv) consider an individual who signs a nomination petition a member of a registered political party for purposes of Subsection (3)(a)(ii) if the individual has designated that registered political party as the individual's party membership on the individual's voter registration form; and]
- [(v) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201 and with the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to verify submitted nomination petition signatures, or use statistical sampling procedures to verify submitted nomination petition signatures in accordance with rules made under Subsection (3)(f).]
- (4)(a) In reviewing a candidate signature packet, the county clerk shall count only an individual who signed with a holographic signature:
- (i) who is a registered voter residing within the county clerk's county and the political division that the candidate seeks to represent; and
- (ii) who did not sign any other nomination petition for that office.
- (b) If, in verifying signatures under Section 20A-1-1002, the county clerk determines that a registered voter who signed a nomination petition is not a resident of the county clerk's county, the county clerk:
- (i) shall declare the signature invalid under Subsection 20A-1-1002(3); and
- (ii) may not certify the signature.
- (5)(a) In an election for federal office, constitutional office, or multicounty office, the county clerk shall, instead of taking the action described in Subsection (3)(d)(iv):
- (i) count the number of valid nomination petition signatures submitted by the candidate; and
- (ii) no later than seven calendar days before the day of the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b), certify the number of valid signatures to the lieutenant governor.
- (b) The lieutenant governor shall, upon receiving the certification described in Subsection (5)(a)(ii) from the county clerk of each county where the candidate submits nomination petition signatures for verification:
- (i) add together the total number of signatures declared valid by each county clerk; and
- (ii) if the aggregate number of valid signatures is equal to or more than the total

439 number of signatures required for the candidate to qualify for placement on the
440 regular primary ballot, issue the certification described in Subsection (3)(a) no
441 later than the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b).

442 ~~(6)(e)~~ Notwithstanding any other provision in ~~[this Subsection (3)]~~ Subsection (3), (4),
443 (5), (7), or (8), a candidate for lieutenant governor may appear on the regular primary
444 ballot of a registered political party without submitting nomination petitions if the
445 candidate files a declaration of candidacy and complies with Subsection 20A-9-202
446 (3).

447 ~~[(f)]~~ (7) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
448 director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, may make rules that:
449 ~~[(f)]~~ (a) provide for the use of statistical sampling procedures that:
450 ~~[(A)]~~ (i) filing officers are required to use to verify signatures under Subsection (3)(d);
451 and
452 ~~[(B)]~~ (ii) reflect a bona fide effort to determine the validity of a candidate's entire
453 submission, using widely recognized statistical sampling techniques; and
454 ~~[(f)]~~ (b) provide for the transparent, orderly, and timely submission, verification, and
455 certification of nomination petition signatures.

456 ~~[(g)]~~ (8) The county clerk shall:
457 ~~[(f)]~~ (a) review the declarations of candidacy filed by candidates for local boards of
458 education to determine if more than two candidates have filed for the same seat;
459 ~~[(f)]~~ (b) place the names of all candidates who have filed a declaration of candidacy for a
460 local board of education seat on the nonpartisan section of the ballot if more than two
461 candidates have filed for the same seat; and
462 ~~[(f)]~~ (c) place the local board of education candidates' names on the ballot in accordance
463 with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110.

464 ~~[(4)]~~ (9)(a) Before the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-409(4)(c), the lieutenant
465 governor shall provide to the county clerks:
466 (i) a list of the names of all candidates for federal, constitutional, multi-county, single
467 county, and county offices who have received certifications under Subsection (3)
468 (a), along with instructions on how those names shall appear on the primary
469 election ballot in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110; and
470 (ii) a list of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by a
471 registered political party under Subsection ~~[(5)(e)]~~ (10)(c) and instruct the county
472 clerks to exclude the unopposed candidates from the primary election ballot.

(b) A candidate for lieutenant governor and a candidate for governor campaigning as joint-ticket running mates shall appear jointly on the primary election ballot.

