1	ELECTION LAW - DISCLOSURE
2	REQUIREMENTS
3	2003 GENERAL SESSION
4	STATE OF UTAH
5	Sponsor: Beverly Ann Evans
6	This act modifies statutes governing election law disclosure requirements. The law
7	clarifies when a report is considered filed and when a school board candidate may be
8	disqualified. This act makes technical changes.
9	This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:
10	AMENDS:
11	10-3-208, as last amended by Chapter 272, Laws of Utah 2002
12	17-16-6.5, as last amended by Chapter 272, Laws of Utah 2002
13	20A-11-1305, as enacted by Chapter 355, Laws of Utah 1997
14	Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
15	Section 1. Section 10-3-208 is amended to read:
16	10-3-208. Campaign financial disclosure in municipal elections.
17	(1) (a) (i) By August 1, 1995, each first and second class city and each third class city
18	having a population of 10,000 or more shall adopt an ordinance establishing campaign finance
19	disclosure requirements for candidates for city office.
20	(ii) By August 1, 2001, each third class city with a population under 10,000 and each
21	town shall adopt an ordinance establishing campaign finance disclosure requirements for
22	candidates for city or town office who:
23	(A) receive more than \$750 in campaign contributions; or
24	(B) spend more than \$750 on their campaign for city or town office.
25	(b) The ordinance required under Subsection (1)(a) shall include:
26	(i) a requirement that each candidate for municipal office to whom the ordinance
27	applies report the candidate's itemized and total campaign contributions and expenditures at

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28	least once seven days before the municipal general election and at least once 30 days after the
29	municipal general election;
30	(ii) a definition of "contribution" and "expenditure" that requires reporting of
31	nonmonetary contributions such as in-kind contributions and contributions of tangible things;
32	and
33	(iii) a requirement that the financial reports identify:
34	(A) for each contribution of more than \$50, the name of the donor of the contribution
35	and the amount of the contribution; and
36	(B) for each expenditure, the name of the recipient and the amount of the expenditure.
37	(2) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), if a city or town fails to adopt a
38	campaign finance disclosure ordinance as required under Subsection (1), candidates for office
39	in that city or town shall comply with the financial reporting requirements contained in
40	Subsections (3) through (6).
41	(b) (i) If a city or town adopts a campaign finance disclosure ordinance that meets the
42	requirements of Subsection (1), that city or town need not comply with the requirements of
43	Subsections (3) through (6).
44	(ii) Subsection (2)(a) and the financial reporting requirements of Subsections (3)
45	through (6) do not apply to a candidate for municipal office who:
46	(A) is a candidate for municipal office in a city with a population under 10,000 or a
47	town; and
48	(B) (I) receives \$750 or less in campaign contributions; and
49	(II) spends \$750 or less on the candidate's campaign for municipal office.
50	(3) If there is no municipal ordinance meeting the requirements of this section upon the
51	dates specified in Subsection (1), each candidate for elective municipal office shall file a signed
52	campaign financial statement with the city recorder:
53	(a) seven days before the date of the municipal general election, reporting each
54	contribution of more than \$50 and each expenditure as of ten days before the date of the
55	municipal general election; and
56	(b) no later than 30 days after the date of the municipal general election.
57	(4) (a) The statement filed seven days before the municipal general election shall
58	include:

59	(i) a list of each contribution of more than \$50 received by the candidate, and the name
60	of the donor;
61	(ii) an aggregate total of all contributions of \$50 or less received by the candidate; and
62	(iii) a list of each expenditure for political purposes made during the campaign period,
63	and the recipient of each expenditure.
64	(b) The statement filed 30 days after the municipal general election shall include:
65	(i) a list of each contribution of more than \$50 received after the cutoff date for the
66	statement filed seven days before the election, and the name of the donor;
67	(ii) an aggregate total of all contributions of \$50 or less received by the candidate after
68	the cutoff date for the statement filed seven days before the election; and
69	(iii) a list of all expenditures for political purposes made by the candidate after the
70	cutoff date for the statement filed seven days before the election, and the recipient of each
71	expenditure.
72	(5) Candidates for elective municipal office who are eliminated at a primary election
73	shall file a signed campaign financial statement containing the information required by this
74	section not later than 30 days after the primary election.
75	(6) Any person who fails to comply with this section is guilty of an infraction.
76	(7) A city or town may, by ordinance, enact requirements that:
77	(a) require greater disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures; and
78	(b) impose additional penalties.
79	(8) (a) If a candidate fails to file an interim report due before the municipal general
80	election, the city recorder shall, after making a reasonable attempt to discover if the report was
81	timely mailed, inform the appropriate election officials who:
82	(i) shall, if practicable, remove the name of the candidate by blacking out the
83	candidate's name before the ballots are delivered to voters; or
84	(ii) shall, if removing the candidate's name from the ballot is not practicable, inform
85	the voters by any practicable method that the candidate has been disqualified and that votes
86	cast for the candidate will not be counted; and
87	(iii) may not count any votes for that candidate.
88	(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (8)(a), a candidate is not disqualified if:
89	(i) the candidate files the reports required by this section;

