

HB0010S03 compared with HB0010S01

~~{deleted text}~~ shows text that was in HB0010S01 but was deleted in HB0010S03.

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0010S01 but was inserted into HB0010S03.

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Representative Brian M. Greene proposes the following substitute bill:

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM AMENDMENTS

2016 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Brian M. Greene

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions of the Election Code relating to initiatives and referenda.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ modifies ~~{definitions, including}~~ the ~~{definition of a local law;~~
▶ ~~expands the political subdivisions that are subject to local initiatives and referenda}~~ definitions of a local law and a local tax law;
- ▶ removes the requirement that an initiative or referendum petition contain a statement that a person signing the petition has read and understands the law to which the initiative or referendum relates;
- ▶ establishes and modifies deadlines relating to the local initiative and referendum process;

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- ▶ modifies provisions relating to property tax referenda; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

20A-7-101, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapters 364 and 396

20A-7-203, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 329

20A-7-303, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 329

20A-7-503, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 329

20A-7-504, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2000, Chapter 3

20A-7-601, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 242

20A-7-602, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2000, Chapter 3

20A-7-603, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 329

20A-7-604, as enacted by Laws of Utah 1994, Chapter 272

20A-7-606, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 396

20A-7-613, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 258

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

Section 1. Section **20A-7-101** is amended to read:

20A-7-101. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Budget officer" means:

- (a) for a county, the person designated as budget officer in Section 17-19a-203;
- (b) for a city, the person designated as budget officer in Subsection 10-6-106(5); or
- (c) for a town, the town council.

(2) "Certified" means that the county clerk has acknowledged a signature as being the signature of a registered voter.

(3) "Circulation" means the process of submitting an initiative or referendum petition

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to legal voters for their signature.

(4) "Final fiscal impact statement" means a financial statement prepared after voters approve an initiative that contains the information required by Subsection 20A-7-202.5(2) or 20A-7-502.5(2).

(5) "Initial fiscal impact estimate" means:

(a) a financial statement prepared under Section 20A-7-202.5 after the filing of an application for an initiative petition; or

(b) a financial and legal statement prepared under Section 20A-7-502.5 or 20A-7-602.5 for an initiative or referendum petition.

(6) "Initiative" means a new law proposed for adoption by the public as provided in this chapter.

(7) "Initiative packet" means a copy of the initiative petition, a copy of the proposed law, and the signature sheets, all of which have been bound together as a unit.

(8) "Legal signatures" means the number of signatures of legal voters that:

(a) meet the numerical requirements of this chapter; and

(b) have been certified and verified as provided in this chapter.

(9) "Legal voter" means a person who:

(a) is registered to vote; or

(b) becomes registered to vote before the county clerk certifies the signatures on an initiative or referendum petition.

(10) "Local attorney" means the county attorney, city attorney, or town attorney in whose jurisdiction a local initiative or referendum petition is circulated.

(11) "Local clerk" means ~~the~~

~~_____ (a) for a county, city, or town,} the county clerk, city recorder, or town clerk in whose jurisdiction a local initiative or referendum petition is circulated{[.]; or~~

~~_____ (b) for a political subdivision, with a local legislative body described in Subsection (13)(b), in whose jurisdiction a local initiative or referendum petition is circulated;~~

~~_____ (i) if the political subdivision is located entirely within a town, the town clerk;~~

~~_____ (ii) if Subsection (11)(b)(i) does not apply and the political subdivision is located entirely within a city, the city recorder;~~

~~_____ (iii) if Subsections (11)(b)(i) and (ii) do not apply and the political subdivision is~~

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~~located entirely within a county, the county clerk, or~~

~~(iv) if Subsections (11)(b)(i) through (iii) do not apply, the county clerk of each county in which the political subdivision is located.~~

~~};~~

(12) (a) "Local law" includes:

(i) an ordinance~~[-];~~

(ii) a resolution~~[-];~~

(iii) a master plan~~[-, and any];~~

(iv) a comprehensive zoning regulation adopted by ordinance or resolution~~[-]; or~~

(v) other legislative action of a local legislative body.