(c) After the county clerk receives the certified list from the lieutenant governor under Subsection ~~[(4)(a)]~~ (9)(a), the county clerk shall post or publish a primary election notice in substantially the following form:

"Notice is given that a primary election will be held Tuesday, June ____, ____ (year), to nominate party candidates for the parties and candidates for nonpartisan local school board positions listed on the primary ballot. The polling place for voting precinct ____ is _____. The polls will open at 7 a.m. and continue open until 8 p.m. of the same day. Attest: county clerk."

~~[(5)]~~ (10)(a) A candidate who, at the regular primary election, receives the highest number of votes cast for the office sought by the candidate is:

- (i) nominated for that office by the candidate's registered political party; or
- (ii) for a nonpartisan local school board position, nominated for that office.

(b) If two or more candidates are to be elected to the office at the regular general election, those party candidates equal in number to positions to be filled who receive the highest number of votes at the regular primary election are the nominees of the candidates' party for those positions.

(c)(i) As used in this Subsection ~~[(5)(e)]~~ (10)(c), a candidate is "unopposed" if:

- (A) no individual other than the candidate receives a certification under Subsection (3)(a) for the regular primary election ballot of the candidate's registered political party for a particular elective office; or
- (B) for an office where more than one individual is to be elected or nominated, the number of candidates who receive certification under Subsection (3)(a) for the regular primary election of the candidate's registered political party does not exceed the total number of candidates to be elected or nominated for that office.

(ii) A candidate who is unopposed for an elective office in the regular primary election of a registered political party is nominated by the party for that office without appearing on the primary election ballot.

~~[(6)]~~ (11) The expense of providing all ballots, blanks, or other supplies to be used at any primary election provided for by this section, and all expenses necessarily incurred in the preparation for or the conduct of that primary election shall be paid out of the treasury of the county or state, in the same manner as for the regular general elections.

~~[(7)]~~ (12) An individual may not file a declaration of candidacy for a registered political

party of which the individual is not a member, except to the extent that the registered political party permits otherwise under the registered political party's bylaws.

Section 8. Section **20A-9-405** is amended to read:

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

- (1) This section applies to the form and circulation of nomination petitions for regular primary elections described in Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(a).
- (2) A candidate for elective office, ~~[and the agents]~~ or an agent of the candidate, may not circulate nomination petitions until the candidate has submitted a declaration of candidacy in accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(1).
- (3) For the manual candidate qualification process, the nomination petitions shall be in substantially the following form:
 - (a) the petition shall be printed on paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
 - (b) the petition shall be ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space above that line blank for purposes of binding;
 - (c) the petition shall be headed by a caption stating the purpose of the petition~~[-and the name of the proposed candidate]~~ , the name of the proposed candidate, and the county to which the signatures will be submitted for verification;
 - (d) the petition shall feature the ~~[word "Warning" followed by the]~~following statements in no less than eight-point, single leaded type:
 - (i) "WARNING: It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a nomination petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more than once for the same candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this state."; and
 - (ii) "NOTICE: Only a registered voter who is a resident of [insert name of county] County should sign this nomination petition.";
 - (e) the petition shall feature 10 lines spaced one-half inch apart and consecutively numbered one through 10;
 - (f) the signature portion of the petition shall be divided into columns headed by the following titles:
 - (i) Registered Voter's Printed Name;
 - (ii) Signature of Registered Voter;
 - (iii) Party Affiliation of Registered Voter;
 - (iv) Birth Date or Age (Optional);
 - (v) Street Address, City, Zip Code; ~~[and]~~

