

POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION AMENDMENTS

2012 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jim Nielson

Senate Sponsor: Jerry W. Stevenson

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions in Title 20A, Chapter 8, Political Party Formation and Procedures related to a political party.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ increases the number of regular general elections in which party participation is calculated in order to remain a registered political party; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

20A-8-101, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1999, Chapter 49

20A-8-102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1994, Chapter 137

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

Section 1. Section **20A-8-101** is amended to read:

20A-8-101. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Continuing political party" means an organization of voters that;

30 (a) participated in the last regular general election; and

31 (b) in at least one of the last two regular general elections, polled a total vote for any of
32 its candidates for any office equal to 2% or more of the total votes cast for all candidates for the
33 United States House of Representatives in the same regular general election.

34 (2) "County political party" means, for each registered political party, all of the persons
35 within a single county who, under definitions established by the county political party, are
36 members of the registered political party.

37 (3) "Newly registered political party" means a statewide organization of voters that has
38 complied with the petition and organizing procedures of this chapter to become a registered
39 political party.

40 (4) "Registered political party" means an organization of voters that:

41 (a) (i) participated in the last regular general election; and

42 (ii) in at least one of the last two regular general elections, polled a total vote for any of
43 its candidates for any office equal to 2% or more of the total votes cast for all candidates for the
44 United States House of Representatives in the same regular general election; or

45 (b) has complied with the petition and organizing procedures of this chapter.

46 (5) "State political party" means, for each registered political party, all of the persons in
47 Utah who, under definitions established by the state political party, are members of the
48 registered political party.

49 Section 2. Section **20A-8-102** is amended to read:

50 **20A-8-102. Organization of newly registered political parties -- Rights.**

51 (1) Any organization of voters whose organization did not participate in the last regular
52 general election, or whose organization polled a total vote equivalent to less than 2% of the
53 total vote cast for all [~~representatives in Congress~~] candidates for the United States House of
54 Representatives for any of its candidates in both of the last two regular general [election]
55 elections shall comply with the requirements of this chapter to become a registered political
56 party.

57 (2) (a) Unless an organization of registered voters is a registered political party under

58 this chapter, it may not place the names of candidates representing that organization upon the
59 primary and regular general election ballots under the common organization name.

60 (b) Nothing in this subsection prohibits an organization of voters from qualifying
61 candidates as independent candidates or as write-in candidates.