

26 20A-1-609, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 395 27 20A-7-101, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapters 364 and 396 28 20A-7-504, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2000, Chapter 3 29 20A-7-601, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 242 30 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 31 32 **20A-7-604**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 1994, Chapter 272 33 20A-7-606, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 396 34 20A-7-613, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 258 35 36 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:* 37 Section 1. Section **20A-1-609** is amended to read: 38 20A-1-609. Omnibus penalties. [(1) Unless another penalty is specifically provided, any] 39 40 (1) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(b), a person who violates any provision of 41 this title is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. 42 (b) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply to: 43 (i) a provision of this title for which another penalty is expressly stated; or 44 (ii) Subsection 20A-7-203(2)(h), 20A-7-303(2)(h), 20A-7-503(2)(i), or 45 20A-7-603(2)(h). 46 (2) Except as provided by Section 20A-2-101.3 or 20A-2-101.5, a person convicted of 47 any offense under this title may not: 48 (a) file a declaration of candidacy for any office or appear on the ballot as a candidate 49 for any office during the election cycle in which the violation occurred: 50 (b) take or hold the office to which he was elected; and 51 (c) receive the emoluments of the office to which he was elected. 52 (3) (a) Any person convicted of any offense under this title forfeits the right to vote at 53 any election unless the right to vote is restored as provided in Section 20A-2-101.3 or 54 20A-2-101.5. 55 (b) Any person may challenge the right to vote of a person described in Subsection 56 (3)(a) by following the procedures and requirements of Section 20A-3-202.

57	Section 2. Section 20A-7-101 is amended to read:
58	20A-7-101. Definitions.
59	As used in this chapter:
60	(1) "Budget officer" means:
61	(a) for a county, the person designated as budget officer in Section 17-19a-203;
62	(b) for a city, the person designated as budget officer in Subsection 10-6-106(5); or
63	(c) for a town, the town council.
64	(2) "Certified" means that the county clerk has acknowledged a signature as being the
65	signature of a registered voter.
66	(3) "Circulation" means the process of submitting an initiative or referendum petition
67	to legal voters for their signature.
68	(4) "Final fiscal impact statement" means a financial statement prepared after voters
69	approve an initiative that contains the information required by Subsection 20A-7-202.5(2) or
70	20A-7-502.5(2).
71	(5) "Initial fiscal impact estimate" means:
72	(a) a financial statement prepared under Section 20A-7-202.5 after the filing of an
73	application for an initiative petition; or
74	(b) a financial and legal statement prepared under Section 20A-7-502.5 or 20A-7-602.5
75	for an initiative or referendum petition.
76	(6) "Initiative" means a new law proposed for adoption by the public as provided in
77	this chapter.
78	(7) "Initiative packet" means a copy of the initiative petition, a copy of the proposed
79	law, and the signature sheets, all of which have been bound together as a unit.
80	(8) "Legal signatures" means the number of signatures of legal voters that:
81	(a) meet the numerical requirements of this chapter; and
82	(b) have been certified and verified as provided in this chapter.
83	(9) "Legal voter" means a person who:
84	(a) is registered to vote; or
85	(b) becomes registered to vote before the county clerk certifies the signatures on an
86	initiative or referendum petition.
87	(10) "Local attorney" means the county attorney, city attorney, or town attorney in

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88 whose jurisdiction a local initiative or referendum petition is circulated. 89 (11) "Local clerk" means the county clerk, city recorder, or town clerk in whose 90 jurisdiction a local initiative or referendum petition is circulated. (12) (a) "Local law" includes: 91 92 (i) an ordinance[-]; 93 (ii) a resolution[-]; 94 (iii) a master plan[, and any]; 95 (iv) a comprehensive zoning regulation adopted by ordinance or resolution[-]; or 96 (v) other legislative action of a local legislative body. 97 (b) "Local law" does not include an individual property zoning decision. 98 (13) "Local legislative body" means the legislative body of a county, city, or town. 99 (14) "Local obligation law" means a local law passed by the local legislative body 100 regarding a bond that was approved by a majority of qualified voters in an election. 101 (15) "Local tax law" means a [local] law, passed by a political subdivision with an 102 annual or biannual calendar fiscal year, that increases a tax or imposes a new tax. 103 (16) "Measure" means a proposed constitutional amendment, an initiative, or referendum. 104 105 (17) "Referendum" means a process by which a law passed by the Legislature or by a 106 local legislative body is submitted or referred to the voters for their approval or rejection. 107 (18) "Referendum packet" means a copy of the referendum petition, a copy of the law 108 being submitted or referred to the voters for their approval or rejection, and the signature 109 sheets, all of which have been bound together as a unit. (19) (a) "Signature" means a holographic signature. 110 111 (b) "Signature" does not mean an electronic signature. 112 (20) "Signature sheets" means sheets in the form required by this chapter that are used 113 to collect signatures in support of an initiative or referendum. 114 (21) "Sponsors" means the legal voters who support the initiative or referendum and 115 who sign the application for petition copies.

