

Signature Verification Revisions

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 an election official to post the name, voter precinct number, and date of signature of a registered voter who signs a candidate nomination petition on the lieutenant governor's website for at least 90 days after the date of an election;

- requires an election official to send an email notice to a registered voter described above informing the voter that:

- the voter's name and voter-related information is posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and

- the voter may request to have the voter's signature removed from the candidate nomination petition by submitting a written statement to the election official requesting removal of the signature;

- requires an election official to make the website posting described above regardless of whether the voter's voter registration record is classified as a private record;

- amends candidate nomination petition forms to include information notifying a voter of the posting and signature removal processes described above;

- for a candidate seeking the nomination of a qualified political party to an elective office 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 qualified political 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-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:

(i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor provides the list described in Subsection [20A-9-403(4)(a)] ~~20A-9-403(8)(a)~~, only one or two candidates from that party have filed a declaration of candidacy for that office and

- 65 one or both dies, resigns as a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and
- 66 (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate
- 67 to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor
- 68 provides the list described in Subsection [~~20A-9-403(4)(a)~~] 20A-9-403(8)(a); [~~and~~]
- 69 (b) for a registered political party that does not have a candidate on the ballot in a
- 70 primary, but will have a candidate on the ballot for a regular general election:
- 71 (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing
- 72 through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor makes the
- 73 certification described in Section 20A-5-409, the party's candidate dies, resigns as
- 74 a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and
- 75 (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate
- 76 to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor
- 77 makes the certification described in Section 20A-5-409; or
- 78 (c) for a registered political party with a candidate certified as winning a primary
- 79 election:
- 80 (i) after the close of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy and continuing
- 81 through the day before the day on which the lieutenant governor makes the
- 82 certification described in Section 20A-5-409, the party's candidate dies, resigns as
- 83 a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate; and
- 84 (ii) the central committee provides written certification of the replacement candidate
- 85 to the appropriate election officer before the day on which the lieutenant governor
- 86 makes the certification described in Section 20A-5-409.
- 87 (3) If no more than two candidates from a political party have filed a declaration of
- 88 candidacy for an office elected at a regular general election and one resigns to become
- 89 the party candidate for another position, the central committee of that political party may
- 90 certify the name of another candidate to the appropriate election officer.
- 91 (4) Each replacement candidate shall file a declaration of candidacy as required by Title
- 92 20A, Chapter 9, Part 2, Candidate Qualifications and Declarations of Candidacy.
- 93 (5)(a) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(a) after the
- 94 deadline described in Subsection (2)(a)(ii) may not appear on the primary election
- 95 ballot.
- 96 (b) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(b) after the deadline
- 97 described in Subsection (2)(b)(ii) may not appear on the general election ballot.
- 98 (c) The name of a candidate who is certified under Subsection (2)(c) after the deadline

described in Subsection (2)(c)(ii) may not appear on the general election ballot.

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

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

Section 2. 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)(d); or
 - (b) fulfill the chain of custody requirements described in Section 20A-9-408.3.

Section 3. 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(9);
 - (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

