

## SB0050S02 compared with SB0050S01

~~text~~ shows text that was in SB0050S01 but was deleted in SB0050S02.

Inserted text shows text that was not in SB0050S01 but was inserted into SB0050S02.

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Senator Evan J. Vickers proposes the following substitute bill:

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE AMENDMENTS

2019 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers**

House Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### LONG TITLE

##### General Description:

This bill prohibits an individual from holding certain local government offices at the same time.

##### Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ prohibits an individual from, at the same time, holding a county elected office and a municipal elected office~~;~~; and
- ▶ for a candidate for county or municipal office, requires a filing officer to provide notice of the prohibition described in the preceding paragraph at the time the declaration of candidacy or nomination petition is filed; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

##### Money Appropriated in this Bill:

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None

### Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

### Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

**10-3-301**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2017, Chapters 91 and 137

**17-16-6**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68

[20A-9-201](#), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 11

[20A-9-203](#), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapters 11 and 365

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

Section 1. Section **10-3-301** is amended to read:

**10-3-301. Notice -- Eligibility and residency requirements for elected municipal office -- Mayor and recorder limitations.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Absent" means that an elected municipal officer fails to perform official duties, including the officer's failure to attend each regularly scheduled meeting that the officer is required to attend.

(b) "Principal place of residence" means the same as that term is defined in Section 20A-2-105.

(c) "Secondary residence" means a place where an individual resides other than the individual's principal place of residence.

(2) (a) On or before May 1 in a year in which there is a municipal general election, the municipal clerk shall publish a notice that identifies:

(i) the municipal offices to be voted on in the municipal general election; and

(ii) the dates for filing a declaration of candidacy for the offices identified under

Subsection (2)(a)(i).

(b) The municipal clerk shall publish the notice described in Subsection (2)(a):

(i) on the Utah Public Notice Website established by Section 63F-1-701; and

(ii) in at least one of the following ways:

(A) at the principal office of the municipality;

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(B) in a newspaper of general circulation within the municipality at least once a week for two successive weeks in accordance with Section 45-1-101;

(C) in a newsletter produced by the municipality;

(D) on a website operated by the municipality; or

(E) with a utility enterprise fund customer's bill.

(3) (a) An individual who files a declaration of candidacy for a municipal office shall comply with the requirements described in Section 20A-9-203.

(b) (i) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b)(ii), the city recorder or town clerk of each municipality shall maintain office hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the dates described in Subsections 20A-9-203(3)(a)(i) and (b)(i) unless the date occurs on a:

(A) Saturday or Sunday; or

(B) state holiday as listed in Section 63G-1-301.

(ii) If on a regular basis a city recorder or town clerk maintains an office schedule that is less than 40 hours per week, the city recorder or town clerk may comply with Subsection (3)(b)(i) without maintaining office hours by:

(A) posting the recorder's or clerk's contact information, including a phone number and email address, on the recorder's or clerk's office door, the main door to the municipal offices, and, if available, on the municipal website; and

(B) being available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the dates described in Subsection (3)(b)(i), via the contact information described in Subsection (2)(b)(ii)(A).

(4) An individual elected to municipal office shall be a registered voter in the municipality in which the individual is elected.

(5) (a) Each elected officer of a municipality shall maintain a principal place of residence within the municipality during the officer's term of office.

(b) Except as provided in Subsection (6), an elected municipal office is automatically vacant if the officer elected to the municipal office, during the officer's term of office:

(i) establishes a principal place of residence outside the municipality;

(ii) resides at a secondary residence outside the municipality for a continuous period of more than 60 days while still maintaining a principal place of residence within the municipality;

(iii) is absent from the municipality for a continuous period of more than 60 days; or

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(iv) fails to respond to a request, within 30 days after the day on which the elected officer receives the request, from the county clerk or the lieutenant governor seeking information to determine the officer's residency.

(6) (a) Notwithstanding Subsection (5), if an elected municipal officer obtains the consent of the municipal legislative body in accordance with Subsection (6)(b) before the expiration of the 60-day period described in Subsection (5)(b)(ii) or (iii), the officer may:

(i) reside at a secondary residence outside the municipality while still maintaining a principal place of residence within the municipality for a continuous period of up to one year during the officer's term of office; or

(ii) be absent from the municipality for a continuous period of up to one year during the officer's term of office.