(22) "Sufficient" means that the signatures submitted in support of an initiative or

(23) "Verified" means acknowledged by the person circulating the petition as required

referendum petition have been certified and verified as required by this chapter.

119	in Sections 20A-7-203 and 20A-7-303.
120	Section 3. Section 20A-7-504 is amended to read:
121	20A-7-504. Circulation requirements Local clerk to provide sponsors with
122	materials.
123	(1) In order to obtain the necessary number of signatures required by this part, the
124	sponsors shall circulate initiative packets that meet the form requirements of this part.
125	(2) [The] Within five days after the day on which a local clerk receives an application
126	that complies with the requirements of Section 20A-7-502, the local clerk shall furnish to the
127	sponsors:
128	(a) one copy of the initiative petition; and
129	(b) one signature sheet.
130	(3) The sponsors of the petition shall:
131	(a) arrange and pay for the printing of all additional copies of the petition and signature
132	sheets; and
133	(b) ensure that the copies of the petition and signature sheets meet the form
134	requirements of this section.
135	(4) (a) The sponsors may prepare the initiative for circulation by creating multiple
136	initiative packets.
137	(b) The sponsors shall create those packets by binding a copy of the initiative petition,
138	a copy of the proposed law, and no more than 50 signature sheets together at the top in such a
139	way that the packets may be conveniently opened for signing.
140	(c) The sponsors need not attach a uniform number of signature sheets to each
141	initiative packet.
142	(5) (a) After the sponsors have prepared sufficient initiative packets, they shall return
143	them to the local clerk.
144	(b) The local clerk shall:
145	(i) number each of the initiative packets and return them to the sponsors within five
146	working days; and
147	(ii) keep a record of the numbers assigned to each packet.
148	Section 4. Section 20A-7-601 is amended to read:
149	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 <u>local</u> 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
- (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 <u>local</u> 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 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

212	after the passage of the local law.
213	(b) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(c), when a referendum petition has been
214	declared sufficient, the local law that is the subject of the petition does not take effect unless
215	and until the local law is approved by a vote of the people.
216	(c) When a referendum petition challenging a subjurisdictional law has been declared
217	sufficient, the subjurisdictional law that is the subject of the petition does not take effect unless
218	and until the subjurisdictional law is approved by a vote of the people who reside in the
219	subjurisdiction.
220	(5) If the referendum passes, the local law that was challenged by the referendum is
221	repealed as of the date of the election.
222	(6) Nothing in this section authorizes a local legislative body to impose a tax or other
223	payment obligation on a subjurisdiction in order to benefit an area outside of the
224	subjurisdiction.
225	Section 5. Section 20A-7-602 is amended to read:
226	20A-7-602. Local referendum process Application procedures.
227	(1) Persons wishing to circulate a referendum petition shall file an application with the
228	local clerk.
229	(2) The application shall contain:
230	(a) the name and residence address of at least five sponsors of the referendum petition;
231	(b) a certification indicating that each of the sponsors:
232	(i) is a resident of Utah; and
233	(ii) (A) if the referendum challenges a county [ordinance] local law, has voted in a
234	regular general election in Utah within the last three years; or
235	(B) if the referendum challenges a municipal [ordinance] local law, has voted in a
236	regular municipal election in Utah within the last three years;
237	(c) the signature of each of the sponsors, attested to by a notary public; and
238	(d) (i) if the referendum challenges an ordinance or resolution, one copy of the law[-];
239	<u>or</u>
240	(ii) if the referendum challenges a local law that is not an ordinance or resolution, a
241	written description of the local law including the result of the vote on the local law

Section 6. Section **20A-7-603** is amended to read:

