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Heard in Government
Operations Interim
Committee 8/20/25

Signature Verification Revisions

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor:

Sponsor:

2

LONG TITLE

3

General Description:

5 This bill amends provisions related to candidate nomination petitions.

Highlighted Provisions:

7 This bill:

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 ▶ for a candidate seeking the nomination of a qualified political party to an elective office
23 through signature gathering, shortens the deadline for the candidate to submit signatures
24 to an election official from 14 to 21 days before the day on which the qualified political
25 party holds a convention to nominate a candidate for the same elective office; and

26 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

27 Money Appropriated in this Bill:

28 None

29 Other Special Clauses:

30 This bill provides a special effective date.

31 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

32 AMENDS:

33 **20A-1-501**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 23434 **20A-3a-106**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 381, 44835 **20A-6-301**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 3936 **20A-6-302**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 39, 44837 **20A-6-304**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 13638 **20A-9-403**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 39, 44839 **20A-9-405**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 3840 **20A-9-406**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 1341 **20A-9-408**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 38, 44842 **20A-9-502**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 44843 **20A-9-701**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 29644

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*45 Section 1. Section **20A-1-501** is amended to read:46 **20A-1-501 . Candidate vacancies -- Procedure for filling.**

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

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

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

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

51 (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.

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

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

54 (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

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

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

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

104 Section 2. Section **20A-3a-106** is amended to read:

105 **20A-3a-106 . Rulemaking authority relating to conducting an election.**

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

109 (1) a return envelope, to ensure uniformity and security of the envelopes;
110 (2) complying with the signature comparison audit requirements described in Section
111 20A-3a-402.5;
112 (3) conducting and documenting the identity verification process described in Subsection
113 20A-3a-401(7)(b); or
114 (4) establishing specific requirements and procedures for an election officer to:
115 (a) perform the signature comparison audits described in Subsection [20A-9-408(9)(e)]
116 20A-9-408(9)(d); or
117 (b) fulfill the chain of custody requirements described in Section 20A-9-408.3.

118 Section 3. Section **20A-6-301** is amended to read:

119 **20A-6-301 . Manual ballots -- Regular general election.**

120 (1) Each election officer shall ensure that:

121 (a) all manual ballots furnished for use at the regular general election contain:
122 (i) no captions or other endorsements except as provided in this section;
123 (ii) no symbols, markings, or other descriptions of a political party or group, except
124 for a registered political party that has chosen to nominate its candidates in
125 accordance with Section 20A-9-403; and
126 (iii) no indication that a candidate for elective office has been nominated by, or has
127 been endorsed by, or is in any way affiliated with a political party or group, unless
128 the candidate has been nominated by a registered political party in accordance
129 with Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(9);
130 (b) at the top of the ballot, the following endorsements are printed in 18 point bold type:
131 (i) "Official Ballot for ____ County, Utah";
132 (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

167 (d) the ballots contain no other names.

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

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

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

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

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

176 (e) the names in each group are placed in accordance with Sections 20A-6-109 and
177 20A-6-110, with the surnames last; and

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

181 (4) Each election officer shall ensure that:

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

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

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

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

191 Section 4. Section **20A-6-302** is amended to read:

192 **20A-6-302 . Manual ballots -- Placement of candidates' names.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

201 (2)(a) When there is only one candidate for county attorney at the regular general
202 election in counties that have three or fewer registered voters of the county who are
203 licensed active members in good standing of the Utah State Bar, the county clerk
204 shall cause that candidate's name and party affiliation, if any, to be placed on a
205 separate section of the ballot with the following question: "Shall (name of candidate)
206 be elected to the office of county attorney? Yes ____ No ____.".

207 (b) If the number of "Yes" votes exceeds the number of "No" votes, the candidate is
208 elected to the office of county attorney.

209 (c) If the number of "No" votes exceeds the number of "Yes" votes, the candidate is not
210 elected and may not take office, nor may the candidate continue in the office past the
211 end of the term resulting from any prior election or appointment.

212 (d) When the name of only one candidate for county attorney is printed on the ballot
213 under authority of this Subsection (2), the county clerk may not count any write-in
214 votes received for the office of county attorney.

215 (e) If no qualified individual files for the office of county attorney or if the candidate is
216 not elected by the voters, the county legislative body shall appoint the county
217 attorney as provided in Section 20A-1-509.2.