- 133 (iii) the words "certified by the Clerk of _____ County" or, as applicable, the
134 name of a combined office that includes the duties of a county clerk;
- 135 (c) unaffiliated candidates, candidates not affiliated with a registered political party, and
136 all other candidates for elective office who were not nominated by a registered
137 political party in accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [
138 ~~20A-9-403(5)~~] 20A-9-403(9), are listed with the other candidates for the same office
139 in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110, without a party name or title;
- 140 (d) each ticket containing the lists of candidates, including the party name and device,
141 are separated by heavy parallel lines;
- 142 (e) the offices to be filled are plainly printed immediately above the names of the
143 candidates for those offices;
- 144 (f) the names of candidates are printed in capital letters, not less than one-eighth nor
145 more than one-fourth of an inch high in heavy-faced type not smaller than 10 point,
146 between lines or rules three-eighths of an inch apart; and
- 147 (g) on a ticket for a race in which a voter is authorized to cast a write-in vote and in
148 which a write-in candidate is qualified under Section 20A-9-601:
- 149 (i) the ballot includes a space for a write-in candidate immediately following the last
150 candidate listed on that ticket; or
- 151 (ii) for the offices of president and vice president and governor and lieutenant
152 governor, the ballot includes two spaces for write-in candidates immediately
153 following the last candidates on that ticket, one placed above the other, to enable
154 the entry of two valid write-in candidates.
- 155 (2) An election officer shall ensure that:
- 156 (a) each individual nominated by any registered political party under Subsection
157 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)~~] 20A-9-403(9), and no other individual, is
158 placed on the ballot:
- 159 (i) under the registered political party's name, if any; or
- 160 (ii) under the title of the registered political party as designated by them in their
161 certificates of nomination or petition, or, if none is designated, then under some
162 suitable title;
- 163 (b) the names of all unaffiliated candidates that qualify as required in Chapter 9, Part 5,
164 Candidates not Affiliated with a Party, are placed on the ballot;
- 165 (c) the names of the candidates for president and vice president are used on the ballot
166 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 4. 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(9);

(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:

(i) the manner described in Section 20A-6-109; and

(ii) the order described in Section 20A-6-110.

- (2)(a) When there is only one candidate for county attorney at the regular general election in counties that have three or fewer registered voters of the county who are licensed active members in good standing of the Utah State Bar, the 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 county attorney? Yes ____ No ____."
- (b) If the number of "Yes" votes exceeds the number of "No" votes, the candidate is elected to the office of county 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 county attorney is printed on the ballot under authority of this Subsection (2), the county clerk may not count any write-in votes received for the office of county attorney.
- (e) If no qualified individual files for the office of county attorney or if the candidate is not elected by the voters, the county legislative body shall appoint the county attorney as provided in Section 20A-1-509.2.
- (f) If the candidate whose name would, except for this Subsection (2)(f), be placed on the ballot under Subsection (2)(a) has been elected on a ballot under Subsection (2)(a) to the two consecutive terms immediately preceding the term for which the candidate is seeking election, Subsection (2)(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 (2)(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.
- (3)(a) When there is only one candidate for district attorney at the regular general election in a prosecution district that has three or fewer registered voters of the district who are licensed active members in good standing of the Utah State Bar, the 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 5. 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

- 269 indicate clearly the candidates for each office and the number to be elected;
- 270 (e) the party designation of each candidate who has been nominated by a registered
- 271 political party under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [~~20A-9-403(5)~~]
- 272 20A-9-403(9) is displayed adjacent to the candidate's name; and
- 273 (f) if possible, all candidates for one office are grouped in one column or upon one
- 274 display screen.
- 275 (2) Each election officer shall ensure that:
- 276 (a) proposed amendments to the Utah Constitution are displayed in accordance with
- 277 Section 20A-6-107;
- 278 (b) ballot propositions submitted to the voters are displayed in accordance with Section
- 279 20A-6-107;
- 280 (c) bond propositions that have qualified for the ballot are displayed under the title
- 281 assigned to each bond proposition under Section 11-14-206; and
- 282 (d) the judicial retention section of the ballot includes a statement at the beginning
- 283 directing voters to the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's website in
- 284 accordance with Subsection 20A-12-201(4).