- 541 (vi) County of Residence; and
542 ~~[(vi)]~~ (vii) Date of Signature; and
543 (g) a photograph of the candidate may appear on the nomination petition.
544 (4) For the electronic candidate qualification process, the lieutenant governor shall design
545 an electronic form, using progressive screens, that includes:
546 (a) the following warning:
547 "Warning: It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a nomination
548 petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more than once for the same
549 candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this state."; and
550 (b) the following information for each individual who signs the petition:
551 (i) name;
552 (ii) party affiliation;
553 (iii) date of birth or age, (optional);
554 (iv) street address, city, zip code;
555 (v) date of signature;
556 (vi) other information required under Section 20A-21-201; and
557 (vii) other information required by the lieutenant governor.
558 (5) For the manual candidate qualification process, if one or more nomination petitions are
559 bound together, a page shall be bound to the nomination petition(s) that features the following
560 printed verification statement to be signed and dated by the petition circulator:
561 "Verification
562 State of Utah, County of ____
563 I, ____, of ____, hereby state that:
564 I am at least 18 years old;
565 All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were, to the best of
566 my knowledge, signed by the persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear on
567 the signature sheets, and each of them signed the person's name on the signature sheets in my
568 presence;
569 I believe that each has printed and signed the person's name and written the person's
570 street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah."
571 (6) The lieutenant governor shall prepare and make public model nomination petition forms
572 and associated instructions.
573 (7) A nomination petition circulator:
574 (a) must be at least 18 years old; and

(b) may affiliate with any political party.

(8) It is unlawful for any person to:

(a) knowingly sign the nomination petition described in this section or Section 20A-9-408:

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

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

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

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

(i) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the nomination petition; or

(ii) knows that a person whose signature appears on the nomination petition is not registered to vote in this state;

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

(d) pay compensation to any person to circulate a nomination petition, if the compensation is based directly on the number of signatures submitted to a [~~filing officer~~] county clerk rather than on the number of signatures verified or on some other basis.

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

(10)(a) A voter who signs a nomination petition may have the voter's signature removed from the petition by, no later than three business days after the day on which the candidate files the petition with the [~~appropriate filing officer~~] county clerk, submitting to the [~~filing officer~~] county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

(b) A statement described in Subsection (10)(a) shall comply with the requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

(c) The [~~filing officer~~] county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a nomination petition after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

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

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

The following provisions apply to a qualified political party:

(1) the qualified political party shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the first Monday of October of each odd-numbered year, certify to the lieutenant governor the identity of one or more

609 registered political parties whose members may vote for the qualified political party's
610 candidates and whether unaffiliated voters may vote for the qualified political party's
611 candidates;

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

613 (a) Subsections 20A-9-403(1) through (3)(b) and (3)(d) through ~~[(4)(a)]~~ (9)(a);

614 (b) Subsection ~~[20A-9-403(5)(c)]~~ 20A-9-403(10)(c); and

615 (c) Section 20A-9-405;

616 (3) an individual may only seek the nomination of the qualified political party by using a
617 method described in Section 20A-9-407, Section 20A-9-408, or both;

618 (4) the qualified political party shall comply with the provisions of Sections 20A-9-407,
619 20A-9-408, and 20A-9-409;

620 (5) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-301(1)(a), (1)(e), or (2)(a), each election officer shall
621 ensure that a ballot described in Section 20A-6-301 includes each individual nominated
622 by a qualified political party:

623 (a) under the qualified political party's name[-], if any; or

624 (b) under the title of the qualified registered political party as designated by the qualified
625 political party in the certification described in Subsection (1), or, if none is
626 designated, then under some suitable title;

627 (6) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-302(1)(a), each election officer shall ensure, for
628 ballots in regular general elections, that each candidate who is nominated by the
629 qualified political party is listed by party;

630 (7) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-304(1)(e), each election officer shall ensure that the
631 party designation of each candidate who is nominated by the qualified political party is
632 displayed adjacent to the candidate's name on a mechanical ballot;

633 (8) "candidates for elective office," defined in Subsection 20A-9-101(1)(a), also includes an
634 individual who files a declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-407 or 20A-9-408
635 to run in a regular general election for a federal office, constitutional office, multicounty
636 office, or county office;

637 (9) an individual who is nominated by, or seeking the nomination of, the qualified political
638 party is not required to comply with Subsection 20A-9-201(1)(c);

639 (10) notwithstanding ~~[Subsection 20A-9-403(3)]~~ Subsections 20A-9-403(3) through (8), the
640 qualified political party is entitled to have each of the qualified political party's
641 candidates for elective office appear on the primary ballot of the qualified political party
642 with an indication that each candidate is a candidate for the qualified political party;

