

SB0206S02 compared with SB0206

~~text~~ shows text that was in SB0206 but was deleted in SB0206S02.

text shows text that was not in SB0206 but was inserted into SB0206S02.

DISCLAIMER: This document is provided to assist you in your comparison of the two bills. Sometimes this automated comparison will NOT be completely accurate. Therefore, you need to read the actual bills. This automatically generated document could contain inaccuracies caused by: limitations of the compare program; bad input data; or other causes.

Senator Daniel McCay proposes the following substitute bill:

JUDICIAL ELECTION AMENDMENTS

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Daniel McCay

House Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill ~~modifies provisions regarding~~ provides information requirements related to a judicial retention election.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ requires the ~~county clerk to include the retention recommendation of~~ Judicial Retention Evaluation Commission's website address to be included on:
 - a general election ballot; and
 - the electronic voter information website; and
- ▶ requires other information related to the Judicial Retention Evaluation ~~Committee~~ Commission be included on ~~a judicial retention ballot~~ the electronic voter information website.

SB0206S02 compared with SB0206

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

[20A-7-801, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 255](#)

[20A-12-201, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2017, Chapter 81](#)

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

[Section 1. Section 20A-7-801 is amended to read:](#)

20A-7-801. Statewide Electronic Voter Information Website Program -- Duties of the lieutenant governor -- Content -- Duties of local election officials -- Deadlines -- Frequently asked voter questions -- Other elections.

(1) There is established the Statewide Electronic Voter Information Website Program administered by the lieutenant governor in cooperation with the county clerks for general elections and municipal authorities for municipal elections.

(2) In accordance with this section, and as resources become available, the lieutenant governor, in cooperation with county clerks, shall develop, establish, and maintain a state-provided Internet website designed to help inform the voters of the state of:

(a) the offices and candidates up for election; and

(b) the content, effect, operation, fiscal impact, and supporting and opposing arguments of ballot propositions submitted to the voters.

(3) Except as provided under Subsection (6), the website shall include:

(a) all information currently provided in the Utah voter information pamphlet under Chapter 7, Part 7, Voter Information Pamphlet, including a section prepared, analyzed, and submitted by the ~~Judicial Council~~ Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission describing the judicial selection and retention process;

[\(b\) on the homepage of the website, a link to the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's website, judges.utah.gov;](#)

[\(c\) a link to the retention recommendation made by the Judicial Performance](#)

SB0206S02 compared with SB0206

Evaluation Commission in accordance with Title 78A, Chapter 12, Part 2, Judicial Performance Evaluation, for each judicial appointee to a court that is subject to a retention election, in accordance with Section 20A-12-201, for the upcoming general election;

~~(b)~~ (d) all information submitted by election officers under Subsection (4) on local office races, local office candidates, and local ballot propositions;

~~(c)~~ (e) a list that contains the name of a political subdivision that operates an election day voting center under Section 20A-3-703 and the location of the election day voting center;

~~(d)~~ (f) other information determined appropriate by the lieutenant governor that is currently being provided by law, rule, or ordinance in relation to candidates and ballot questions; and

~~(e)~~ (g) any differences in voting method, time, or location designated by the lieutenant governor under Subsection 20A-1-308(2).

(4) (a) An election official shall submit the following information for each ballot label under the election official's direct responsibility under this title:

(i) a list of all candidates for each office;

(ii) if submitted by the candidate to the election official's office before 5 p.m. no later than 45 days before the primary election or before 5 p.m. no later than 60 days before the general election:

(A) a statement of qualifications, not exceeding 200 words in length, for each candidate;

(B) the following current biographical information if desired by the candidate, current:

(I) age;

(II) occupation;

(III) city of residence;

(IV) years of residence in current city; and

(V) email address; and

(C) a single web address where voters may access more information about the candidate and the candidate's views; and

(iii) factual information pertaining to all ballot propositions submitted to the voters, including:

(A) a copy of the number and ballot title of each ballot proposition;

SB0206S02 compared with SB0206

(B) the final vote cast for each ballot proposition, if any, by a legislative body if the vote was required to place the ballot proposition on the ballot;

(C) a complete copy of the text of each ballot proposition, with all new language underlined and all deleted language placed within brackets; and

(D) other factual information determined helpful by the election official.

(b) The information under Subsection (4)(a) shall be submitted to the lieutenant governor no later than one business day after the deadline under Subsection (4)(a) for each general election year and each municipal election year.

(c) The lieutenant governor shall:

(i) review the information submitted under this section, to determine compliance under this section, prior to placing it on the website;

(ii) refuse to post information submitted under this section on the website if it is not in compliance with the provisions of this section; and

(iii) organize, format, and arrange the information submitted under this section for the website.

(d) The lieutenant governor may refuse to include information the lieutenant governor determines is not in keeping with:

(i) Utah voter needs;

(ii) public decency; or

(iii) the purposes, organization, or uniformity of the website.

(e) A refusal under Subsection (4)(d) is subject to appeal in accordance with Subsection (5).

(5) (a) A person whose information is refused under Subsection (4), and who is aggrieved by the determination, may appeal by submitting a written notice of appeal to the lieutenant governor before 5 p.m. within 10 business days after the date of the determination.

A notice of appeal submitted under this Subsection (5)(a) shall contain:

(i) a listing of each objection to the lieutenant governor's determination; and

(ii) the basis for each objection.

(b) The lieutenant governor shall review the notice of appeal and shall issue a written response within 10 business days after the day on which the notice of appeal is submitted.

(c) An appeal of the response of the lieutenant governor shall be made to the district

SB0206S02 compared with SB0206

court, which shall review the matter de novo.

(6) (a) The lieutenant governor shall ensure that each voter will be able to conveniently enter the voter's address information on the website to retrieve information on which offices, candidates, and ballot propositions will be on the voter's ballot at the next general election or municipal election.

(b) The information on the website will anticipate and answer frequent voter questions including the following:

- (i) what offices are up in the current year for which the voter may cast a vote;
- (ii) who is running for what office and who is the incumbent, if any;
- (iii) what address each candidate may be reached at and how the candidate may be contacted;
- (iv) for partisan races only, what, if any, is each candidate's party affiliation;
- (v) what qualifications have been submitted by each candidate;
- (vi) where additional information on each candidate may be obtained;
- (vii) what ballot propositions will be on the ballot; and
- (viii) what judges are up for retention election.

(7) As resources are made available and in cooperation with the county clerks, the lieutenant governor may expand the electronic voter information website program to include the same information as provided under this section for special elections and primary elections.

Section ~~11~~2. Section **20A-12-201** is amended to read:

20A-12-201. Judicial appointees -- Retention elections.

(1) (a) Each judicial appointee to a court is subject to an unopposed retention election at the first general election held more than three years after the judge or justice was appointed.

(b) After the first retention election:

- (i) each Supreme Court justice shall be on the regular general election ballot for an unopposed retention election every tenth year; and
- (ii) each judge of other courts shall be on the regular general election ballot for an unopposed retention election every sixth year.

(2) (a) Each justice or judge of a court of record who wishes to retain office shall, in the year the justice or judge is subject to a retention election:

- (i) file a declaration of candidacy with the lieutenant governor, or with the county clerk

SB0206S02 compared with SB0206

in the candidate's county of residence, within the period beginning on July 1 and ending at 5 p.m. on July 15 in the year of a regular general election; and

(ii) pay a filing fee of \$50.

(b) (i) Each justice court judge who wishes to retain office shall, in the year the justice court judge is subject to a retention election:

(A) file a declaration of candidacy with the lieutenant governor, or with the county clerk in the candidate's county of residence, within the period beginning on July 1 and ending at 5 p.m. on July 15 in the year of a regular general election; and

(B) pay a filing fee of \$25 for each judicial office.

(ii) If a justice court judge is appointed or elected to more than one judicial office, the declaration of candidacy shall identify all of the courts included in the same general election.

(iii) If a justice court judge is appointed or elected to more than one judicial office, filing a declaration of candidacy in one county in which one of those courts is located is valid for the courts in any other county.

(3) (a) The lieutenant governor shall, no later than August 31 of each regular general election year:

(i) transmit a certified list containing the names of the justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the Court of Appeals declaring their candidacy to the county clerk of each county; and

(ii) transmit a certified list containing the names of judges of other courts declaring their candidacy to the county clerk of each county in the geographic division in which the judge filing the declaration holds office.

(b) Each county clerk shall place the names of justices and judges standing for retention election in the nonpartisan section of the ballot.

(4) (a) At the general election, the ballots shall contain ~~{}~~ (i):

(i) at the beginning of the of the judicial retention section of the ballot, the following statement:

"Visit judges.utah.gov to learn about the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's recommendations for each judge"; and

(ii) as to each justice or judge of any court to be voted on in the county ~~{}~~, {}

~~(i) notice of whether the judge or justice received a favorable or unfavorable retention~~

SB0206S02 compared with SB0206

recommendation from the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission in accordance with Title 78A, Chapter 12, Part 2, Judicial Performance Evaluation; and

~~(ii)~~ the following question:

"Shall _____ (name of justice or judge) be retained in the office of _____? (name of office, such as "Justice of the Supreme Court of Utah"; "Judge of the Court of Appeals of Utah"; "Judge of the District Court of the Third Judicial District"; "Judge of the Juvenile Court of the Fourth Juvenile Court District"; "Justice Court Judge of (name of county) County or (name of municipality)")

Yes ()

No ()."

(b) If a justice court exists by means of an interlocal agreement under Section 78A-7-102, the ballot question for the judge shall include the name of that court.

(5) (a) If the justice or judge receives more yes votes than no votes, the justice or judge is retained for the term of office provided by law.

(b) If the justice or judge does not receive more yes votes than no votes, the justice or judge is not retained, and a vacancy exists in the office on the first Monday in January after the regular general election.

(6) A justice or judge not retained is ineligible for appointment to the office for which the justice or judge was defeated until after the expiration of that term of office.

(7) If a justice court judge is standing for retention for more than one office, the county clerk shall place the judge's name on the ballot separately for each office. If the justice court judge receives more no votes than yes votes in one office, but more yes votes than no votes in the other, the justice court judge shall be retained only in the office for which the judge received more yes votes than no votes.