(b) At a public meeting, the municipal legislative body may give the consent described in Subsection (6)(a) by majority vote after taking public comment regarding:

(i) whether the legislative body should give the consent; and

(ii) the length of time to which the legislative body should consent.

(7) (a) The mayor of a municipality may not also serve as the municipal recorder or treasurer.

(b) The recorder of a municipality may not also serve as the municipal treasurer.

(c) An individual who holds a county elected office may not, at the same time, hold a municipal elected office.

(d) The restriction described in Subsection (7)(c) applies regardless of whether the individual is elected to the office or appointed to fill a vacancy in the office.

Section 2. Section **17-16-6** is amended to read:

**17-16-6. County officers -- Time of holding elections -- County commissioners -- Terms of office.**

(1) Except as otherwise provided in an optional plan adopted under Chapter 52a, Changing Forms of County Government:

(a) each elected county officer shall be elected at the regular general election every four years in accordance with Section 20A-1-201, except as otherwise provided in this title;

(b) county commissioners shall be elected at the times, in the manner, and for the terms provided in Section 17-52a-201; and

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(c) an elected officer shall hold office for the term for which the officer is elected, beginning at noon on the first Monday in January following the officer's election and until a successor is elected or appointed and qualified, except as provided in Section 17-16-1.

(2) (a) The terms of county officers shall be staggered in accordance with this Subsection (2).

(b) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(c), in the 2014 general election:

(i) the following county officers shall be elected to one six-year term and thereafter elected to a four-year term:

(A) county treasurer;

(B) county recorder;

(C) county surveyor; and

(D) county assessor; and

(ii) all other county officers shall be elected to a four-year term.

(c) If a county legislative body consolidates two or more county offices in accordance with Section 17-16-3, and the consolidated offices are on conflicting election schedules, the county legislative body shall pass an ordinance that sets the election schedule for the consolidated offices in a reasonable manner that staggers the terms of county officers as provided in this Subsection (2).

(3) An individual who holds a municipal elected office may not, at the same time, hold a county elected office.

(4) The restriction described in Subsection (3) applies regardless of whether the individual is elected to the office or appointed to fill a vacancy in the office.

Section 3. Section 20A-9-201 is amended to read:

**20A-9-201. Declarations of candidacy -- Candidacy for more than one office or of more than one political party prohibited with exceptions -- General filing and form requirements -- Affidavit of impecuniosity.**

(1) Before filing a declaration of candidacy for election to any office, an individual shall:

(a) be a United States citizen;

(b) meet the legal requirements of that office; and

(c) if seeking a registered political party's nomination as a candidate for elective office,

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state:

(i) the registered political party of which the individual is a member; or

(ii) that the individual is not a member of a registered political party.

(2) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), an individual may not:

(i) file a declaration of candidacy for, or be a candidate for, more than one office in

Utah during any election year;

(ii) appear on the ballot as the candidate of more than one political party; or

(iii) file a declaration of candidacy for a registered political party of which the individual is not a member, except to the extent that the registered political party permits otherwise in the registered political party's bylaws.

(b) (i) An individual may file a declaration of candidacy for, or be a candidate for, president or vice president of the United States and another office, if the individual resigns the individual's candidacy for the other office after the individual is officially nominated for president or vice president of the United States.

(ii) An individual may file a declaration of candidacy for, or be a candidate for, more than one justice court judge office.

(iii) An individual may file a declaration of candidacy for lieutenant governor even if the individual filed a declaration of candidacy for another office in the same election year if the individual withdraws as a candidate for the other office in accordance with Subsection 20A-9-202(6) before filing the declaration of candidacy for lieutenant governor.

(3) (a) Except for a candidate for president or vice president of the United States, before the filing officer may accept any declaration of candidacy, the filing officer shall:

(i) read to the individual the constitutional and statutory qualification requirements for the office that the individual is seeking; [and]

(ii) require the individual to state whether the individual meets [those] the requirements[-] described in Subsection (3)(a)(i); and

(iii) if the declaration of candidacy is for a county office, inform the individual that an individual who holds a county elected office may not, at the same time, hold a municipal elected office.

(b) Before accepting a declaration of candidacy for the office of county attorney, the county clerk shall ensure that the individual filing that declaration of candidacy is:

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(i) a United States citizen;

(ii) an attorney licensed to practice law in the state who is an active member in good standing of the Utah State Bar;

(iii) a registered voter in the county in which the individual is seeking office; and

(iv) a current resident of the county in which the individual is seeking office and either has been a resident of that county for at least one year or was appointed and is currently serving as county attorney and became a resident of the county within 30 days after appointment to the office.

(c) Before accepting a declaration of candidacy for the office of district attorney, the county clerk shall ensure that, as of the date of the election, the individual filing that declaration of candidacy is:

(i) a United States citizen;

(ii) an attorney licensed to practice law in the state who is an active member in good standing of the Utah State Bar;

(iii) a registered voter in the prosecution district in which the individual is seeking office; and

(iv) a current resident of the prosecution district in which the individual is seeking office and either will have been a resident of that prosecution district for at least one year as of the date of the election or was appointed and is currently serving as district attorney and became a resident of the prosecution district within 30 days after receiving appointment to the office.

(d) Before accepting a declaration of candidacy for the office of county sheriff, the county clerk shall ensure that the individual filing the declaration:

(i) is a United States citizen;

(ii) is a registered voter in the county in which the individual seeks office;

(iii) (A) has successfully met the standards and training requirements established for law enforcement officers under Title 53, Chapter 6, Part 2, Peace Officer Training and Certification Act; or

(B) has met the waiver requirements in Section 53-6-206;

(iv) is qualified to be certified as a law enforcement officer, as defined in Section 53-13-103; and

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(v) as of the date of the election, will have been a resident of the county in which the individual seeks office for at least one year.

(e) Before accepting a declaration of candidacy for the office of governor, lieutenant governor, state auditor, state treasurer, attorney general, state legislator, or State Board of Education member, the filing officer shall ensure:

(i) that the individual filing the declaration of candidacy also files the financial disclosure required by Section 20A-11-1603; and

(ii) if the filing officer is not the lieutenant governor, that the individual provides the financial disclosure to the lieutenant governor in accordance with Section 20A-11-1603.

(4) If an individual who files a declaration of candidacy does not meet the qualification requirements for the office the individual is seeking, the filing officer may not accept the individual's declaration of candidacy.

(5) If an individual who files a declaration of candidacy meets the requirements described in Subsection (3), the filing officer shall:

(a) inform the individual that:

(i) the individual's name will appear on the ballot as the individual's name is written on the individual's declaration of candidacy;

(ii) the individual may be required to comply with state or local campaign finance disclosure laws; and

(iii) the individual is required to file a financial statement before the individual's political convention under:

(A) Section 20A-11-204 for a candidate for constitutional office;

(B) Section 20A-11-303 for a candidate for the Legislature; or

(C) local campaign finance disclosure laws, if applicable;

(b) except for a presidential candidate, provide the individual with a copy of the current campaign financial disclosure laws for the office the individual is seeking and inform the individual that failure to comply will result in disqualification as a candidate and removal of the individual's name from the ballot;

(c) provide the individual with a copy of Section 20A-7-801 regarding the Statewide Electronic Voter Information Website Program and inform the individual of the submission deadline under Subsection 20A-7-801(4)(a);

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(d) provide the candidate with a copy of the pledge of fair campaign practices described under Section 20A-9-206 and inform the candidate that:

(i) signing the pledge is voluntary; and

(ii) signed pledges shall be filed with the filing officer;

(e) accept the individual's declaration of candidacy; and

(f) if the individual has filed for a partisan office, provide a certified copy of the declaration of candidacy to the chair of the county or state political party of which the individual is a member.

(6) If the candidate elects to sign the pledge of fair campaign practices, the filing officer shall:

(a) accept the candidate's pledge; and

(b) if the candidate has filed for a partisan office, provide a certified copy of the candidate's pledge to the chair of the county or state political party of which the candidate is a member.

(7) (a) Except for a candidate for president or vice president of the United States, the form of the declaration of candidacy shall:

(i) be substantially as follows:

"State of Utah, County of \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, declare my candidacy for the office of \_\_\_\_\_, seeking the nomination of the \_\_\_\_\_ party. I do solemnly swear that: I will meet the qualifications to hold the office, both legally and constitutionally, if selected; I reside at \_\_\_\_\_ in the City or Town of \_\_\_\_\_, Utah, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_; I will not knowingly violate any law governing campaigns and elections; if filing via a designated agent, I will be out of the state of Utah during the entire candidate filing period; I will file all campaign financial disclosure reports as required by law; and I understand that failure to do so will result in my disqualification as a candidate for this office and removal of my name from the ballot. The mailing address that I designate for receiving official election notices is \_\_\_\_\_.

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

Notary Public (or other officer qualified to administer oath)."; and

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(ii) require the candidate to state, in the sworn statement described in Subsection (7)(a)(i):

(A) the registered political party of which the candidate is a member; or

(B) that the candidate is not a member of a registered political party.

(b) An agent designated under Subsection 20A-9-202(1)(b) to file a declaration of candidacy may not sign the form described in Subsection (7)(a) or Section 20A-9-408.5.

(8) (a) Except for presidential candidates, the fee for filing a declaration of candidacy is:

(i) \$50 for candidates for the local school district board; and

(ii) \$50 plus 1/8 of 1% of the total salary for the full term of office legally paid to the person holding the office for all other federal, state, and county offices.

(b) Except for presidential candidates, the filing officer shall refund the filing fee to any candidate:

(i) who is disqualified; or

(ii) who the filing officer determines has filed improperly.

(c) (i) The county clerk shall immediately pay to the county treasurer all fees received from candidates.

(ii) The lieutenant governor shall:

(A) apportion to and pay to the county treasurers of the various counties all fees received for filing of nomination certificates or acceptances; and

(B) ensure that each county receives that proportion of the total amount paid to the lieutenant governor from the congressional district that the total vote of that county for all candidates for representative in Congress bears to the total vote of all counties within the congressional district for all candidates for representative in Congress.

(d) (i) A person who is unable to pay the filing fee may file a declaration of candidacy without payment of the filing fee upon a prima facie showing of impecuniosity as evidenced by an affidavit of impecuniosity filed with the filing officer and, if requested by the filing officer, a financial statement filed at the time the affidavit is submitted.

(ii) A person who is able to pay the filing fee may not claim impecuniosity.

(iii) (A) False statements made on an affidavit of impecuniosity or a financial statement filed under this section shall be subject to the criminal penalties provided under

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Sections 76-8-503 and 76-8-504 and any other applicable criminal provision.

(B) Conviction of a criminal offense under Subsection (8)(d)(iii)(A) shall be considered an offense under this title for the purposes of assessing the penalties provided in Subsection 20A-1-609(2).

(iv) The filing officer shall ensure that the affidavit of impecuniosity is printed in substantially the following form:

"Affidavit of Impecuniosity

Individual Name

Address

Phone Number

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name), do solemnly [swear] [affirm], under penalty of law for false statements, that, owing to my poverty, I am unable to pay the filing fee required by law.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Affiant

Subscribed and sworn to before me on \_\_\_\_\_ (month\day\year)

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

Name and Title of Officer Authorized to Administer Oath \_\_\_\_\_ "

(v) The filing officer shall provide to a person who requests an affidavit of impecuniosity a statement printed in substantially the following form, which may be included on the affidavit of impecuniosity:

"Filing a false statement is a criminal offense. In accordance with Section 20A-1-609, a candidate who is found guilty of filing a false statement, in addition to being subject to criminal penalties, will be removed from the ballot."

(vi) The filing officer may request that a person who makes a claim of impecuniosity under this Subsection (8)(d) file a financial statement on a form prepared by the election official.

(9) (a) If there is no legislative appropriation for the Western States Presidential Primary election, as provided in Part 8, Western States Presidential Primary, a candidate for president of the United States who is affiliated with a registered political party and chooses to

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participate in the regular primary election shall:

(i) file a declaration of candidacy, in person or via a designated agent, with the lieutenant governor:

(A) on a form developed and provided by the lieutenant governor; and

(B) on or after the second Friday in March and before 5 p.m. on the third Thursday in March before the next regular primary election;

(ii) identify the registered political party whose nomination the candidate is seeking;

(iii) provide a letter from the registered political party certifying that the candidate may participate as a candidate for that party in that party's presidential primary election; and

(iv) pay the filing fee of \$500.

(b) A designated agent described in Subsection (9)(a)(i) may not sign the form described in Subsection (9)(a)(i)(A).

(10) An individual who fails to file a declaration of candidacy or certificate of nomination within the time provided in this chapter is ineligible for nomination to office.

(11) A declaration of candidacy filed under this section may not be amended or modified after the final date established for filing a declaration of candidacy.

Section 4. Section 20A-9-203 is amended to read:

### **20A-9-203. Declarations of candidacy -- Municipal general elections.**

(1) An individual may become a candidate for any municipal office if:

(a) the individual is a registered voter; and

(b) (i) the individual has resided within the municipality in which the individual seeks to hold elective office for the 12 consecutive months immediately before the date of the election; or

(ii) the territory in which the individual resides was annexed into the municipality, the individual has resided within the annexed territory or the municipality the 12 consecutive months immediately before the date of the election.

(2) (a) For purposes of determining whether an individual meets the residency requirement of Subsection (1)(b)(i) in a municipality that was incorporated less than 12 months before the election, the municipality is considered to have been incorporated 12 months before the date of the election.

(b) In addition to the requirements of Subsection (1), each candidate for a municipal

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council position shall, if elected from a district, be a resident of the council district from which the candidate is elected.

(c) In accordance with Utah Constitution, Article IV, Section 6, a mentally incompetent individual, an individual convicted of a felony, or an individual convicted of treason or a crime against the elective franchise may not hold office in this state until the right to hold elective office is restored under Section 20A-2-101.3 or 20A-2-101.5.

(3) (a) An individual seeking to become a candidate for a municipal office shall, regardless of the nomination method by which the individual is seeking to become a candidate:

(i) except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), file a declaration of candidacy, in person with the city recorder or town clerk, during the office hours described in Section 10-3-301 and not later than the close of those office hours, between June 1 and June 7 of any odd-numbered year; and

(ii) pay the filing fee, if one is required by municipal ordinance.

(b) Subject to Subsection (5)(b), an individual may designate an agent to file a declaration of candidacy with the city recorder or town clerk if:

(i) the individual is located outside of the state during the entire filing period;

(ii) the designated agent appears in person before the city recorder or town clerk;

(iii) the individual communicates with the city recorder or town clerk using an electronic device that allows the individual and city recorder or town clerk to see and hear each other; and

(iv) the individual provides the city recorder or town clerk with an email address to which the city recorder or town clerk may send the individual the copies described in Subsection (4).

(c) Any resident of a municipality may nominate a candidate for a municipal office by:

(i) filing a nomination petition with the city recorder or town clerk during the office hours described in Section 10-3-301 and not later than the close of those office hours, between June 1 and June 7 of any odd-numbered year; and

(ii) paying the filing fee, if one is required by municipal ordinance.

(4) (a) Before the filing officer may accept any declaration of candidacy or nomination petition, the filing officer shall:

(i) read to the prospective candidate or individual filing the petition the constitutional

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and statutory qualification requirements for the office that the candidate is seeking; [and]

(ii) require the candidate or individual filing the petition to state whether the candidate meets [those] the requirements[-] described in Subsection (4)(a)(i); and

(iii) inform the candidate or the individual filing the petition that an individual who holds a municipal elected office may not, at the same time, hold a county elected office.

(b) If the prospective candidate does not meet the qualification requirements for the office, the filing officer may not accept the declaration of candidacy or nomination petition.

(c) If it appears that the prospective candidate meets the requirements of candidacy, the filing officer shall:

(i) inform the candidate that the candidate's name will appear on the ballot as it is written on the declaration of candidacy;

(ii) provide the candidate with a copy of the current campaign financial disclosure laws for the office the candidate is seeking and inform the candidate that failure to comply will result in disqualification as a candidate and removal of the candidate's name from the ballot;

(iii) provide the candidate with a copy of Section 20A-7-801 regarding the Statewide Electronic Voter Information Website Program and inform the candidate of the submission deadline under Subsection 20A-7-801(4)(a);

(iv) provide the candidate with a copy of the pledge of fair campaign practices described under Section 20A-9-206 and inform the candidate that:

(A) signing the pledge is voluntary; and

(B) signed pledges shall be filed with the filing officer; and

(v) accept the declaration of candidacy or nomination petition.

(d) If the candidate elects to sign the pledge of fair campaign practices, the filing officer shall:

(i) accept the candidate's pledge; and

(ii) if the candidate has filed for a partisan office, provide a certified copy of the candidate's pledge to the chair of the county or state political party of which the candidate is a member.

(5) (a) The declaration of candidacy shall be in substantially the following form:

"I, (print name) \_\_\_\_\_, being first sworn, say that I reside at \_\_\_\_\_ Street, City of \_\_\_\_\_, County of \_\_\_\_\_, state of Utah, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_, Telephone Number (if any) \_\_\_\_\_; that I am a

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registered voter; and that I am a candidate for the office of \_\_\_\_\_ (stating the term). I will meet the legal qualifications required of candidates for this office. If filing via a designated agent, I attest that I will be out of the state of Utah during the entire candidate filing period. I will file all campaign financial disclosure reports as required by law and I understand that failure to do so will result in my disqualification as a candidate for this office and removal of my name from the ballot. I request that my name be printed upon the applicable official ballots. (Signed)

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me by \_\_\_\_\_ on this \_\_\_\_\_ (month\day\year).

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_ (Clerk or other officer qualified to administer oath)".

(b) An agent designated under Subsection (3)(b) to file a declaration of candidacy may not sign the form described in Subsection (5)(a).

(6) If the declaration of candidacy or nomination petition fails to state whether the nomination is for the two-year or four-year term, the clerk shall consider the nomination to be for the four-year term.

(7) (a) The clerk shall verify with the county clerk that all candidates are registered voters.

(b) Any candidate who is not registered to vote is disqualified and the clerk may not print the candidate's name on the ballot.

(8) Immediately after expiration of the period for filing a declaration of candidacy, the clerk shall:

(a) cause the names of the candidates as they will appear on the ballot to be published:

(i) in at least two successive publications of a newspaper with general circulation in the municipality; and

(ii) as required in Section 45-1-101; and

(b) notify the lieutenant governor of the names of the candidates as they will appear on the ballot.

(9) Except as provided in Subsection (10)(c), an individual may not amend a declaration of candidacy or nomination petition filed under this section after the candidate filing period ends.

(10) (a) A declaration of candidacy or nomination petition that an individual files under

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this section is valid unless a person files a written objection with the clerk within five days after the last day for filing.

(b) If a person files an objection, the clerk shall:

(i) mail or personally deliver notice of the objection to the affected candidate immediately; and

(ii) decide any objection within 48 hours after the objection is filed.

(c) If the clerk sustains the objection, the candidate may, within three days after the day on which the clerk sustains the objection, correct the problem for which the objection is sustained by amending the candidate's declaration of candidacy or nomination petition, or by filing a new declaration of candidacy.

(d) (i) The clerk's decision upon objections to form is final.

(ii) The clerk's decision upon substantive matters is reviewable by a district court if prompt application is made to the district court.

(iii) The decision of the district court is final unless the Supreme Court, in the exercise of its discretion, agrees to review the lower court decision.

(11) A candidate who qualifies for the ballot under this section may withdraw as a candidate by filing a written affidavit with the municipal clerk.

Section 5. Effective date.

This bill takes effect on January 1, 2020.