285 Section 6. Section **20A-9-403** is amended to read:

286 **20A-9-403 . Regular primary elections.**

- 287 (1)(a) Candidates for elective office that are to be filled at the next regular general
- 288 election shall be nominated in a regular primary election by direct vote of the people
- 289 in the manner prescribed in this section. The regular primary election is held on the
- 290 date specified in Section 20A-1-201.5. Nothing in this section shall affect a
- 291 candidate's ability to qualify for a regular general election's ballot as an unaffiliated
- 292 candidate under Section 20A-9-501 or to participate in a regular general election as a
- 293 write-in candidate under Section 20A-9-601.
- 294 (b) Each registered political party that chooses to have the names of the registered
- 295 political party's candidates for elective office featured with party affiliation on the
- 296 ballot at a regular general election shall comply with the requirements of this section
- 297 and shall nominate the registered political party's candidates for elective office in the
- 298 manner described in this section.
- 299 (c) A filing officer may not permit an official ballot at a regular general election to be
- 300 produced or used if the ballot denotes affiliation between a registered political party
- 301 or any other political group and a candidate for elective office who is not nominated
- 302 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)]~~ (5), 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 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 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]~~ each qualifying candidate for elective office who submits a nomination petition to the filing officer, issue the certification described 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]~~ an active and inactive voter eligible to sign a nomination petition;

(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~~] the 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)]~~ (6).

(4) Subject to Subsection 20A-9-405(11)(a)(i), and notwithstanding Section 20A-2-104, the filing officer shall, no later than one business day after the day on which the signature of an individual who signs a nomination petition is verified under Subsection (3)(d) or Section 20A-1-201:

(a) post the individual's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant

governor, for at least 90 calendar days after the date of the primary election; and
(b) if the individual's voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email notice to the individual, informing the individual that:
(i) the individual's nomination petition signature is verified;
(ii) the individual's name and voter information described in Subsection (4)(a) is posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and
(iii) the individual has until the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-405(10)(a) to submit a statement to the filing officer, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(2), requesting that the individual's signature be removed from the nomination petition.

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

~~[(f)]~~ ~~(6)~~ In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the director of elections, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, may make rules that:

~~[(f)]~~ ~~(a)~~ provide for the use of statistical sampling procedures that:

~~[(A)]~~ ~~(i)~~ filing officers are required to use to verify signatures under Subsection (3)(d);
and

~~[(B)]~~ ~~(ii)~~ reflect a bona fide effort to determine the validity of a candidate's entire submission, using widely recognized statistical sampling techniques; and

~~[(f)]~~ ~~(b)~~ provide for the transparent, orderly, and timely submission, verification, and certification of nomination petition signatures.

~~[(g)]~~ ~~(7)~~ The county clerk shall:

~~[(f)]~~ ~~(a)~~ review the declarations of candidacy filed by candidates for local boards of education to determine if more than two candidates have filed for the same seat;

~~[(f)]~~ ~~(b)~~ place the names of all candidates who have filed a declaration of candidacy for a local board of education seat on the nonpartisan section of the ballot if more than two candidates have filed for the same seat; and

~~[(f)]~~ ~~(c)~~ place the local board of education candidates' names on the ballot in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110.

~~[(4)]~~ ~~(8)(a)~~ Before the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-409(4)(c), the lieutenant governor shall provide to the county clerks:

- 405 (i) a list of the names of all candidates for federal, constitutional, multi-county, single
406 county, and county offices who have received certifications under Subsection [(3)]
407 (3)(a), along with instructions on how those names shall appear on the primary
408 election ballot in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and 20A-6-110; and
- 409 (ii) a list of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by a
410 registered political party under Subsection (5)(c) and instruct the county clerks to
411 exclude the unopposed candidates from the primary election ballot.
- 412 (b) A candidate for lieutenant governor and a candidate for governor campaigning as
413 joint-ticket running mates shall appear jointly on the primary election ballot.
- 414 (c) After the county clerk receives the certified list from the lieutenant governor under
415 Subsection [(4)(a)] (8)(a), the county clerk shall post or publish a primary election notice in
416 substantially the following form:
- 417 "Notice is given that a primary election will be held Tuesday, June _____,
418 _____(year), to nominate party candidates for the parties and candidates for nonpartisan
419 local school board positions listed on the primary ballot. The polling place for voting precinct
420 _____ is _____. The polls will open at 7 a.m. and continue open until 8 p.m. of the same day.
421 Attest: county clerk."
- 422 [(5)] (9)(a) A candidate who, at the regular primary election, receives the highest number
423 of votes cast for the office sought by the candidate is:
- 424 (i) nominated for that office by the candidate's registered political party; or
425 (ii) for a nonpartisan local school board position, nominated for that office.
- 426 (b) If two or more candidates are to be elected to the office at the regular general
427 election, those party candidates equal in number to positions to be filled who receive
428 the highest number of votes at the regular primary election are the nominees of the
429 candidates' party for those positions.
- 430 (c)(i) As used in this Subsection [(5)(e)] (9)(c), a candidate is "unopposed" if:
- 431 (A) no individual other than the candidate receives a certification under
432 Subsection [(3)] (3)(a) for the regular primary election ballot of the candidate's
433 registered political party for a particular elective office; or
- 434 (B) for an office where more than one individual is to be elected or nominated, the
435 number of candidates who receive certification under Subsection [(3)] (3)(a) for
436 the regular primary election of the candidate's registered political party does
437 not exceed the total number of candidates to be elected or nominated for that
438 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)]~~ (10) 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)]~~ (11) 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 7. 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 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;
 - (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: Your name, voter precinct number, and date of signature may be publicly disclosed on the lieutenant governor's website if you sign this petition. This disclosure may occur even if your voter registration record has been classified as a private record at your request. If your voter registration information