(11) notwithstanding Subsection [20A-9-403(4)(a)] 20A-9-403(9)(a), the lieutenant governor shall include on the list provided by the lieutenant governor to the county clerks:

(a) the names of all candidates of the qualified political party for federal, constitutional, multicounty, and county offices; and

(b) the names of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by the qualified political party and instruct the county clerks to exclude such candidates from the primary-election ballot;

(12) notwithstanding Subsection [20A-9-403(5)(e)] 20A-9-403(10)(c), a candidate who is unopposed for an elective office in the regular primary election of the qualified political party is nominated by the party for that office without appearing on the primary ballot; and

(13) notwithstanding the provisions of Subsections 20A-9-403(1) and (2) and Section 20A-9-405, the qualified political party is entitled to have the names of its candidates for elective office featured with party affiliation on the ballot at a regular general election.

Section 10. Section **20A-9-408** is amended to read:

20A-9-408 . Signature-gathering process to seek the nomination of a qualified political party -- Removal of signature.

(1) This section describes the requirements for a member of a qualified political party who is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office through the signature-gathering process described in this section.

(2) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-201(7)(a), the form of the declaration of candidacy for a member of a qualified political party who is nominated by, or who is seeking the nomination of, the qualified political party under this section shall be substantially as described in Section 20A-9-408.5.

(3) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(a), and except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(4), a member of a qualified political party who, under this section, is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office that is to be filled at the next general election shall:

(a) during the declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, and before gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing officer on a form approved by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy that includes:

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

- 677 qualified political party under this section;
- 678 (ii) the name of the [registered] qualified political party for which the member is
- 679 seeking nomination;
- 680 (iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;
- 681 (iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and
- 682 (v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;
- 683 (b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in
- 684 person, with the filing officer during the declaration of candidacy filing period
- 685 described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and
- 686 (c) pay the filing fee.
- 687 (4) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(2)(a), a member of a qualified political party
- 688 who, under this section, is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for the
- 689 office of district attorney within a multicounty prosecution district that is to be filled at
- 690 the next general election shall:
- 691 (a) during the declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5,
- 692 and before gathering signatures under this section, file with the filing officer on a
- 693 form approved by the lieutenant governor a notice of intent to gather signatures for
- 694 candidacy that includes:
- 695 (i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a registered
- 696 political party under this section;
- 697 (ii) the name of the registered political party for which the member is seeking
- 698 nomination;
- 699 (iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;
- 700 (iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and
- 701 (v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;
- 702 (b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in
- 703 person, with the filing officer during the declaration of candidacy filing period
- 704 described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and
- 705 (c) pay the filing fee.
- 706 (5) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(3)(a)(iii), a lieutenant governor candidate who
- 707 files as the joint-ticket running mate of an individual who is nominated by a qualified
- 708 political party, under this section, for the office of governor shall, during the declaration
- 709 of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, file a declaration of
- 710 candidacy and submit a letter from the candidate for governor that names the lieutenant

governor candidate as a joint-ticket running mate.

- (6) The lieutenant governor shall ensure that the certification described in Subsection 20A-9-701(1) also includes the name of each candidate nominated by a qualified political party under this section.
- (7) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-701(2), the ballot shall, for each candidate who is nominated by a qualified political party under this section, designate the qualified political party that nominated the candidate.
- (8) A member of a qualified political party may seek the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office by:
- (a) complying with the requirements described in this section; and
 - (b) collecting signatures, on a form approved by the lieutenant governor that complies with Subsection 20A-9-405(3), during the period beginning on the day on which the member files a notice of intent to gather signatures and ending at the deadline described in Subsection (12), in the following amounts:
 - (i) for a statewide race, 28,000 signatures of registered voters in the state who are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;
 - (ii) for a congressional district race, 7,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the congressional district and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;
 - (iii) for a state Senate district race, 2,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the state Senate district and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;
 - (iv) for a state House district race, 1,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the state House district and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;
 - (v) for a State Board of Education race, the lesser of:
 - (A) 2,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the State Board of Education district and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election; or
 - (B) 3% of the registered voters of the qualified political party who are residents of the applicable State Board of Education district; and
 - (vi) for a county office race, signatures of 3% of the registered voters who are residents of the area permitted to vote for the county office and are permitted by

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

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

(b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, using the manual candidate qualification process, the member shall:

- (i) collect the signatures on a form approved by the lieutenant governor, using the same circulation and verification requirements described in Sections 20A-7-105 and 20A-7-204; and
- (ii) in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, submit the signatures to the ~~[election officer]~~ county clerk of the petition signers' residence before the deadline described in Subsection (12).