(b) "Local law" does not include an individual property zoning decision.

(13) "Local legislative body" means~~[-];~~

~~(a) } the legislative body of a county, city, or town~~{}~~.~~{}~~; or~~

~~(b) a political subdivision, or a person or body within a political subdivision, with authority to pass a local law.~~};~~~~

(14) "Local obligation law" means a local law passed by the local legislative body regarding a bond that was approved by a majority of qualified voters in an election.

(15) "Local tax law" means a local law~~{}~~,~~{}~~ passed by a political subdivision ~~{}~~with an annual or biannual calendar fiscal year,~~{}~~ that increases a tax or imposes a new tax.

(16) "Measure" means a proposed constitutional amendment, an initiative, or referendum.

(17) "Referendum" means a process by which a law passed by the Legislature or by a local legislative body is submitted or referred to the voters for their approval or rejection.

(18) "Referendum packet" means a copy of the referendum petition, a copy of the law being submitted or referred to the voters for their approval or rejection, and the signature sheets, all of which have been bound together as a unit.

(19) (a) "Signature" means a holographic signature.

(b) "Signature" does not mean an electronic signature.

(20) "Signature sheets" means sheets in the form required by this chapter that are used to collect signatures in support of an initiative or referendum.

(21) "Sponsors" means the legal voters who support the initiative or referendum and

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who sign the application for petition copies.

(22) "Sufficient" means that the signatures submitted in support of an initiative or referendum petition have been certified and verified as required by this chapter.

(23) "Verified" means acknowledged by the person circulating the petition as required in Sections 20A-7-205 and 20A-7-305.

Section 2. Section **20A-7-203** is amended to read:

20A-7-203. Form of initiative petition and signature sheets.

(1) (a) Each proposed initiative petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:

"INITIATIVE PETITION To the Honorable _____, Lieutenant Governor:

We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully demand that the following proposed law be submitted to the legal voters/Legislature of Utah for their/its approval or rejection at the regular general election/session to be held/ beginning on _____(month\day\year);

Each signer says:

I have personally signed this petition;

I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the certification of the petition names by the county clerk; and

My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name.

NOTICE TO SIGNERS:

Public hearings to discuss this petition were held at: (list dates and locations of public hearings.)"

(b) The sponsors of an initiative shall attach a copy of the proposed law to each initiative petition.

(2) Each signature sheet shall:

(a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

(b) be ruled with a horizontal line three-fourths inch from the top, with the space above that line blank for the purpose of binding;

(c) contain the title of the initiative printed below the horizontal line;

(d) contain the initial fiscal impact estimate's summary statement issued by the Governor's Office of Management and Budget according to Subsection 20A-7-202.5(2)(b), including any update according to Subsection 20A-7-204.1(4), and the cost estimate for

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printing and distributing information related to the initiative petition according to Subsection 20A-7-202.5(3), printed or typed in not less than 12 point, bold type, at the top of each signature sheet under the title of the initiative;

(e) contain the word "Warning" printed or typed at the top of each signature sheet under the initial fiscal impact estimate's summary statement;

(f) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed or typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:

"It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to sign any initiative petition with any other name than his own, or knowingly to sign his name more than once for the same measure, or to sign an initiative petition when he knows he is not a registered voter and knows that he does not intend to become registered to vote before the certification of the petition names by the county clerk."; ~~[and]~~

(g) be vertically divided into columns as follows:

(i) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be five-eighths inch wide, be headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical line down the middle with the left subdivision entitled "Registered" and the right subdivision left untitled;

(ii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)";

(iii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered Voter";

(iv) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age (Optional)";
and

(v) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip Code"; and

~~[(h) spanning the sheet horizontally beneath each row on which a registered voter may submit the information described in Subsection (2)(g), contain the following statement printed or typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:]~~

~~["By signing this petition, you are stating that you have read and understand the law proposed by this petition."; and]~~

~~[(†)]~~ (h) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with voter registration

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records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records."