- 473 includes a valid email address, you will receive an email notifying you of the
474 disclosure as well as information on how to remove your name from this petition.
475 To ensure your voter registration information includes a valid email address,
476 please visit vote.utah.gov or the office of your county clerk.";
- 477 (e) the petition shall feature 10 lines spaced one-half inch apart and consecutively
478 numbered one through 10;
- 479 (f) the signature portion of the petition shall be divided into columns headed by the
480 following titles:
- 481 (i) Registered Voter's Printed Name;
482 (ii) Signature of Registered Voter;
483 (iii) Party Affiliation of Registered Voter;
484 (iv) Birth Date or Age (Optional);
485 (v) Street Address, City, Zip Code; and
486 (vi) Date of Signature; and
- 487 (g) a photograph of the candidate may appear on the nomination petition.
- 488 (4) For the electronic candidate qualification process, the lieutenant governor shall design
489 an electronic form, using progressive screens, that includes:
- 490 (a) the following warning:
- 491 ["Warning] WARNING: It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a
492 nomination petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more than once for
493 the same candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this state."; [and]
- 494 (b) the following notice:
- 495 "NOTICE: Your name, voter precinct number, and date of signature may be
496 publicly disclosed on the lieutenant governor's website if you sign this petition. This
497 disclosure may occur even if your voter registration record has been classified as a
498 private record at your request. If your voter registration information includes a valid
499 email address, you will receive an email notifying you of the disclosure as well as
500 information on how to remove your name from this petition. To ensure your voter
501 registration information includes a valid email address, please visit vote.utah.gov or
502 the office of your county clerk."; and
- 503 [(b)] (c) the following information for each individual who signs the petition:
- 504 (i) name;
505 (ii) party affiliation;
506 (iii) date of birth or age, (optional);

- (iv) street address, city, zip code;
- (v) date of signature;
- (vi) other information required under Section 20A-21-201; and
- (vii) other information required by the lieutenant governor.

(5) For the manual candidate qualification process, if one or more nomination petitions are bound together, a page shall be bound to the nomination petition(s) that features the following printed verification statement to be signed and dated by the petition circulator:

"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, to the best of my knowledge, signed by the 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."

(6) The lieutenant governor shall prepare and make public model nomination petition forms and associated instructions.

(7) A nomination petition circulator:

- (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 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 5 p.m. three business days after the day on which [~~the candidate files the petition with the appropriate filing officer~~] the filing officer makes the posting described in Subsection 20A-9-403(4)(a), submitting to the filing officer 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 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.

(11)(a) If a filing officer timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection (10)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from the nomination petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the filing officer shall:

(i) remove the voter's name from the nomination petition;

(ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the posting described in Subsection 20A-9-403(4)(a); and

(iii) update the nomination petition signature totals.

(b) The filing officer shall comply with Subsection (11)(a) no later than 5 p.m. the day before the day of the deadline described in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b).