(c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), and in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, the ~~[election officer]~~ county clerk shall, no later than the earlier of 14 calendar days after the day on which the ~~[election officer]~~ county clerk receives the signatures, or ~~[one day]~~ seven calendar days before the day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee for the elective office to which the signature packets relate:

- (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature packet to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old;
- (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (9)(c)(i) who is not at least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney;
- (iii) ~~[with the assistance of the county clerk as applicable,]~~ except as provided in Subsection (9)(d), determine whether each signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the petition, using the same method, described in Section 20A-1-1002, used to verify a signature on a petition; and
- (iv) except as provided in Subsection (9)(e), certify whether each name is that of a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature packet.

(d)(i) In reviewing a candidate signature packet, the county clerk shall count only an individual who signed with a holographic signature:

- (A) who is a registered voter residing within the county clerk's county and the political division that the candidate seeks to represent; and
- (B) who did not sign any other petition for that office.

(ii) If, in verifying signatures under Section 20A-1-1002, a county clerk determines

that a registered voter who signed a petition is not a resident of the county clerk's county, the county clerk:

(A) shall declare the signature invalid under Subsection 20A-1-1002(3); and

(B) may not certify the signature.

(e) In an election for federal office, constitutional office, or multicounty office, the county clerk shall, instead of taking the action described in Subsection (9)(c)(iv):

(i) count the number of valid petition signatures submitted by the candidate; and

(ii) no later than seven calendar days before the day of the convention described in Subsection (11)(c), certify the number of valid signatures to the lieutenant governor.

(f) The lieutenant governor shall, upon receiving the certification described in Subsection (9)(e)(ii) from the county clerk of each county where the candidate submits petition signatures for verification:

(i) add together the total number of signatures declared valid by each county clerk; and

(ii) if the aggregate number of valid signatures is equal to or more than the total number of signatures required for the candidate to qualify for placement on the regular primary ballot, certify the signatures no later than the day before the day of the convention described in Subsection (11)(c).

~~[(d)]~~ (g)(i) A registered voter who physically signs a form under Subsections (8) and (9)(b) may have the voter's signature removed from the form by, no later than 5 p.m. three business days after the day on which the member submits the signature form to the ~~[election-officer]~~ county clerk, submitting to the ~~[election-officer]~~ county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

(ii) A statement described in Subsection ~~[(9)(d)(i)]~~ (9)(g)(i) shall comply with the requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

(iii) ~~[With the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, the election-officer]~~ The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove an individual's signature after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

~~[(e)]~~ (h)(i) ~~[An election-officer]~~ A county clerk shall, in accordance with this Subsection ~~[(9)(e)]~~ (9)(h) and rules made under Section 20A-3a-106, conduct regular audits of signature comparisons made between signatures gathered under this section and voter signatures maintained by the ~~[election-officer]~~ county clerk.