218 (f) If the candidate whose name would, except for this Subsection (2)(f), be placed on
219 the ballot under Subsection (2)(a) has been elected on a ballot under Subsection (2)(a)
220 to the two consecutive terms immediately preceding the term for which the candidate
221 is seeking election, Subsection (2)(a) does not apply and that candidate shall be
222 considered to be an unopposed candidate the same as any other unopposed candidate
223 for another office, unless a petition is filed with the county clerk before 5 p.m. no
224 later than the day before that year's primary election that:
225 (i) requests the procedure set forth in Subsection (2)(a) to be followed; and
226 (ii) contains the signatures of registered voters in the county representing in number
227 at least 25% of all votes cast in the county for all candidates for governor at the
228 last election at which a governor was elected.

229 (3)(a) When there is only one candidate for district attorney at the regular general
230 election in a prosecution district that has three or fewer registered voters of the
231 district who are licensed active members in good standing of the Utah State Bar, the
232 county clerk shall cause that candidate's name and party affiliation, if any, to be
233 placed on a separate section of the ballot with the following question: "Shall (name of
234 candidate) be elected to the office of district attorney? Yes ____ No ____.".

235 (b) If the number of "Yes" votes exceeds the number of "No" votes, the candidate is
236 elected to the office of district attorney.

237 (c) If the number of "No" votes exceeds the number of "Yes" votes, the candidate is not
238 elected and may not take office, nor may the candidate continue in the office past the
239 end of the term resulting from any prior election or appointment.

240 (d) When the name of only one candidate for district attorney is printed on the ballot
241 under authority of this Subsection (3), the county clerk may not count any write-in
242 votes received for the office of district attorney.

243 (e) If no qualified individual files for the office of district attorney, or if the only
244 candidate is not elected by the voters under this subsection, the county legislative
245 body shall appoint a new district attorney for a four-year term as provided in Section
246 20A-1-509.2.

247 (f) If the candidate whose name would, except for this Subsection (3)(f), be placed on
248 the ballot under Subsection (3)(a) has been elected on a ballot under Subsection (3)(a)
249 to the two consecutive terms immediately preceding the term for which the candidate
250 is seeking election, Subsection (3)(a) does not apply and that candidate shall be
251 considered to be an unopposed candidate the same as any other unopposed candidate
252 for another office, unless a petition is filed with the county clerk before 5 p.m. no
253 later than the day before that year's primary election that:
254 (i) requests the procedure set forth in Subsection (3)(a) to be followed; and
255 (ii) contains the signatures of registered voters in the county representing in number
256 at least 25% of all votes cast in the county for all candidates for governor at the
257 last election at which a governor was elected.

258 Section 5. Section **20A-6-304** is amended to read:

259 **20A-6-304 . Regular general election -- Mechanical ballots.**

260 (1) Each election officer shall ensure that:

261 (a) the format and content of a mechanical ballot is arranged in approximately the same
262 order as manual ballots;

263 (b) the titles of offices and the names of candidates are displayed in vertical columns or
264 in a series of separate displays;

265 (c) the mechanical ballot is of sufficient length to include, after the list of candidates:
266 (i) the names of candidates for judicial offices and any other nonpartisan offices; and
267 (ii) any ballot propositions submitted to the voters for their approval or rejection;

268 (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).

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

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

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

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

316 (b)(i) A registered political party that is a continuing political party shall file the
317 statement described in Subsection (2)(a) with the lieutenant governor no later than
318 5 p.m. on November 30 of each odd-numbered year.

319 (ii) An organization that is seeking to become a registered political party under
320 Section 20A-8-103 shall file the statement described in Subsection (2)(a) at the
321 time that the registered political party files the petition described in Section
322 20A-8-103.

323 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection [3](e) (5), an individual who submits a
324 declaration of candidacy under Section 20A-9-202 shall appear as a candidate for
325 elective office on the regular primary ballot of the registered political party listed on
326 the declaration of candidacy only if the individual is certified by the appropriate
327 filing officer as having submitted a nomination petition that was:

328 (i) circulated and completed in accordance with Section 20A-9-405; and
329 (ii) signed by at least 2% of the registered political party's members who reside in the
330 political division of the office that the individual seeks.