(3) The final page of each initiative packet shall contain the following printed or typed statement:

"Verification

State of Utah, County of _____

I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:

I am a resident of Utah and am at least 18 years old;

All the names that appear in this packet were signed by persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear in it, and each of them signed his name on it in my presence;

I believe that each has printed and signed his name and written his post office address and residence correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah or intends to become registered to vote before the certification of the petition names by the county clerk.

I have not paid or given anything of value to any person who signed this petition to encourage that person to sign it.

(Name)	(Residence Address)	(Date)"
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(4) The forms prescribed in this section are not mandatory, and, if substantially followed, the initiative petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

Section 3. Section **20A-7-303** is amended to read:

20A-7-303. Form of referendum petition and signature sheets.

(1) (a) Each proposed referendum petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:

"REFERENDUM PETITION To the Honorable _____, Lieutenant Governor:

We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully order that Senate (or House) Bill No. _____, entitled (title of act, and, if the petition is against less than the whole act, set forth here the part or parts on which the referendum is sought), passed by the _____ Session of the Legislature of the state of Utah, be referred to the people of Utah for their approval or rejection at a regular general election or a statewide special election;

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Each signer says:

I have personally signed this petition;

I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the certification of the petition names by the county clerk; and

My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name."

(b) The sponsors of a referendum shall attach a copy of the law that is the subject of the referendum to each referendum petition.

(2) Each signature sheet shall:

(a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

(b) be ruled with a horizontal line three-fourths inch from the top, with the space above that line blank for the purpose of binding;

(c) contain the title of the referendum printed below the horizontal line;

(d) contain the word "Warning" printed or typed at the top of each signature sheet under the title of the referendum;

(e) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed or typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:

"It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to sign any referendum petition with any other name than his own, or knowingly to sign his name more than once for the same measure, or to sign a referendum petition when he knows he is not a registered voter and knows that he does not intend to become registered to vote before the certification of the petition names by the county clerk.";

(f) contain horizontally ruled lines, three-eighths inch apart under the "Warning" statement required by this section; ~~and~~

(g) be vertically divided into columns as follows:

(i) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be five-eighths inch wide, be headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical line down the middle;

(ii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)";

(iii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered Voter";

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(iv) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age (Optional)";
and

(v) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip Code"; and

~~[(h) spanning the sheet horizontally beneath each row on which a registered voter may submit the information described in Subsection (2)(g), contain the following statement printed or typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:]~~

~~["By signing this petition, you are stating that you have read and understand the law this petition seeks to overturn."; and]~~

~~[(f)]~~ (h) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records."

(3) The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the following printed or typed statement:

"Verification

State of Utah, County of _____

I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:

I am a Utah resident and am at least 18 years old;

All the names that appear in this packet were signed by persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear in it, and each of them signed his name on it in my presence;

I believe that each has printed and signed his name and written his post office address and residence correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah or intends to become registered to vote before the certification of the petition names by the county clerk.

(Name)

(Residence Address)

(Date)"

(4) The forms prescribed in this section are not mandatory, and, if substantially followed, the referendum petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

Section 4. Section **20A-7-503** is amended to read:

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20A-7-503. Form of initiative petitions and signature sheets.

(1) (a) Each proposed initiative petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:

"INITIATIVE PETITION To the Honorable _____, County Clerk/City Recorder/Town Clerk:

We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully demand that the following proposed law be submitted to: the legislative body for its approval or rejection at its next meeting; and the legal voters of the county/city/town, if the legislative body rejects the proposed law or takes no action on it.

Each signer says:

I have personally signed this petition;

I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the certification of the petition names by the county clerk; and

My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name."