- 813 (ii) An individual who conducts an audit of signature comparisons under this section
 814 may not audit the individual's own work.
- 815 (iii) The ~~[election officer]~~ county clerk shall:
- 816 (A) audit 1% of all signature comparisons described in Subsection ~~[(9)(e)(i)]~~
 817 ~~(9)(h)(i)~~ to determine the accuracy of the comparisons made;
- 818 (B) record the individuals who conducted the audit;
- 819 (C) record the audit results;
- 820 (D) provide additional training or staff reassignments, as needed, based on the
 821 results of an audit described in Subsection ~~[(9)(e)(i)]~~ ~~(9)(h)(i)~~; and
- 822 (E) record any remedial action taken.
- 823 (iv) The audit results described in Subsection ~~[(9)(e)(iii)(C)]~~ ~~(9)(h)(iii)(C)~~ are a public
 824 record.
- 825 ~~[(f)] (i) [An election officer who certifies signatures under Subsection (9)(e) or~~
 826 ~~20A-9-403(3)(d)] A county clerk who verifies signatures under Subsection (9)(c),~~
 827 ~~Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(d), or Subsection 20A-9-502(5)(b) shall, after [certifying~~
 828 ~~enough signatures] declaring valid enough signatures~~ to establish that a candidate has
 829 reached the applicable signature threshold described in Subsection ~~[(8) or~~
 830 ~~20A-9-403(3)(a)]~~ (8), Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(a), or Subsection 20A-9-502(5)(a), as
 831 applicable, continue to ~~[certify]~~ verify signatures submitted for the candidate in excess
 832 of the number of signatures required, until the ~~[election officer]~~ county clerk either:
- 833 (i) in a race for federal office, constitutional office, or multicounty office, declares
 834 valid signatures equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold;
- 835 (ii) in a race other than a race described in Subsection (9)(i)(i), certifies signatures
 836 equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold; or
- 837 ~~[(ii)]~~ (iii) has reviewed all signatures submitted for the candidate before reaching an
 838 amount equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold.
- 839 (10)(a) This Subsection (10) applies only to the electronic candidate qualification
 840 process.
- 841 (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the
 842 qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, the
 843 member shall, before the deadline described in Subsection (12), collect signatures
 844 electronically:
- 845 (i) in accordance with Section 20A-21-201; and
- 846 (ii) using progressive screens, in a format approved by the lieutenant governor, that

- 847 complies with Subsection 20A-9-405(4).
- 848 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and ~~[(9)(b)]~~ (10)(b),
- 849 the election officer shall, no later than the earlier of 14 calendar days after the day on
- 850 which the election officer receives the signatures, or ~~[one day]~~ seven calendar days
- 851 before the day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a
- 852 nominee for the elective office to which the signature packets relate:
- 853 (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature
- 854 to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old; and
- 855 (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (10)(c)(i) who is not
- 856 at least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney.
- 857 (11)(a) An individual may not gather signatures under this section until after the
- 858 individual files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this
- 859 section.
- 860 (b) An individual who files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy,
- 861 described in Subsection (3)(a) or (4)(a), is, beginning on the day on which the
- 862 individual files the notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy:
- 863 (i) required to comply with the reporting requirements that a candidate for office is
- 864 required to comply with; and
- 865 (ii) subject to the same enforcement provisions, and civil and criminal penalties, that
- 866 apply to a candidate for office in relation to the reporting requirements described
- 867 in Subsection (11)(b)(i).
- 868 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), or
- 869 Subsections (8) and (10)(b), the election officer shall, no later than the day before the
- 870 day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee
- 871 for the elective office to which the signature packets relate, notify the qualified
- 872 political party and the lieutenant governor of the name of each member of the
- 873 qualified political party who qualifies as a nominee of the qualified political party,
- 874 under this section, for the elective office to which the convention relates.
- 875 (d) Upon receipt of a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this
- 876 section, the lieutenant governor shall post the notice of intent to gather signatures for
- 877 candidacy on the lieutenant governor's website in the same location that the
- 878 lieutenant governor posts a declaration of candidacy.
- 879 (12) The deadline before which a member of a qualified political party must collect and
- 880 submit signatures to the election officer under this section is 5 p.m. on the last business

day that is at least [~~14~~] 21 calendar days before the day on which the qualified political party's convention for the office begins.

Section 11. Section **20A-9-502** is amended to read:

20A-9-502 . Certificate of nomination -- Contents -- Circulation -- Verification -- Criminal penalty -- Removal of petition signature.