Section 8. 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 registered political parties whose members may vote for the qualified political party's candidates and whether unaffiliated voters may vote for the qualified political party's candidates;

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

(a) Subsections 20A-9-403(1) through (3)(b) and (3)(d) through ~~[(4)(a)]~~ (8)(a);

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

- (c) Section 20A-9-405;
- (3) an individual may only seek the nomination of the qualified political party by using a method described in Section 20A-9-407, Section 20A-9-408, or both;
- (4) the qualified political party shall comply with the provisions of Sections 20A-9-407, 20A-9-408, and 20A-9-409;
- (5) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-301(1)(a), (1)(e), or (2)(a), each election officer shall ensure that a ballot described in Section 20A-6-301 includes each individual nominated by a qualified political party:
- (a) under the qualified political party's name , if any; or
- (b) under the title of the qualified registered political party as designated by the qualified political party in the certification described in Subsection (1), or, if none is designated, then under some suitable title;
- (6) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-302(1)(a), each election officer shall ensure, for ballots in regular general elections, that each candidate who is nominated by the qualified political party is listed by party;
- (7) notwithstanding Subsection 20A-6-304(1)(e), each election officer shall ensure that the party designation of each candidate who is nominated by the qualified political party is displayed adjacent to the candidate's name on a mechanical ballot;
- (8) "candidates for elective office," defined in Subsection 20A-9-101(1)(a), also includes an individual who files a declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-407 or 20A-9-408 to run in a regular general election for a federal office, constitutional office, multicounty office, or county office;
- (9) an individual who is nominated by, or seeking the nomination of, the qualified political party is not required to comply with Subsection 20A-9-201(1)(c);
- (10) notwithstanding [~~Subsection 20A-9-403(3)~~] Subsections 20A-9-403(3) through (7), the qualified political party is entitled to have each of the qualified political party's candidates for elective office appear on the primary ballot of the qualified political party 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(8)(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)(c)~~] 20A-9-403(9)(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 9. 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 political party under this section;

(ii) the name of the registered political party for which the member is seeking nomination;

(iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;

(iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and

(v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;

(b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in person, with the filing officer during the declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and

(c) pay the filing fee.

(4) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(2)(a), a member of a qualified political party who, under this section, is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for the office of district attorney within a multicounty prosecution district 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 political party under this section;

(ii) the name of the registered political party for which the member is seeking nomination;

(iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;

(iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and

(v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;

(b) except as provided in Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(c), file a declaration of candidacy, in person, with the filing officer during the declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5; and

(c) pay the filing fee.

(5) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(3)(a)(iii), a lieutenant governor candidate who files as the joint-ticket running mate of an individual who is nominated by a qualified political party, under this section, for the office of governor shall, during the declaration of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, file a declaration of 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)] (15), 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:

- 711 (i) collect the signatures on a form approved by the lieutenant governor, using the
712 same circulation and verification requirements described in Sections 20A-7-105
713 and 20A-7-204; and
- 714 (ii) in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, submit the signatures to the election
715 officer before the deadline described in Subsection [(12)] (15).
- 716 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), and in
717 accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3, the election officer shall, no later than the
718 earlier of 14 calendar days after the day on which the election officer receives the
719 signatures, or [one day] seven calendar days before the day on which the qualified
720 political party holds the convention to select a nominee for the elective office to
721 which the signature packets relate:
- 722 (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature
723 packet to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old;
- 724 (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (9)(c)(i) who is not at
725 least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney;
- 726 (iii) with the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, determine whether each
727 signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the petition, using the same
728 method, described in Section 20A-1-1002, used to verify a signature on a petition;
729 and
- 730 (iv) certify whether each name is that of a registered voter who is qualified to sign the
731 signature packet.
- 732 ~~[(d)(i) A registered voter who physically signs a form under Subsections (8) and~~
733 ~~(9)(b) may have the voter's signature removed from the form by, no later than 5~~
734 ~~p.m. three business days after the day on which the member submits the signature~~
735 ~~form to the election officer, submitting to the election officer a statement~~
736 ~~requesting that the voter's signature be removed.]~~
- 737 ~~[(ii) A statement described in Subsection (9)(d)(i) shall comply with the requirements~~
738 ~~described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).]~~
- 739 ~~[(iii) With the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, the election officer shall~~
740 ~~use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether~~
741 ~~to remove an individual's signature after receiving a timely, valid statement~~
742 ~~requesting removal of the signature.]~~
- 743 ~~[(e)]~~ (d)(i) An election officer shall, in accordance with this Subsection [(9)(e)] (9)(d)
744 and rules made under Section 20A-3a-106, conduct regular audits of signature