(b) The sponsors of an initiative shall attach a copy of the proposed law to each initiative petition.

(2) Each signature sheet shall:

(a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

(b) be ruled with a horizontal line three-fourths inch from the top, with the space above that line blank for the purpose of binding;

(c) contain the title of the initiative printed below the horizontal line;

(d) contain the initial fiscal impact estimate's summary statement issued by the budget officer according to Subsection 20A-7-502.5(2)(b) and the cost estimate for printing and distributing information related to the initiative petition according to Subsection 20A-7-502.5(3) printed or typed in not less than 12-point, bold type, at the top of each signature sheet under the title of the initiative;

(e) contain the word "Warning" printed or typed at the top of each signature sheet under the initial fiscal impact estimate's summary statement;

(f) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed or typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:

"It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to sign any initiative petition with any other

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name than his own, or knowingly to sign his name more than once for the same measure, or to sign an initiative petition when he knows he is not a registered voter and knows that he does not intend to become registered to vote before the certification of the petition names by the county clerk.";

(g) contain horizontally ruled lines three-eighths inch apart under the "Warning" statement required by this section;

(h) be vertically divided into columns as follows:

(i) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be five-eighths inch wide, be headed with "For Office Use Only", and be subdivided with a light vertical line down the middle with the left subdivision entitled "Registered" and the right subdivision left untitled;

(ii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)";

(iii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered Voter";

(iv) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age (Optional)";
and

(v) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip Code"; and

~~[(i) spanning the sheet horizontally beneath each row on which a registered voter may submit the information described in Subsection (2)(h), contain the following statement printed or typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:]~~

~~["By signing this petition, you are stating that you have read and understand the law proposed by this petition."; and]~~

~~[(f)]~~ (i) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records."

(3) The final page of each initiative packet shall contain the following printed or typed statement:

"Verification

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State of Utah, County of _____

I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:

I am a resident of Utah and am at least 18 years old;

All the names that appear in this initiative packet were signed by persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear in it, and each of them signed his name on it in my presence;

I believe that each has printed and signed his name and written his post office address and residence correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah or intends to become registered to vote before the certification of the petition names by the county clerk.

_____ "

(4) The forms prescribed in this section are not mandatory, and, if substantially followed, the initiative petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

Section 5. Section **20A-7-504** is amended to read:

20A-7-504. Circulation requirements -- Local clerk to provide sponsors with materials.

(1) In order to obtain the necessary number of signatures required by this part, the sponsors shall circulate initiative packets that meet the form requirements of this part.

(2) ~~[The]~~ Within five days after the day on which a local clerk receives an application that complies with the requirements of Section 20A-7-502, the local clerk shall furnish to the sponsors:

(a) one copy of the initiative petition; and

(b) one signature sheet.

(3) The sponsors of the petition shall:

(a) arrange and pay for the printing of all additional copies of the petition and signature sheets; and

(b) ensure that the copies of the petition and signature sheets meet the form requirements of this section.

(4) (a) The sponsors may prepare the initiative for circulation by creating multiple initiative packets.

(b) The sponsors shall create those packets by binding a copy of the initiative petition,

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a copy of the proposed law, and no more than 50 signature sheets together at the top in such a way that the packets may be conveniently opened for signing.

(c) The sponsors need not attach a uniform number of signature sheets to each initiative packet.

(5) (a) After the sponsors have prepared sufficient initiative packets, they shall return them to the local clerk.

(b) The local clerk shall:

(i) number each of the initiative packets and return them to the sponsors within five working days; and

(ii) keep a record of the numbers assigned to each packet.

Section 6. Section **20A-7-601** is amended to read:

20A-7-601. Referenda -- General signature requirements -- Signature requirements for land use laws and subjurisdictional laws -- Time requirements.