(1) The candidate shall:

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

"State of Utah, County of _____

I, _____, declare my intention of becoming an unaffiliated candidate for the political group designated as _____ for the office of _____. I do solemnly swear that I can qualify to hold that office both legally and constitutionally if selected, and that I reside at _____ Street, in the city of _____, county of _____, state of _____, zip code _____, phone _____, and that I am providing, or have provided, the required number of holographic signatures of registered voters required by law; that as a candidate at the next election I will not knowingly violate any election or campaign law; that, if filing via a designated agent for an office other than president of the United States, I will be out of the state of Utah during the entire candidate filing period; I will file all campaign financial disclosure reports as required by law; and I understand that failure to do so will result in my disqualification as a candidate for this office and removal of my name from the ballot.

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

Notary Public (or other officer

qualified to administer oaths)";

(b) for each signature packet, bind signature sheets to a copy of the certificate of nomination and the circulator verification, that:

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

(ii) are ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space above that line blank for the purpose of binding;

- 910 (iii) contain the name of the proposed candidate and the words "Unaffiliated
911 Candidate Certificate of Nomination Petition" printed directly below the
912 horizontal line;
- 913 (iv) contain the word "Warning" printed directly under the words described in
914 Subsection (1)(b)(iii);
- 915 (v) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed in not less than
916 eight-point, single leaded type:
917 "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a certificate of nomination
918 signature sheet with any name other than the person's own name or more than once for the
919 same candidate or if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
920 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the signatures.";
- 921 (vi) contain the word "Notice" printed directly beneath the words described in
922 Subsection (1)(b)(v);
- 923 (vii) contain, to the right of the word "Notice," the following statement printed in not
924 less than eight-point, single leaded type:
925 "Only a registered voter who is a resident of [insert name of county] County
926 should sign this nomination petition.";
- 927 ~~[(vi)]~~ (viii) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in
928 Subsection ~~[(1)(b)(v)]~~ (1)(b)(vii):
929 "Each signer says:
930 I have personally signed this petition with a holographic signature;
931 I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the
932 county clerk certifies my signature; and
933 My street address is written correctly after my name.";
- 934 ~~[(vii)]~~ (ix) contain horizontally ruled lines, 3/8 inch apart under the statement
935 described in Subsection ~~[(1)(b)(vi)]~~ (1)(b)(viii); and
936 ~~[(viii)]~~ (x) be vertically divided into columns as follows:
937 (A) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be 5/8 inch wide,
938 be headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical
939 line down the middle;
940 (B) the next column shall be ~~[2-1/2]~~ 2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's
941 Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)";
942 (C) the next column shall be ~~[2-1/2]~~ 2 inches wide, headed "Holographic Signature
943 of Registered Voter";

- (D) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age (Optional)";
- (E) the ~~[final]~~ next column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip Code"; ~~[and]~~
- ~~(F) the final column shall be one inch wide, headed "County of Residence"; and~~
- ~~[(F)] (G)~~ at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be certified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are certified or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records."; and
- (c) bind a final page to one or more signature sheets that are bound together that contains, except as provided by Subsection (3), the following printed statement:
- "Verification
State of Utah, County of _____
I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:
I am at least 18 years old;
All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were signed by persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear on the signature sheets, and each of them signed the person's name on the signature sheets in my presence;
I believe that each has printed and signed the person's name and written the person's street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah or will register to vote in Utah before the county clerk certifies the signatures on the signature sheet.
-
- (Signature) (Residence Address) (Date)."[:]
- (2) An agent designated to file a certificate of nomination under Subsection 20A-9-503 (2)(b) or (4)(b) may not sign the form described in Subsection (1)(a).
- (3)(a) The candidate shall circulate the nomination petition and ensure that the person in whose presence each signature sheet is signed:
- (i) is at least 18 years old; and
 - (ii) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification bound to one or more signature sheets that are bound together.
- (b) A person may not sign the circulator verification if the person signed a signature sheet bound to the verification.

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

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

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

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

982 (C) if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
983 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the
984 signatures; or

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

986 (A) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the
987 certificate of nomination signature sheet; or

988 (B) knows that a person whose signature appears on the certificate of nomination
989 signature sheet is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
990 become registered to vote in this state.