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90	(ii) those reports are completed, detailing accurately and completely the information
91	required by this section except for inadvertent omissions or insignificant errors or inaccuracies;
92	and
93	(iii) those omissions, errors, or inaccuracies are corrected in an amended report or in
94	the next scheduled report.
95	(c) A report is considered filed if:
96	(i) it is received in the municipal recorder's office no later than 5 p.m. on the date that it
97	<u>is due;</u>
98	(ii) it is received in the municipal recorder's office with a postmark three days or more
99	before the date that the report was due; or
100	(iii) the candidate has proof that the report was mailed, with appropriate postage and
101	addressing, three days before the report was due.
102	(9) (a) Any private party in interest may bring a civil action in district court to enforce
103	the provisions of this section or any ordinance adopted under this section.
104	(b) In a civil action filed under Subsection (9)(a), the court may award costs and
105	attorney's fees to the prevailing party.
106	Section 2. Section 17-16-6.5 is amended to read:
107	17-16-6.5. Campaign financial disclosure in county elections.
108	(1) (a) By January 1, 1996, each county shall adopt an ordinance establishing campaign
109	finance disclosure requirements for candidates for county office.
110	(b) The ordinance shall include:
111	(i) a requirement that each candidate for county office report his itemized and total
112	campaign contributions and expenditures at least once within the two weeks before the election
113	and at least once within two months after the election;
114	(ii) a definition of "contribution" and "expenditure" that requires reporting of
115	nonmonetary contributions such as in-kind contributions and contributions of tangible things;
116	and
117	(iii) a requirement that the financial reports identify:
118	(A) for each contribution of more than \$50, the name of the donor of the contribution
119	and the amount of the contribution; and
120	(B) for each expenditure, the name of the recipient and the amount of the expenditure.

121	(2) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), if any county fails to adopt a campaign
122	finance disclosure ordinance by January 1, 1996, candidates for county office shall comply
123	with the financial reporting requirements contained in Subsections (3) through (6).
124	(b) If, after August 1, 1995, any county adopts a campaign finance ordinance meeting
125	the requirements of Subsection (1), that county need not comply with the requirements of
126	Subsections (3) through (6).
127	(3) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), and if there is no county ordinance
128	meeting the requirements of this section, each candidate for elective office in any county who
129	is not required to submit a campaign financial statement to the lieutenant governor shall file a
130	signed campaign financial statement with the county clerk:
131	(i) seven days before the date of the regular general election, reporting each
132	contribution of more than \$50 and each expenditure as of ten days before the date of the regular
133	general election; and
134	(ii) no later than 30 days after the date of the regular general election.
135	(b) Candidates for community council offices are exempt from the requirements of this
136	section.
137	(4) (a) The statement filed seven days before the regular general election shall include:
138	(i) a list of each contribution of more than \$50 received by the candidate, and the name
139	of the donor;
140	(ii) an aggregate total of all contributions of \$50 or less received by the candidate; and
141	(iii) a list of each expenditure for political purposes made during the campaign period,
142	and the recipient of each expenditure.
143	(b) The statement filed 30 days after the regular general election shall include:
144	(i) a list of each contribution of more than \$50 received after the cutoff date for the
145	statement filed seven days before the election, and the name of the donor;
146	(ii) an aggregate total of all contributions of \$50 or less received by the candidate after
147	the cutoff date for the statement filed seven days before the election; and
148	(iii) a list of all expenditures for political purposes made by the candidate after the
149	cutoff date for the statement filed seven days before the election, and the recipient of each
150	expenditure.
151	(5) Candidates for elective office in any county who are eliminated at a primary

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152	election shall file a signed campaign financial statement containing the information required by
153	this section not later than 30 days after the primary election.
154	(6) Any person who fails to comply with this section is guilty of an infraction.
155	(7) Counties may, by ordinance, enact requirements that:
156	(a) require greater disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures; and
157	(b) impose additional penalties.
158	(8) (a) If a candidate fails to file an interim report due before the election, the county
159	clerk shall, after making a reasonable attempt to discover if the report was timely mailed,
160	inform the appropriate election officials who:
161	(i) shall, if practicable, remove the name of the candidate by blacking out the
162	candidate's name before the ballots are delivered to voters; or
163	(ii) shall, if removing the candidate's name from the ballot is not practicable, inform
164	the voters by any practicable method that the candidate has been disqualified and that votes
165	cast for the candidate will not be counted; and
166	(iii) may not count any votes for that candidate.
167	(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (8)(a), a candidate is not disqualified if:
168	(i) the candidate files the reports required by this section;
169	(ii) those reports are completed, detailing accurately and completely the information
170	required by this section except for inadvertent omissions or insignificant errors or inaccuracies;
171	and
172	(iii) those omissions, errors, or inaccuracies are corrected in an amended report or in
173	the next scheduled report.
174	(c) A report is considered filed if:
175	(i) it is received in the county clerk's office no later than 5 p.m. on the date that it is
176	<u>due;</u>
177	(ii) it is received in the county clerk's office with a § U.S. POSTAL SERVICE § postmark
177a	three days or more before
178	the date that the report was due; or
179	(iii) the candidate has proof that the report was mailed, with appropriate postage and
180	addressing, three days before the report was due.
181	(9) (a) Any private party in interest may bring a civil action in district court to enforce
182	the provisions of this section or any ordinance adopted under this section.

