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Heard in Government Operations Interim Committee on 5/20/2026

Review of General Session 2026 Government Operations

Government Operations Interim Committee
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Overview

- Gov Ops Overall Legislation
- Gov Ops Passed Legislation
- Main Subject Areas - Bill Highlights



GS2026 Gov Ops Passed Legislation- Main Subject Areas

40
Passed Bills

- Candidates & Campaign Finance
- Election Administration
- General Government Operations
- Governmental Immunity
- Public Funding & Bonding
- Records (Election & Government)
- Religious Freedom
- Resolutions
- Signature Gathering/Verification & Ballot Propositions
- State Holidays
- Voting & Voter Registration



Candidates & Campaign Finance

- **H.B. 361- Elections Provisions Amendments (Rep. Shepherd/Sen. Winterton)**
 - Modifies the conditions and requirements for a ballot to list a candidate using a variation of the candidate's name or a nickname
 - Modifies certain declaration of candidacy periods for municipal primary and general elections; and makes declaration of candidacy periods for all registered political parties the same (QPP and RPP agnostic)
 - Modifies the deadline to file an objection to a declaration of candidacy



Election Administration

- **S.B. 153 - Election Amendments (Sen. Johnson/Rep. Lee)**
 - Provides that a voter registration record that, before April 6, 2026, was classified as private without requiring a reason will be reclassified as public, unless the voter takes certain action to obtain additional protection
 - Places restrictions on the use and disclosure of information from the voter registration list
 - Provides that if an at-risk voter signs a petition, the voter's voter identification and the date the voter signed the petition may be publicly disclosed



General Government Operations

- **S.B. 229 – State Employee Benefits Amendments (Sen. Fillmore/Rep. Thurston)**
 - Establishes a paid time off program under which new agency employees and current agency employees, who elect to participate, receive paid time off in lieu of annual leave and sick leave
 - Grants the Division of Human Resource Management authority to make rules governing the accrual and use of paid time off
 - Modifies the 401(k)-match available to a qualifying employee who participates in the paid time off program by changing the match rate and increasing the maximum employer contribution



Governmental Immunity

- **H.B. 79 – Governmental Immunity Amendments (Rep. Gwynn/Sen. Brammer)**
 - Provides that a governmental entity and the governmental entity's employees are immune from suit for engaging in the following activities:
 - Responding to a disaster or potential disaster; or
 - If the employee is a first responder, providing emergency medical services
 - Clarifies that immunity from suit for providing emergency medical services is not limited to providing medical services resulting from emergencies of a certain type



Public Funding & Bonding

- **S.B. 324 - Outcome-based Investment Grant Pilot Framework (Sen. Musselman/Rep. Peterson, Karen)**

- Establishes a pilot framework for a grant administering agency to award grant funding for projects using measurable outcomes
- Requires the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget to establish evaluation standards and requirements
- Establishes a sunset date for the pilot framework



Records (Election & Government)

- **H.B. 147- Government Form Submission Amendments (Rep. Teuscher/Sen. Vickers)**
 - Requires state and local government to provide an electronic option for filling out forms and for submitting forms, records, and other information
 - Provides that this does not apply, to the extent that the person is required by law to fill out the form in person or to submit the form, record, or information in person



Religious Freedom

- **S.B. 174- Exercise of Religious Beliefs and Conscience Amendments (Sen. Stratton/Rep. Lisonbee)**
 - Provides that a health care provider has a right of religious belief or conscience that permits them to refuse to provide or participate in a health care service that violates their religious beliefs or conscience
 - Protects a person who exercises this right from being held civilly, criminally, or administratively liable
 - Requires a health care provider who refuses, under this right, to participate in a health care service, to provide advance notice to the healthcare institution where the service is provided



Resolutions

- **H.C.R. 12 - Concurrent Resolution Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence (Rep. Wilcox/Sen. Stratton)**
 - Celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026
 - Supports the Commission's vision to educate, engage, and unite Utahns through programs and events that celebrate and honor the anniversary
 - Encourages local participation in programs and events overseen by the Commission, the Department of Cultural and Community Engagement, and local Utah250 Communities



Signature Gathering/Verification & Ballot Propositions

- **H.B. 32 - Signature Gathering and Verification Amendments (Rep. Cutler/Sen. Winterton)**

- Amends, standardizes, and makes technical revisions to the signature collector verification form included in petition packets
- Beginning on July 1, 2027, requires a clerk who verifies signatures for a petition to send an email and text message notice to the signer of the petition notifying the signer of the status of their signature
- Requires the lieutenant governor to develop and maintain an online training course to educate individuals who collect signatures for a petition



State Holidays

- **S.B. 193 – State Legal Holidays Amendments (Sen. Stratton/Rep. Brooks)**
 - Establishes Good Friday as a legal holiday in Utah
 - Provides a half-day of paid time off to a state employee
 - Requires a school district, a charter school, and an institution of higher education to prioritize, to the extent possible, scheduling school breaks to coincide with state holy days



Voting & Voter Registration

- **H.B. 209 – Voting Amendments (Rep. Maloy/Sen. Winterton)**
 - Provides a process for an election officer to independently determine whether a registered voter is not a citizen of the United States
 - Provides a process to challenge a citizenship determination
 - Creates a bifurcated ballot system where, for an election held on or after November 1, 2026:
 - a voter chooses whether to provide documentary proof of United States citizenship when registering to vote or before voting; and
 - a voter who does not provide documentary proof of United States citizenship may only vote in races for federal office



Additional Resources

- GS 2026 Passed Legislation Overview Document
- Contact LRGC Gov Ops Staff
 - Devon Schechinger, Policy Analyst
 - Kirsi Jarvis, Policy Analyst
 - Thomas Vaughn, Managing Associate General Counsel
 - Michael Cipriano, Associate General Counsel





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