331 (b)(i) A candidate for elective office shall, in accordance with Section 20A-9-408.3,
332 submit signatures for a nomination petition to the appropriate filing officer for
333 verification and certification no later than 5 p.m. on March 31.

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

336 (c)(i) The lieutenant governor shall determine for each elective office the total

337 number of signatures that must be submitted under Subsection (3)(a)(ii) or
338 20A-9-408(8) by counting the aggregate number of individuals residing in each
339 elective office's political division who have designated a particular registered
340 political party on the individuals' voter registration forms on or before November
341 15 of each odd-numbered year.

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

344 (d) The filing officer shall:

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

349 (ii) for ~~[all qualifying candidates for elective office who submit nomination petitions~~
350 ~~to the filing officer, issue certifications referenced]~~ each qualifying candidate for
351 elective office who submits a nomination petition to the filing officer, issue the
352 certification described in Subsection (3)(a) no later than the deadline described in
353 Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b);

354 (iii) consider ~~[active and inactive voters eligible to sign nomination petitions]~~ an
355 active and inactive voter eligible to sign a nomination petition;

356 (iv) consider an individual who signs a nomination petition a member of a registered
357 political party for purposes of Subsection (3)(a)(ii) if the individual has designated ~~[~~
358 ~~that]~~ the registered political party as the individual's party membership on the
359 individual's voter registration form; and

360 (v) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-21-201 and with the assistance of
361 the county clerk as applicable, use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002
362 to verify submitted nomination petition signatures, or use statistical sampling
363 procedures to verify submitted nomination petition signatures in accordance with
364 rules made under Subsection ~~[(3)(f)]~~ (6).

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

369 (a) post the individual's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the
370 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:

[i)] (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

[**(ii)] (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;

[**(ii)**] **(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

[(iii)] (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.

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

442 [(6)] (10) The expense of providing all ballots, blanks, or other supplies to be used at any
443 primary election provided for by this section, and all expenses necessarily incurred in
444 the preparation for or the conduct of that primary election shall be paid out of the
445 treasury of the county or state, in the same manner as for the regular general elections.

446 [(7)] (11) An individual may not file a declaration of candidacy for a registered political
447 party of which the individual is not a member, except to the extent that the registered
448 political party permits otherwise under the registered political party's bylaws.

449 Section 7. Section **20A-9-405** is amended to read:

450 **20A-9-405 . Nomination petitions for regular primary elections.**

451 (1) This section applies to the form and circulation of nomination petitions for regular
452 primary elections described in Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(a).

453 (2) A candidate for elective office, and the agents of the candidate, may not circulate
454 nomination petitions until the candidate has submitted a declaration of candidacy in
455 accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(1).

456 (3) For the manual candidate qualification process, the nomination petitions shall be in
457 substantially the following form:

458 (a) the petition shall be printed on paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

459 (b) the petition shall be ruled with a horizontal line 3/4 inch from the top, with the space
460 above that line blank for purposes of binding;

461 (c) the petition shall be headed by a caption stating the purpose of the petition and the
462 name of the proposed candidate;

463 (d) the petition shall feature the [word "Warning" followed by the] following statements
464 in no less than eight-point, single leaded type:

465 (i) "WARNING: It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly sign a
466 nomination petition with any name other than the person's own name, or more
467 than once for the same candidate, or if the person is not registered to vote in this
468 state."; and

469 (ii) "NOTICE: Your name, voter precinct number, and date of signature may be
470 publicly disclosed on the lieutenant governor's website if you sign this petition.
471 This disclosure may occur even if your voter registration record has been
472 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);

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

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

514 "Verification

515 State of Utah, County of ____

516 I, ____, of ____, hereby state that:

517 I am at least 18 years old;

518 All the names that appear on the signature sheets bound to this page were, to the best of
519 my knowledge, signed by the persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear on
520 the signature sheets, and each of them signed the person's name on the signature sheets in my
521 presence;

522 I believe that each has printed and signed the person's name and written the person's
523 street address correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah."

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

526 (7) A nomination petition circulator:

527 (a) must be at least 18 years old; and

528 (b) may affiliate with any political party.