- 745 comparisons made between signatures gathered under this section and voter
746 signatures maintained by the election officer.
- 747 (ii) An individual who conducts an audit of signature comparisons under this section
748 may not audit the individual's own work.
- 749 (iii) The election officer shall:
- 750 (A) audit 1% of all signature comparisons described in Subsection [(9)(e)(i)]
751 (9)(d)(i) to determine the accuracy of the comparisons made;
- 752 (B) record the individuals who conducted the audit;
- 753 (C) record the audit results;
- 754 (D) provide additional training or staff reassignments, as needed, based on the
755 results of an audit described in Subsection [(9)(e)(i)] (9)(d)(i); and
- 756 (E) record any remedial action taken.
- 757 (iv) The audit results described in Subsection [(9)(e)(iii)(C)] (9)(d)(iii)(C) are a public
758 record.
- 759 [(f)] (e) An election officer who certifies signatures under Subsection (9)(c) or
760 20A-9-403(3)(d) shall, after certifying enough signatures to establish that a candidate
761 has reached the applicable signature threshold described in Subsection (8) or
762 20A-9-403(3)(a), as applicable, continue to certify signatures submitted for the
763 candidate in excess of the number of signatures required, until the election officer
764 either:
- 765 (i) certifies signatures equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold; or
- 766 (ii) has reviewed all signatures submitted for the candidate before reaching an
767 amount equal to 110% of the applicable signature threshold.
- 768 (10)(a) This Subsection (10) applies only to the electronic candidate qualification
769 process.
- 770 (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the
771 qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, the
772 member shall, before the deadline described in Subsection [(12)] (15), collect
773 signatures electronically:
- 774 (i) in accordance with Section 20A-21-201; and
- 775 (ii) using progressive screens, in a format approved by the lieutenant governor, that
776 complies with Subsection 20A-9-405(4).
- 777 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and [(9)(b)] (10)(b),
778 the election officer shall, no later than the earlier of 14 calendar days after the day on

which the election officer 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 to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old; and
- (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (10)(c)(i) who is not at least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney.

(11) Subject to Subsection (13)(a)(i), and notwithstanding Section 20A-2-104, an election officer shall, no later than one business day after the day on which the signature of an individual who signs a petition is verified under Subsection (9)(c) or Section 20A-21-201:

- (a) post the individual's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 calendar days after the date of the primary election; and
- (b) if the individual's voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email notice to the individual, informing the individual that:
 - (i) the individual's petition signature is verified;
 - (ii) the individual's name and voter information described in Subsection (11)(a) is posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and
 - (iii) the individual has until the deadline described in Subsection (12)(a) to submit a statement to the election officer, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(2), requesting that the individual's signature be removed from the petition.

(12)(a) A registered voter who physically signs a petition under Subsections (8) and (9)(b), or who electronically signs a petition under Subsections (8) and (10)(b), may have the voter's signature removed from the petition by, no later than 5 p.m. three business days after the day on which the election officer makes the posting described in Subsection (11)(a), submitting to the election officer a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

(b) A statement described in Subsection (12)(a) shall comply with the requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

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

- (13)(a) If an election officer timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection (12)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from the petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the election officer shall:
- (i) remove the voter's name from the petition;
 - (ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the posting described in Subsection (11)(a); and
 - (iii) update the petition signature totals.
- (b) The election officer shall comply with Subsection (13)(a) no later than 5 p.m. the day before the day of the convention described in Subsection (14)(c).
- ~~[(11)]~~ (14)(a) An individual may not gather signatures under this section until after the individual files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this section.
- (b) An individual who files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy, described in Subsection (3)(a) or (4)(a), is, beginning on the day on which the individual files the notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy:
- (i) required to comply with the reporting requirements that a candidate for office is required to comply with; and
 - (ii) subject to the same enforcement provisions, and civil and criminal penalties, that apply to a candidate for office in relation to the reporting requirements described in Subsection ~~[(11)(b)(i)]~~ (14)(b)(i).
- (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), or Subsections (8) and (10)(b), the election officer shall, no later than the day 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, notify the qualified political party and the lieutenant governor of the name of each member of the qualified political party who qualifies as a nominee of the qualified political party, under this section, for the elective office to which the convention relates.
- (d) Upon receipt of a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this section, the lieutenant governor shall post the notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy on the lieutenant governor's website in the same location that the lieutenant governor posts a declaration of candidacy.
- ~~[(12)]~~ (15) The deadline before which a member of a qualified political party must collect and 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 10. 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;

(iii) contain the name of the proposed candidate and the words "Unaffiliated

- 876 Candidate Certificate of Nomination Petition" printed directly below the
 877 horizontal line;
- 878 (iv) contain the word "Warning" printed directly under the words described in
 879 Subsection (1)(b)(iii);
- 880 (v) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed in not less than
 881 eight-point, single leaded type:
- 882 "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a certificate of nomination
 883 signature sheet with any name other than the person's own name or more than once for the
 884 same candidate or if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
 885 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the signatures.";
- 886 (vi) contain the word "Notice" printed directly beneath the words described in
 887 Subsection (1)(b)(v);
- 888 (vii) contain, to the right of the word "Notice," the following statement printed in not
 889 less than eight-point, single leaded type:
- 890 "Your name, voter precinct number, and date of signature may be publicly
 891 disclosed on the lieutenant governor's website if you sign this petition. This
 892 disclosure may occur even if your voter registration record has been classified as a
 893 private record at your request. If your voter registration information includes a
 894 valid email address, you will receive an email notifying you of the disclosure as
 895 well as information on how to remove your name from this petition. To ensure
 896 your voter registration information contains a valid email address, please visit
 897 vote.utah.gov or the office of your county clerk.";
- 898 ~~[(vi)]~~ (viii) contain the following statement directly under the statement described in
 899 Subsection ~~[(1)(b)(v)]~~ (1)(v)(vii):
- 900 "Each signer says:
- 901 I have personally signed this petition with a holographic signature;
- 902 I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the
 903 county clerk certifies my signature; and
- 904 My street address is written correctly after my name.";
- 905 ~~[(vii)]~~ (ix) contain horizontally ruled lines, 3/8 inch apart under the statement
 906 described in Subsection ~~[(1)(b)(vi)]~~ (1)(b)(viii); and
- 907 ~~[(viii)]~~ (x) be vertically divided into columns as follows:
- 908 (A) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be 5/8 inch wide,
 909 be headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical

- 910 line down the middle;
- 911 (B) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's
- 912 Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)";
- 913 (C) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Holographic Signature of
- 914 Registered Voter";
- 915 (D) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age
- 916 (Optional)";
- 917 (E) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip
- 918 Code"; and
- 919 (F) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age
- 920 information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with
- 921 voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may
- 922 not be certified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition
- 923 signatures are certified or if the information you provide does not match your
- 924 voter registration records."; and
- 925 (c) bind a final page to one or more signature sheets that are bound together that contains,
- 926 except as provided by Subsection (3), the following printed statement:
- 927 "Verification
- 928 State of Utah, County of ____
- 929 I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:
- 930 I am at least 18 years old;
- 931 All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were signed by
- 932 persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear on the signature sheets, and each
- 933 of them signed the person's name on the signature sheets in my presence;
- 934 I believe that each has printed and signed the person's name and written the person's
- 935 street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah or will register to
- 936 vote in Utah before the county clerk certifies the signatures on the signature sheet.
- 937 _____
- 938 (Signature) (Residence Address) (Date) [] ."
- 939 (2) An agent designated to file a certificate of nomination under Subsection
- 940 20A-9-503(2)(b) or (4)(b) may not sign the form described in Subsection (1)(a).
- 941 (3)(a) The candidate shall circulate the nomination petition and ensure that the person in
- 942 whose presence each signature sheet is signed:
- 943 (i) is at least 18 years old; and