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

992 (5)(a) To qualify for placement on the general election ballot, the candidate shall, no
993 earlier than the start of the declaration of candidacy period described in Section
994 20A-9-201.5 and no later than 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in which the election
995 will be held:

996 (i) comply with Subsection 20A-9-503(1); [and]

997 (ii) [~~submit each signature packet to the county clerk where the majority of the~~
998 ~~signatures in the packet were collected, with signatures totaling~~] collect signatures
999 in an amount totaling:

1000 (A) at least 1,000 registered voters residing within the state when the nomination
1001 is for an office to be filled by the voters of the entire state; or

1002 (B) at least 300 registered voters residing within a political division or at least 5%
1003 of the registered voters residing within a political division, whichever is less,
1004 when the nomination is for an office to be filled by the voters of any political
1005 division smaller than the state[.]; and

1006 (iii) submit the signatures to the county clerk of the registered voter's residence.

1007 (b) A candidate has not complied with Subsection (5)(a)(ii), unless the county clerks
1008 verify that each required signature is a valid signature of a registered voter who is
1009 eligible to sign the signature packet and has not signed a signature packet to nominate
1010 another candidate for the same office.

1011 (c) Except as provided in Subsection (6), the county clerk shall use the procedures

described in Section 20A-1-1002 to determine whether a signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature packet.

~~[(e)] (d)~~ In reviewing ~~[the signature packets, the county clerk shall count and certify only those persons]~~ a signature packet, the county clerk shall count only an individual who signed with a holographic signature~~[-, who]:~~

(i) ~~[are registered voters within the political division that the candidate seeks to represent]~~ who is a registered voter residing within the county clerk's county and the political division that the candidate seeks to represent; and

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

~~[(d)] (e)~~ ~~[The]~~ Except as provided in Subsection (7), the county clerk shall ~~[count and]~~ certify the number of registered voters who validly signed a signature packet~~[-]~~ no later than 30 calendar days after the day on which the candidate submits the signature packet.

~~[(e)] (f)~~ The candidate may supplement the signatures or amend the certificate of nomination or declaration of candidacy at any time on or before 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in which the election will be held.

~~[(f) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to determine whether a signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature packet.]~~

(6) If, in verifying signatures under Section 20A-1-1002, the county clerk determines that a registered voter who signed a signature packet is not a resident of the county clerk's county, the county clerk:

(a) shall declare the signature invalid under Subsection 20A-1-1002(3); and

(b) may not certify the signature.

(7)(a) In an election for federal office, constitutional office, or multicounty office, the county clerk shall, instead of taking the action described in Subsection (5)(e):

(i) count the number of valid nomination petition submitted by the candidate; and

(ii) no later than the day of the deadline described in Subsection (5)(f), certify the number of valid signatures to the lieutenant governor.

(b) The lieutenant governor shall, upon receiving the certification described in Subsection (7)(a)(ii) from the county clerk of each county where the candidate submits signatures for verification:

(i) add together the total number of signatures declared valid by each county clerk; and

(ii) if the aggregate number of valid signatures is equal to or more than the total number of signatures required for the candidate to qualify for placement on the general election ballot, certify the signatures no later than August 1 of the year on which the election will be held.

[(6)] (8)(a) A voter who signs a signature packet under this section may have the voter's signature removed from the signature packet by, no later than 5 p.m. three business days after the day on which the candidate submits the signature packet to the county clerk, submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

(b) A statement described in Subsection [(6)(a)] (8)(a) shall comply with the requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

(c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a signature packet after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

Section 12. Section **20A-9-701** is amended to read:

20A-9-701 . Certification of party candidates to county clerks -- Display on ballot.

(1) No later than August 31 of each regular general election year, the lieutenant governor shall certify to each county clerk, for offices to be voted upon at the regular general election in that county clerk's county:

(a) the names of each candidate nominated under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(10); and

(b) the names of the candidates for president and vice president that are certified by the registered political party as the party's nominees.

(2) The names shall be certified by the lieutenant governor and shall be displayed on the ballot as they are provided on the candidate's declaration of candidacy. No other names may appear on the ballot as affiliated with, endorsed by, or nominated by any other registered political party, political party, or other political group.

Section 13. **Effective Date.**

This bill takes effect on January 1, 2027.