529 (8) It is unlawful for any person to:

530 (a) knowingly sign the nomination petition described in this section or Section
531 20A-9-408:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

545 (10)(a) A voter who signs a nomination petition may have the voter's signature removed
546 from the petition by, no later than 5 p.m. three business days after the day on which [
547 the candidate files the petition with the appropriate filing officer] the filing officer
548 makes the posting described in Subsection 20A-9-403(4)(a), submitting to the filing
549 officer a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

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

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

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

558 (i) remove the voter's name from the nomination petition;
559 (ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the
560 posting described in Subsection 20A-9-403(4)(a); and
561 (iii) update the nomination petition signature totals.

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

564 Section 8. Section **20A-9-406** is amended to read:

565 **20A-9-406 . Qualified political party -- Requirements and exemptions.**

566 The following provisions apply to a qualified political party:

567 (1) the qualified political party shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the first Monday of October of
568 each odd-numbered year, certify to the lieutenant governor the identity of one or more
569 registered political parties whose members may vote for the qualified political party's
570 candidates and whether unaffiliated voters may vote for the qualified political party's
571 candidates;

572 (2) the following provisions do not apply to a nomination for the qualified political party:
573 (a) Subsections 20A-9-403(1) through (3)(b) and (3)(d) through [(4)(a)] (8)(a);
574 (b) Subsection [20A-9-403(5)(e)] 20A-9-403(9)(c); and

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

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

578 (4) the qualified political party shall comply with the provisions of Sections 20A-9-407,
579 20A-9-408, and 20A-9-409;

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

583 (a) under the qualified political party's name , if any; or

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

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

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

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

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

599 (10) notwithstanding [Subseetion 20A-9-403(3)] Subsections 20A-9-403(3) through (7), the
600 qualified political party is entitled to have each of the qualified political party's
601 candidates for elective office appear on the primary ballot of the qualified political party
602 with an indication that each candidate is a candidate for the qualified political party;

603 (11) notwithstanding Subsection [20A-9-403(4)(a)] 20A-9-403(8)(a), the lieutenant
604 governor shall include on the list provided by the lieutenant governor to the county
605 clerks:

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

608 (b) the names of unopposed candidates for elective office who have been nominated by

609 the qualified political party and instruct the county clerks to exclude such candidates
610 from the primary-election ballot;

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

615 (13) notwithstanding the provisions of Subsections 20A-9-403(1) and (2) and Section
616 20A-9-405, the qualified political party is entitled to have the names of its candidates for
617 elective office featured with party affiliation on the ballot at a regular general election.
618 Section 20A-9-408 is amended to read:

619 **20A-9-408 . Signature-gathering process to seek the nomination of a qualified
620 political party -- Removal of signature.**

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

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

628 (3) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(a), and except as provided in Subsection
629 20A-9-202(4), a member of a qualified political party who, under this section, is seeking
630 the nomination of the qualified political party for an elective office that is to be filled at
631 the next general election shall:

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

636 (i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a registered
637 political party under this section;
638 (ii) the name of the registered political party for which the member is seeking
639 nomination;
640 (iii) the office for which the member is seeking to become a candidate;
641 (iv) the address and telephone number of the member; and
642 (v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;

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

647 (4) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(2)(a), a member of a qualified political party
648 who, under this section, is seeking the nomination of the qualified political party for the
649 office of district attorney within a multicounty prosecution district that is to be filled at
650 the next general election shall:

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

655 (i) the name of the member who will attempt to become a candidate for a registered
656 political party under this section;

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

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

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

661 (v) other information required by the lieutenant governor;

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

666 (5) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-202(3)(a)(iii), a lieutenant governor candidate who
667 files as the joint-ticket running mate of an individual who is nominated by a qualified
668 political party, under this section, for the office of governor shall, during the declaration
669 of candidacy filing period described in Section 20A-9-201.5, file a declaration of
670 candidacy and submit a letter from the candidate for governor that names the lieutenant
671 governor candidate as a joint-ticket running mate.

672 (6) The lieutenant governor shall ensure that the certification described in Subsection
673 20A-9-701(1) also includes the name of each candidate nominated by a qualified
674 political party under this section.

675 (7) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-9-701(2), the ballot shall, for each candidate who is
676 nominated by a qualified political party under this section, designate the qualified

677 political party that nominated the candidate.

678 (8) A member of a qualified political party may seek the nomination of the qualified
679 political party for an elective office by:
680 (a) complying with the requirements described in this section; and
681 (b) collecting signatures, on a form approved by the lieutenant governor that complies
682 with Subsection 20A-9-405(3), during the period beginning on the day on which the
683 member files a notice of intent to gather signatures and ending at the deadline
684 described in Subsection [12] (15), in the following amounts:
685 (i) for a statewide race, 28,000 signatures of registered voters in the state who are
686 permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's
687 candidates in a primary election;
688 (ii) for a congressional district race, 7,000 signatures of registered voters who are
689 residents of the congressional district and are permitted by the qualified political
690 party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;
691 (iii) for a state Senate district race, 2,000 signatures of registered voters who are
692 residents of the state Senate district and are permitted by the qualified political
693 party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;
694 (iv) for a state House district race, 1,000 signatures of registered voters who are
695 residents of the state House district and are permitted by the qualified political
696 party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election;
697 (v) for a State Board of Education race, the lesser of:
698 (A) 2,000 signatures of registered voters who are residents of the State Board of
699 Education district and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for
700 the qualified political party's candidates in a primary election; or
701 (B) 3% of the registered voters of the qualified political party who are residents of
702 the applicable State Board of Education district; and
703 (vi) for a county office race, signatures of 3% of the registered voters who are
704 residents of the area permitted to vote for the county office and are permitted by
705 the qualified political party to vote for the qualified political party's candidates in
706 a primary election.

707 (9)(a) This Subsection (9) applies only to the manual candidate qualification process.
708 (b) In order for a member of the qualified political party to qualify as a candidate for the
709 qualified political party's nomination for an elective office under this section, using
710 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 Subsektion (9)(d)(i) shall comply with the requirements~~
738 ~~described in Subsektion 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 Subsektion 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 reassessments, 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

779 which the election officer receives the signatures, or [one day] seven calendar days
780 before the day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a
781 nominee for the elective office to which the signature packets relate:

782 (i) check the name of each individual who completes the verification for a signature
783 to determine whether each individual is at least 18 years old; and
784 (ii) submit the name of each individual described in Subsection (10)(c)(i) who is not
785 at least 18 years old to the attorney general and the county attorney.

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

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

801 (12)(a) A registered voter who physically signs a petition under Subsections (8) and
802 (9)(b), or who electronically signs a petition under Subsections (8) and (10)(b), may
803 have the voter's signature removed from the petition by, no later than 5 p.m. three
804 business days after the day on which the election officer makes the posting described
805 in Subsection (11)(a), submitting to the election officer a statement requesting that
806 the voter's signature be removed.
807 (b) A statement described in Subsection (12)(a) shall comply with the requirements
808 described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
809 (c) With the assistance of the county clerk as applicable, the election officer shall use the
810 procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove
811 an individual's signature from a petition after receiving a timely, valid statement
812 requesting removal of the signature.

813 (13)(a) If an election officer timely receives a statement requesting signature removal
814 under Subsection (12)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from
815 the petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the election officer shall:
816 (i) remove the voter's name from the petition;
817 (ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the
818 posting described in Subsection (11)(a); and
819 (iii) update the petition signature totals.
820 (b) The election officer shall comply with Subsection (13)(a) no later than 5 p.m. the day
821 before the day of the convention described in Subsection (14)(c).
822 [(14)] (14)(a) An individual may not gather signatures under this section until after the
823 individual files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this
824 section.
825 (b) An individual who files a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy,
826 described in Subsection (3)(a) or (4)(a), is, beginning on the day on which the
827 individual files the notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy:
828 (i) required to comply with the reporting requirements that a candidate for office is
829 required to comply with; and
830 (ii) subject to the same enforcement provisions, and civil and criminal penalties, that
831 apply to a candidate for office in relation to the reporting requirements described
832 in Subsection [(14)(b)(i)] (14)(b)(i).
833 (c) Upon timely receipt of the signatures described in Subsections (8) and (9)(b), or
834 Subsections (8) and (10)(b), the election officer shall, no later than the day before the
835 day on which the qualified political party holds the convention to select a nominee
836 for the elective office to which the signature packets relate, notify the qualified
837 political party and the lieutenant governor of the name of each member of the
838 qualified political party who qualifies as a nominee of the qualified political party,
839 under this section, for the elective office to which the convention relates.
840 (d) Upon receipt of a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy described in this
841 section, the lieutenant governor shall post the notice of intent to gather signatures for
842 candidacy on the lieutenant governor's website in the same location that the
843 lieutenant governor posts a declaration of candidacy.
844 [(12)] (15) The deadline before which a member of a qualified political party must collect
845 and submit signatures to the election officer under this section is 5 p.m. on the last
846 business day that is at least [14] 21 calendar days before the day on which the qualified

847 political party's convention for the office begins.