- 944 (ii) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification bound to one or more
945 signature sheets that are bound together.
- 946 (b) A person may not sign the circulator verification if the person signed a signature
947 sheet bound to the verification.
- 948 (4)(a) It is unlawful for any person to:
- 949 (i) knowingly sign a certificate of nomination signature sheet:
- 950 (A) with any name other than the person's own name;
- 951 (B) more than once for the same candidate; or
- 952 (C) if the person is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
953 become registered to vote in this state before the county clerk certifies the
954 signatures; or
- 955 (ii) sign the verification of a certificate of nomination signature sheet if the person:
- 956 (A) has not witnessed the signing by those persons whose names appear on the
957 certificate of nomination signature sheet; or
- 958 (B) knows that a person whose signature appears on the certificate of nomination
959 signature sheet is not registered to vote in this state and does not intend to
960 become registered to vote in this state.
- 961 (b) Any person violating this Subsection (4) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
- 962 (5)(a) To qualify for placement on the general election ballot, the candidate shall, no
963 earlier than the start of the declaration of candidacy period described in Section
964 20A-9-201.5 and no later than 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in which the election
965 will be held:
- 966 (i) comply with Subsection 20A-9-503(1); and
- 967 (ii) submit each signature packet to the county clerk where the majority of the
968 signatures in the packet were collected, with signatures totaling:
- 969 (A) at least 1,000 registered voters residing within the state when the nomination
970 is for an office to be filled by the voters of the entire state; or
- 971 (B) at least 300 registered voters residing within a political division or at least 5%
972 of the registered voters residing within a political division, whichever is less,
973 when the nomination is for an office to be filled by the voters of any political
974 division smaller than the state.
- 975 (b) A candidate has not complied with Subsection (5)(a)(ii), unless the county clerks
976 verify that each required signature is a valid signature of a registered voter who is
977 eligible to sign the signature packet and has not signed a signature packet to nominate

another candidate for the same office.

(c) In reviewing the signature packets, the county clerk shall count and certify only those persons who signed with a holographic signature, who:

(i) are registered voters within the political division that the candidate seeks to represent; and

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

(d) 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) 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) Subject to Subsection (8)(a)(i), and notwithstanding Section 20A-2-104, the county clerk shall, no later than one business day after the day on which the signature of a voter who signs a signature packet is verified under Subsection (5)(b):

(a) post the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 calendar days after the date of the general election; and

(b) if the voter's voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email notice to the voter, informing the voter that:

(i) the voter's nomination petition signature is verified;

(ii) the voter's name and voter information described in Subsection (6)(a) is posted on the lieutenant governor's website; and

(iii) the voter has until the deadline described in Subsection (7)(a) to submit a statement to the county clerk, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(2), requesting that the voter's signature be removed from the petition.

~~[(6)]~~ (7)(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] the county clerk makes the posting described in Subsection (6)(a), submitting to

the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

(b) A statement described in Subsection [(6)(a)] (7)(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.

(8)(a) If a county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection (7)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from the nomination petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the county clerk shall:

(i) remove the voter's name from the nomination petition;

(ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the posting described in Subsection (7)(a); and

(iii) update the nomination petition signature totals.

(b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection (8)(a) no later than five business days after the day on which the county clerk receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection (7)(a).

Section 11. 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(9); 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 12. Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on January 1, 2027.