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (2) or (3), a person seeking to have a local law passed by the local legislative body submitted to a vote of the people shall obtain legal signatures equal to:

(a) 10% of all the votes cast in the county, city, or town for all candidates for president of the United States at the last election at which a president of the United States was elected if the total number of votes exceeds 25,000;

(b) 12-1/2% of all the votes cast in the county, city, or town for all candidates for president of the United States at the last election at which a president of the United States was elected if the total number of votes does not exceed 25,000 but is more than 10,000;

(c) 15% of all the votes cast in the county, city, or town for all candidates for president of the United States at the last election at which a president of the United States was elected if the total number of votes does not exceed 10,000 but is more than 2,500;

(d) 20% of all the votes cast in the county, city, or town for all candidates for president of the United States at the last election at which a president of the United States was elected if the total number of votes does not exceed 2,500 but is more than 500;

(e) 25% of all the votes cast in the county, city, or town for all candidates for president of the United States at the last election at which a president of the United States was elected if the total number of votes does not exceed 500 but is more than 250; and

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(f) 30% of all the votes cast in the county, city, or town for all candidates for president of the United States at the last election at which a president of the United States was elected if the total number of votes does not exceed 250.

(2) (a) As used in this Subsection (2), "land use law" includes a land use development code, an annexation ordinance, and comprehensive zoning ordinances.

(b) Except as provided in Subsection (3), a person seeking to have a land use law or local obligation law passed by the local legislative body submitted to a vote of the people shall obtain legal signatures equal to:

(i) in a county or in a city of the first or second class, 20% of all votes cast in the county or city for all candidates for president of the United States at the last election at which a president of the United States was elected; and

(ii) in a city of the third, fourth, or fifth class or a town, 35% of all the votes cast in the city or town for all candidates for president of the United States at the last election at which a president of the United States was elected.

(3) (a) As used in this Subsection (3):

(i) "Subjurisdiction" means an area comprised of all precincts and subprecincts in the jurisdiction of a county, city, or town that are subject to a subjurisdictional law.

(ii) "Subjurisdictional law" means a local law or local obligation law passed by a local legislative body that imposes a tax or other payment obligation on property in an area that does not include all precincts and subprecincts under the jurisdiction of the county, city, or town.

(b) A person seeking to have a subjurisdictional law passed by the local legislative body submitted to a vote of the people shall obtain legal signatures of the residents in the subjurisdiction equal to:

(i) 10% of the total votes cast in the subjurisdiction for all candidates for president of the United States at the last election at which a president of the United States was elected if the total number of votes exceeds 25,000;

(ii) 12-1/2% of all the votes cast in the subjurisdiction for all candidates for president of the United States at the last election at which a president of the United States was elected if the total number of votes does not exceed 25,000 but is more than 10,000;

(iii) 15% of all the votes cast in the subjurisdiction for all candidates for president of the United States at the last election at which a president of the United States was elected if the

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total number of votes does not exceed 10,000 but is more than 2,500;

(iv) 20% of all the votes cast in the subjurisdiction for all candidates for president of the United States at the last election at which a president of the United States was elected if the total number of votes does not exceed 2,500 but is more than 500;

(v) 25% of all the votes cast in the subjurisdiction for all candidates for president of the United States at the last election at which a president of the United States was elected if the total number of votes does not exceed 500 but is more than 250; and

(vi) 30% of all the votes cast in the subjurisdiction for all candidates for president of the United States at the last election at which a president of the United States was elected if the total number of votes does not exceed 250.

(4) (a) Sponsors of any referendum petition challenging, under Subsection (1), (2), or (3) any local law passed by a local legislative body shall file the application within five days after the passage of the local law.

(b) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(c), when a referendum petition has been declared sufficient, the local law that is the subject of the petition does not take effect unless and until the local law is approved by a vote of the people.

(c) When a referendum petition challenging a subjurisdictional law has been declared sufficient, the subjurisdictional law that is the subject of the petition does not take effect unless and until the subjurisdictional law is approved by a vote of the people who reside in the subjurisdiction.

(5) If the referendum passes, the local law that was challenged by the referendum is repealed as of the date of the election.

(6) Nothing in this section authorizes a local legislative body to impose a tax or other payment obligation on a subjurisdiction in order to benefit an area outside of the subjurisdiction.

Section 7. Section **20A-7-602** is amended to read:

20A-7-602. Local referendum process -- Application procedures.

(1) Persons wishing to circulate a referendum petition shall file an application with the local clerk.

(2) The application shall contain:

(a) the name and residence address of at least five sponsors of the referendum petition;

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(b) a certification indicating that each of the sponsors:

(i) is a resident of Utah; and

(ii) (A) if the referendum challenges a county [~~ordinance~~] local law, has voted in a regular general election in Utah within the last three years; ~~{}~~or~~{}~~

(B) if the referendum challenges a municipal [~~ordinance~~] local law, has voted in a regular municipal election in Utah within the last three years;~~{ or }~~

~~{ (C) if the referendum challenges a local law other than a local law described in Subsection (2)(b)(ii)(A) or (B), has, within the last three years, voted in Utah in a regular general election or a municipal general election.~~

~~{~~ (c) the signature of each of the sponsors, attested to by a notary public; and

(d) (i) if the referendum challenges an ordinance or resolution, one copy of the law[-];

or

(ii) if the referendum challenges a local law that is not an ordinance or resolution, a written description of the local law, including the result of the vote on the local law.

Section 8. Section **20A-7-603** is amended to read:

20A-7-603. Form of referendum petition and signature sheets.

(1) (a) Each proposed referendum petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:

"REFERENDUM PETITION To the Honorable _____, County Clerk/City Recorder/Town Clerk:

We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully order that [~~Ordinance No. _____, entitled (title of ordinance, and, if the petition is against less than the whole ordinance, set forth here the part or parts on which the referendum is sought)~~] (description of local law or portion of local law being challenged), passed by the _____ be referred to the voters for their approval or rejection at the regular/municipal general election to be held on _____ (month\day\year);

Each signer says:

I have personally signed this petition;

I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the certification of the petition names by the county clerk; and

My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name."

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(b) The sponsors of a referendum shall attach a copy of the law that is the subject of the referendum to each referendum petition.

(2) Each signature sheet shall:

(a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

(b) be ruled with a horizontal line three-fourths inch from the top, with the space above that line blank for the purpose of binding;

(c) contain the title of the referendum printed below the horizontal line;

(d) contain the word "Warning" printed or typed at the top of each signature sheet under the title of the referendum;

(e) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed or typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:

"It is a class A misdemeanor for [~~anyone~~] an individual to sign [~~any~~] a referendum petition with any other name than [~~his~~] the individual's own name, or to knowingly [~~to~~] sign [~~his~~] the individual's name more than once for the same measure, or to sign a referendum petition when [~~he~~] the individual knows [~~he~~] that the individual is not a registered voter and knows that [~~he~~] the individual does not intend to become registered to vote before the certification of the petition names by the county clerk.";

(f) contain horizontally ruled lines three-eighths inch apart under the "Warning" statement required by this section;

(g) be vertically divided into columns as follows:

(i) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be five-eighths inch wide, be headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical line down the middle;

(ii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)";

(iii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered Voter";

(iv) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age (Optional)";
and

(v) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip Code"; and

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~~[(h) spanning the sheet horizontally beneath each row on which a registered voter may submit the information described in Subsection (2)(g), contain the following statement printed or typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:]~~

~~["By signing this petition, you are stating that you have read and understand the law this petition seeks to overturn."; and]~~

~~[(†) (h) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records."]~~

(3) The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the following printed or typed statement:

"Verification

State of Utah, County of _____

I, _____, of _____, hereby state that:

I am a resident of Utah and am at least 18 years old;

All the names that appear in this referendum packet were signed by persons who professed to be the persons whose names appear in it, and each of them signed his name on it in my presence;

I believe that each has printed and signed his name and written his post office address and residence correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah or intends to become registered to vote before the certification of the petition names by the county clerk.

_____ "

(4) The forms prescribed in this section are not mandatory, and, if substantially followed, the referendum petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

Section 9. Section **20A-7-604** is amended to read:

20A-7-604. Circulation requirements -- Local clerk to provide sponsors with materials.

(1) In order to obtain the necessary number of signatures required by this part, the sponsors shall circulate referendum packets that meet the form requirements of this part.

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(2) ~~[The]~~ Within five days after the day on which a local clerk receives an application that complies with the requirements of Section 20A-7-602, the local clerk shall furnish to the sponsors:

(a) five copies of the referendum petition; and

(b) five signature sheets.

(3) The sponsors of the petition shall:

(a) arrange and pay for the printing of all additional copies of the petition and signature sheets; and

(b) ensure that the copies of the petition and signature sheets meet the form requirements of this section.

(4) (a) The sponsors may prepare the referendum for circulation by creating multiple referendum packets.

(b) The sponsors shall create those packets by binding a copy of the referendum petition, a copy of the law that is the subject of the referendum, and no more than 50 signature sheets together at the top in such a way that the packets may be conveniently opened for signing.

(c) The sponsors need not attach a uniform number of signature sheets to each referendum packet.

(5) (a) After the sponsors have prepared sufficient referendum packets, they shall return them to the local clerk.

(b) The local clerk shall:

(i) number each of the referendum packets and return them to the sponsors within five working days; and

(ii) keep a record of the numbers assigned to each packet.

Section 10. Section **20A-7-606** is amended to read:

20A-7-606. Submitting the referendum petition -- Certification of signatures by the county clerks -- Transfer to local clerk.

(1) (a) The sponsors shall deliver each signed and verified referendum packet to the county clerk of the county in which the packet was circulated no later than 45 days after the day on which the ~~[local law is passed]~~ sponsors receive the items described in Subsection 20A-7-604(2) from the local clerk.

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(b) A sponsor may not submit a referendum packet after the deadline established in this Subsection (1).

(2) (a) No later than 15 days after the day on which a county clerk receives a referendum packet under Subsection (1)(a), the county clerk shall:

(i) check the names of all persons completing the verification on the last page of each referendum packet to determine whether those persons are Utah residents and are at least 18 years old; and

(ii) submit the name of each of those persons who is not a Utah resident or who is not at least 18 years old to the attorney general and county attorney.

(b) The county clerk may not certify a signature under Subsection (3) on a referendum packet that is not verified in accordance with Section 20A-7-605.

(3) No later than 30 days after the day on which a county clerk receives a referendum packet under Subsection (1)(a), the county clerk shall:

(a) determine whether each signer is a registered voter according to the requirements of Section 20A-7-606.3;

(b) certify on the referendum petition whether each name is that of a registered voter; and

(c) deliver all of the verified referendum packets to the local clerk.

Section 11. Section **20A-7-613** is amended to read:

20A-7-613. Property tax referendum petition.

(1) As used in this section [~~:(a) "Certified",~~ "certified tax rate" [is as] means the same as that term is defined in Subsection 59-2-924(3)(a).

[~~(b) "Fiscal year taxing entity" means a taxing entity that operates under a fiscal year that begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.~~]

(2) Except as provided in this section, the requirements of this part apply to a referendum petition challenging a [fiscal year] taxing entity's [~~local~~] legislative body's vote to impose a tax rate that exceeds the certified tax rate.

(3) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-7-604(5), the local clerk shall number each of the referendum packets and return them to the sponsors within two working days.

(4) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-7-606(1), the sponsors shall deliver each signed and verified referendum packet to the county clerk of the county in which the packet was

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circulated no later than 40 days after the day on which the local clerk complies with Subsection (3).

(5) Notwithstanding Subsections 20A-7-606(2) and (3), the county clerk shall take the actions required in Subsections 20A-7-606(2) and (3) within 10 working days after the day on which the county clerk receives the signed and verified referendum packet as described in Subsection (4).

(6) The local clerk shall take the actions required by Section 20A-7-607 within two working days after the day on which the local clerk receives the referendum packets from the county clerk.

(7) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-7-608(2), the local attorney shall prepare the ballot title within two working days after the day on which the referendum petition is declared sufficient for submission to a vote of the people.

(8) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-7-609(2)(c), a referendum that qualifies for the ballot under this section shall appear on the ballot for the earlier of the next regular general election or the next municipal general election unless a special election is called.

(9) Notwithstanding the requirements related to absentee ballots under this title:

(a) the election officer shall prepare absentee ballots for those voters who have requested an absentee ballot as soon as possible after the ballot title is prepared as described in Subsection (7); and

(b) the election officer shall mail absentee ballots on a referendum under this section the later of:

(i) the time provided in Section 20A-3-305 or 20A-16-403; or

(ii) the time that absentee ballots are prepared for mailing under this section.

(10) Section 20A-7-402 does not apply to a referendum described in this section.

(11) (a) If a majority of voters does not vote against imposing the tax at a rate calculated to generate the increased revenue budgeted, adopted, and approved by the [fiscal year] taxing entity's ~~fiscal~~ legislative body:

(i) the certified tax rate for the fiscal year during which the referendum petition is filed is its most recent certified tax rate; and

(ii) the proposed increased revenues for purposes of establishing the certified tax rate for the fiscal year after the fiscal year described in Subsection (11)(a)(i) are the proposed

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increased revenues budgeted, adopted, and approved by the [fiscal-year] taxing entity's ~~{local}~~ legislative body before the filing of the referendum petition.

(b) If a majority of voters votes against imposing a tax at the rate established by the vote of the [fiscal-year] taxing entity's ~~{local}~~ legislative body, the certified tax rate for the [fiscal-year] taxing entity is ~~[its] {political subdivision is} the {political subdivision's} taxing entity's~~ most recent certified tax rate.

(c) If the tax rate is set in accordance with Subsection (11)(a)(ii), a [fiscal-year] taxing entity ~~{political subdivision}~~ is not required to comply with the notice and public hearing requirements of Section 59-2-919 if the [fiscal-year] taxing entity ~~{political subdivision}~~ complies with those notice and public hearing requirements before the referendum petition is filed.

(12) The ballot title shall, at a minimum, include in substantially this form the following: "Shall the [name of the ~~{}~~ taxing entity ~~{political subdivision}~~] be authorized to levy a tax rate in the amount sufficient to generate an increased property tax revenue of [amount] for fiscal year [year] as budgeted, adopted, and approved by the [name of the ~~{}~~ taxing entity ~~{political subdivision?}~~]".

(13) A [fiscal-year] taxing entity ~~{political subdivision}~~ shall pay the county the costs incurred by the county that are directly related to meeting the requirements of this section and that the county would not have incurred but for compliance with this section.

(14) (a) An election officer shall include on a ballot a referendum that has not yet qualified for placement on the ballot, if:

(i) sponsors file an application for a referendum described in this section;

(ii) the ballot will be used for the election for which the sponsors are attempting to qualify the referendum; and

(iii) the deadline for qualifying the referendum for placement on the ballot occurs after the day on which the ballot will be printed.

(b) If an election officer includes on a ballot a referendum described in Subsection (14)(a), the ballot title shall comply with Subsection (12).

(c) If an election officer includes on a ballot a referendum described in Subsection (14)(a) that does not qualify for placement on the ballot, the election officer shall inform the voters by any practicable method that the referendum has not qualified for the ballot and that

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votes cast in relation to the referendum will not be counted.