183	(b) In a civil action filed under Subsection (9)(a), the court shall award costs and
184	attorney's fees to the prevailing party.
185	Section 3. Section 20A-11-1305 is amended to read:
186	20A-11-1305. School board office candidate Failure to file statement Name
187	not printed on ballot Filling vacancy.
188	(1) (a) If a school board office candidate fails to file an interim report due before the
189	regular primary election, September 15, and before the regular general election, the chief
190	election officer shall, after making a reasonable attempt to discover if the report was timely
191	mailed, inform the county clerk and other appropriate election officials who:
192	(i) shall, if practicable, remove the name of the candidate by blacking out the
193	candidate's name before the ballots are delivered to voters; or
194	(ii) shall, if removing the candidate's name from the ballot is not practicable, inform
195	the voters by any practicable method that the candidate has been disqualified and that votes
196	cast for candidate will not be counted; and
197	(iii) may not count any votes for that candidate.
198	(b) Any school board office candidate who fails to file timely a financial statement
199	required by this part is disqualified and the vacancy on the ballot may be filled as provided in
200	Section 20A-1-501.
201	(c) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(a) and (1)(b), a school board office candidate is not
202	disqualified if:
203	(i) the candidate[, in good faith: (i)] files the reports required by this section [on time
204	even if an error or inaccuracy in the report requires the school board office candidate to file an
205	amended report after the deadline; and]:
206	[(ii) the error is]
207	(ii) those reports are completed, detailing accurately and completely the information
208	required by this part except for inadvertent omissions or insignificant errors or inaccuracies;
209	and
210	(iii) those omissions, errors, or inaccuracies are corrected in an amended report or in
211	the next scheduled report.
212	(2) (a) Within 30 days after a deadline for the filing of a summary report by a candidate
213	for state school board, the lieutenant governor shall review each filed summary report to ensure

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214	that:
215	(i) each state school board candidate that is required to file a summary report has filed
216	one; and
217	(ii) each summary report contains the information required by this part.
218	(b) If it appears that any state school board candidate has failed to file the summary
219	report required by law, if it appears that a filed summary report does not conform to the law, or
220	if the lieutenant governor has received a written complaint alleging a violation of the law or the
221	falsity of any summary report, the lieutenant governor shall, within five days of discovery of a
222	violation or receipt of a written complaint, notify the state school board candidate of the
223	violation or written complaint and direct the state school board candidate to file a summary
224	report correcting the problem.
225	(c) (i) It is unlawful for any state school board candidate to fail to file or amend a
226	summary report within 14 days after receiving notice from the lieutenant governor under this
227	section.
228	(ii) Each state school board candidate who violates Subsection (2)(c)(i) is guilty of a
229	class B misdemeanor.
230	(iii) The lieutenant governor shall report all violations of Subsection (2)(c)(i) to the
231	attorney general.
232	(3) (a) Within 30 days after a deadline for the filing of a summary report, the county
233	clerk shall review each filed summary report to ensure that:
234	(i) each local school board candidate that is required to file a summary report has filed
235	one; and
236	(ii) each summary report contains the information required by this part.
237	(b) If it appears that any local school board candidate has failed to file the summary
238	report required by law, if it appears that a filed summary report does not conform to the law, or
239	if the county clerk has received a written complaint alleging a violation of the law or the falsity
240	of any summary report, the county clerk shall, within five days of discovery of a violation or
241	receipt of a written complaint, notify the local school board candidate of the violation or
242	written complaint and direct the local school board candidate to file a summary report
243	correcting the problem.
244	(c) (i) It is unlawful for any local school board candidate to fail to file or amend a

summary report within 14 days after receiving notice from the county clerk under this section.

246 (ii) Each local school board candidate who violates Subsection (3)(c)(i) is guilty of a

class B misdemeanor.

248 (iii) The county clerk shall report all violations of Subsection (3)(c)(i) to the district or

county attorney.

Legislative Review Note as of 2-4-03 7:37 AM

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

State Impact

No fiscal impact.

Individual and Business Impact

No fiscal impact.

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst