

Representative Jordan D. Teuscher proposes the following substitute bill:

VOTER AFFILIATION AMENDMENTS

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jordan D. Teuscher

Senate Sponsor: Curtis S. Bramble

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses voting in primary elections, and changing party affiliation, for an election held in an even-numbered year.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ amends the deadline by which a voter may change the voter's political party affiliation for an election held in an even-numbered year;
- ▶ prohibits voting in the primary elections of multiple registered political parties for the same election; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

20A-2-107, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 170



26 REPEALS AND REENACTS:

27 [20A-2-107.5](#), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 430



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

30 Section 1. Section **20A-2-107** is amended to read:

31 **20A-2-107. Designating or changing party affiliation -- Times permitted.**

32 (1) As used in this section, "change of affiliation deadline" means:

33 (a) for an election held in an even-numbered year in which a presidential election will
34 be held, the day after the declaration of candidacy deadline described in Subsection

35 20A-9-201.5(2)(b); or

36 (b) for an election held in an even-numbered year in which a presidential election will
37 not be held, April 1.

38 ~~[(1)]~~ (2) The county clerk shall:

39 (a) except as provided in Subsection ~~[(3)]~~ (6) or ~~[20A-2-107.5(1)(c)]~~ 20A-2-107.5(3),
40 record the party affiliation designated by the voter on the voter registration form as the voter's
41 party affiliation; or

42 (b) if no political party affiliation is designated by the voter on the voter registration
43 form:

44 (i) except as provided in Subsection ~~[(1)(b)(ii)]~~ (2)(b)(ii), record the voter's party
45 affiliation as the party that the voter designated the last time that the voter designated a party on
46 a voter registration form, unless the voter more recently registered as "unaffiliated"; or

47 (ii) record the voter's party affiliation as "unaffiliated" if the voter:

48 (A) did not previously designate a party;

49 (B) most recently designated the voter's party affiliation as "unaffiliated"; or

50 (C) did not previously register.

51 ~~[(2)]~~ (3) (a) Any registered voter may designate or change the voter's political party
52 affiliation by complying with the procedures and requirements of this Subsection ~~[(2)]~~ (3).

53 (b) A registered voter may designate or change the voter's political party affiliation by
54 filing with the county clerk, the municipal clerk, or the lieutenant governor a voter registration
55 form or another signed form ~~[with the county clerk]~~ that identifies the registered political party
56 with which the voter chooses to affiliate.

57 (c) Except as provided in Subsection ~~[(2)(d)]~~ (3)(d), a voter registration form or
 58 another signed form designating or changing a voter's political party affiliation takes effect
 59 when the county clerk receives the signed form.

60 (d) The party affiliation of a voter who changes party affiliation, or who becomes
 61 unaffiliated from a political party, at any time on or after the change of affiliation deadline and
 62 on or before the date of the regular primary election, takes effect the day after the statewide
 63 canvass for the regular primary election.

64 ~~[(d) In an even-numbered year, a form described in Subsection (2)(c) received by the~~
 65 ~~county clerk after March 31 takes effect on the day after that year's regular primary election if~~
 66 ~~the form changes a registered voter's affiliation with one political party to affiliate with another~~
 67 ~~political party.]~~

68 ~~[(e) Any part of a form described in Subsection (2)(d), other than the voter's~~
 69 ~~designation or change of political party affiliation, takes effect when the county clerk receives~~
 70 ~~the signed form.]~~

71 ~~[(f)]~~ (4) For purposes of Subsection ~~[(2)(d)]~~ (3)(d), a signed form described in
 72 Subsection ~~[(2)(e)]~~ (3)(c) is received by the county clerk ~~[on or before March 31]~~ before the
 73 change of affiliation deadline if:

74 ~~[(i)]~~ (a) the individual submits the form in person at the county clerk's office no later
 75 than 5 p.m. on the ~~[last business day before April 1]~~ day before the change of affiliation
 76 deadline;

77 ~~[(ii)]~~ (b) the individual submits the form electronically through the system described in
 78 Section [20A-2-206](#), at or before 11:59 p.m. ~~[on March 31]~~ before the day of the change of
 79 affiliation deadline; or

80 ~~[(iii)]~~ (c) the individual's form is clearly postmarked ~~[on or before March 31]~~ before
 81 the change of affiliation deadline.

82 ~~[(g)]~~ (5) Subsection ~~[(2)(d)]~~ (3)(d) does not apply to the party affiliation designated by
 83 a voter on ~~[the]~~ a voter registration form if:

84 ~~[(i)]~~ (a) the voter has not previously been registered to vote in the state; or

85 ~~[(ii)]~~ (b) the voter's most recent party affiliation was changed to "unaffiliated" by a
 86 county clerk under Subsection ~~[(3)]~~ (6).

87 ~~[(3)]~~ (6) If the most recent party affiliation designated by a voter is for a political party

88 that is no longer a registered political party, the county clerk shall:

89 (a) change the voter's party affiliation to "unaffiliated"; and

90 (b) notify the voter electronically or by mail:

91 (i) that the voter's affiliation has been changed to "unaffiliated" because the most recent
92 party affiliation designated by the voter is for a political party that is no longer a registered
93 political party; and

94 (ii) of the methods and deadlines for changing the voter's party affiliation.

95 Section 2. Section 20A-2-107.5 is repealed and reenacted to read:

96 **20A-2-107.5. Designating or changing party affiliation -- Regular primary**
97 **election and presidential primary election -- Voting in primaries of multiple parties**
98 **prohibited.**

99 (1) As used in this section, "change of affiliation deadline" means the same as that term
100 is defined in Subsection 20A-2-107(1).

101 (2) Except as provided in Subsection (3), a registered voter who is classified as
102 "unaffiliated" may, at a regular primary election or a presidential primary election:

103 (a) affiliate with a political party by completing a change of party affiliation form or
104 voter registration form and submitting the form to the county clerk or a poll worker; and

105 (b) vote in that party's primary election.

106 (3) The party affiliation of a voter who changes party affiliation, or who becomes
107 unaffiliated from a political party, at any time on or after the change of affiliation deadline and
108 on or before the date of the regular primary election, takes effect the day after the statewide
109 canvass for the regular primary election.

110 (4) (a) A voter who votes in the presidential primary election of a registered political
111 party may not, for the same election, vote in the presidential primary election of another
112 registered political party.

113 (b) A voter who votes in the regular primary election of a registered political party may
114 not, for the same election, vote in the regular primary election of another registered political
115 party.