848 Section 10. Section **20A-9-502** is amended to read:

849 **20A-9-502 . Certificate of nomination -- Contents -- Circulation -- Verification --**

850 **Criminal penalty -- Removal of petition signature.**

851 (1) The candidate shall:

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

853 "State of Utah, County of _____

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

865

866

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

867

868

Notary Public (or other officer

869

qualified to administer oaths)";

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

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

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

875 (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.

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

978 another candidate for the same office.

979 (c) In reviewing the signature packets, the county clerk shall count and certify only those
980 persons who signed with a holographic signature, who:
981 (i) are registered voters within the political division that the candidate seeks to
982 represent; and
983 (ii) did not sign any other certificate of nomination for that office.
984 (d) The county clerk shall count and certify the number of registered voters who validly
985 signed a signature packet, no later than 30 calendar days after the day on which the
986 candidate submits the signature packet.
987 (e) The candidate may supplement the signatures or amend the certificate of nomination
988 or declaration of candidacy at any time on or before 5 p.m. on June 15 of the year in
989 which the election will be held.
990 (f) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to
991 determine whether a signer is a registered voter who is qualified to sign the signature
992 packet.

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

996 (a) post the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature on the lieutenant
997 governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor,
998 for at least 90 calendar days after the date of the general election; and
999 (b) if the voter's voter information in the voter registration database includes a valid
1000 email address, use an electronic notification system to send an email notice to the
1001 voter, informing the voter that:
1002 (i) the voter's nomination petition signature is verified;
1003 (ii) the voter's name and voter information described in Subsection (6)(a) is posted on
1004 the lieutenant governor's website; and
1005 (iii) the voter has until the deadline described in Subsection (7)(a) to submit a
1006 statement to the county clerk, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(2),
1007 requesting that the voter's signature be removed from the petition.

1008 [(6)] (7)(a) A voter who signs a signature packet under this section may have the voter's
1009 signature removed from the signature packet by, no later than 5 p.m. three business
1010 days after the day on which [the candidate submits the signature packet to the county
1011 clerk] the county clerk makes the posting described in Subsection (6)(a), submitting to

1012 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

1013 (b) A statement described in Subsection [6](a) (7)(a) shall comply with the
1014 requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

1015 (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to
1016 determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a signature packet after
1017 receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

1018 (8)(a) If a county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under
1019 Subsection (7)(a) and determines that the signature should be removed from the
1020 nomination petition under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the county clerk shall:

1021 (i) remove the voter's name from the nomination petition;

1022 (ii) remove the voter's name, voter precinct number, and date of signature from the
1023 posting described in Subsection (7)(a); and

1024 (iii) update the nomination petition signature totals.

1025 (b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection (8)(a) no later than five business days
1026 after the day on which the county clerk receives a statement requesting signature
1027 removal under Subsection (7)(a).

1028 Section 11. Section **20A-9-701** is amended to read:

1029 **20A-9-701 . Certification of party candidates to county clerks -- Display on ballot.**

1030 (1) No later than August 31 of each regular general election year, the lieutenant governor
1031 shall certify to each county clerk, for offices to be voted upon at the regular general
1032 election in that county clerk's county:

1033 (a) the names of each candidate nominated under Subsection 20A-9-202(4) or
1034 Subsection [20A-9-403(5)] 20A-9-403(9); and

1035 (b) the names of the candidates for president and vice president that are certified by the
1036 registered political party as the party's nominees.

1037 (2) The names shall be certified by the lieutenant governor and shall be displayed on the
1038 ballot as they are provided on the candidate's declaration of candidacy. No other names
1039 may appear on the ballot as affiliated with, endorsed by, or nominated by any other
1040 registered political party, political party, or other political group.

1041 Section 12. **Effective Date.**

1042 This bill takes effect on January 1, 2027.