243	20A-7-603. Form of referendum petition and signature sneets.
244	(1) (a) Each proposed referendum petition shall be printed in substantially the
245	following form:
246	"REFERENDUM PETITION To the Honorable, County Clerk/City
247	Recorder/Town Clerk:
248	We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully order that [Ordinance No,
249	entitled (title of ordinance, and, if the petition is against less than the whole ordinance, set forth
250	here the part or parts on which the referendum is sought)] (description of local law or portion
251	of local law being challenged), passed by the be referred to the voters for their approval
252	or rejection at the regular/municipal general election to be held on
253	(month\day\year);
254	Each signer says:
255	I have personally signed this petition;
256	I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the
257	certification of the petition names by the county clerk; and
258	My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name."
259	(b) The sponsors of a referendum shall attach a copy of the law that is the subject of the
260	referendum to each referendum petition.
261	(2) Each signature sheet shall:
262	(a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;
263	(b) be ruled with a horizontal line three-fourths inch from the top, with the space above
264	that line blank for the purpose of binding;
265	(c) contain the title of the referendum printed below the horizontal line;
266	(d) contain the word "Warning" printed or typed at the top of each signature sheet
267	under the title of the referendum;
268	(e) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed or
269	typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:
270	"It is a class A misdemeanor for [anyone] an individual to sign [any] a referendum
271	petition with any other name than [his] the individual's own name, or to knowingly [to] sign
272	[his] the individual's name more than once for the same measure, or to sign a referendum
273	petition when [he] the individual knows [he] that the individual is not a registered voter and

274	knows that [he] the individual does not intend to become registered to vote before the
275	certification of the petition names by the county clerk.";
276	(f) contain horizontally ruled lines three-eighths inch apart under the "Warning"
277	statement required by this section;
278	(g) be vertically divided into columns as follows:
279	(i) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be five-eighths inch
280	wide, be headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical line down
281	the middle;
282	(ii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed
283	Name (must be legible to be counted)";
284	(iii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered
285	Voter";
286	(iv) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age (Optional)";
287	and
288	(v) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip
289	Code";
290	(h) spanning the sheet horizontally beneath each row on which a registered voter may
291	submit the information described in Subsection (2)(g), contain the following statement printed
292	or typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:
293	"By signing this petition, you are stating that you have read and understand the law this
294	petition seeks to overturn."; and
295	(i) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age
296	information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with voter registration
297	records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be verified as a valid signature
298	if you change your address before petition signatures are verified or if the information you
299	provide does not match your voter registration records."
300	(3) The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the following printed or
301	typed statement:
302	"Verification
303	State of Utah, County of
304	I,, of, hereby state that:

305	I am a resident of Utah and am at least 18 years old;
306	All the names that appear in this referendum packet were signed by persons who
307	professed to be the persons whose names appear in it, and each of them signed his name on it
308	in my presence;
309	I believe that each has printed and signed his name and written his post office address
310	and residence correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah or intends to become
311	registered to vote before the certification of the petition names by the county clerk.
312	
313	(4) The forms prescribed in this section are not mandatory, and, if substantially
314	followed, the referendum petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical
315	errors.
316	Section 7. Section 20A-7-604 is amended to read:
317	20A-7-604. Circulation requirements Local clerk to provide sponsors with
318	materials.
319	(1) In order to obtain the necessary number of signatures required by this part, the
320	sponsors shall circulate referendum packets that meet the form requirements of this part.
321	(2) [The] Within five days after the day on which a local clerk receives an application
322	that complies with the requirements of Section 20A-7-602, the local clerk shall furnish to the
323	sponsors:
324	(a) five copies of the referendum petition; and
325	(b) five signature sheets.
326	(3) The sponsors of the petition shall:
327	(a) arrange and pay for the printing of all additional copies of the petition and signature
328	sheets; and
329	(b) ensure that the copies of the petition and signature sheets meet the form
330	requirements of this section.
331	(4) (a) The sponsors may prepare the referendum for circulation by creating multiple
332	referendum packets.
333	(b) The sponsors shall create those packets by binding a copy of the referendum
334	petition, a copy of the law that is the subject of the referendum, and no more than 50 signature
335	sheets together at the top in such a way that the packets may be conveniently opened for

Section 20A-7-606.3;

336	signing.
337	(c) The sponsors need not attach a uniform number of signature sheets to each
338	referendum packet.
339	(5) (a) After the sponsors have prepared sufficient referendum packets, they shall
340	return them to the local clerk.
341	(b) The local clerk shall:
342	(i) number each of the referendum packets and return them to the sponsors within five
343	working days; and
344	(ii) keep a record of the numbers assigned to each packet.
345	Section 8. Section 20A-7-606 is amended to read:
346	20A-7-606. Submitting the referendum petition Certification of signatures by
347	the county clerks Transfer to local clerk.
348	(1) (a) The sponsors shall deliver each signed and verified referendum packet to the
349	county clerk of the county in which the packet was circulated no later than 45 days after the day
350	on which the [local law is passed] sponsors receive the items described in Subsection
351	20A-7-604(2) from the local clerk.
352	(b) A sponsor may not submit a referendum packet after the deadline established in this
353	Subsection (1).
354	(2) (a) No later than 15 days after the day on which a county clerk receives a
355	referendum packet under Subsection (1)(a), the county clerk shall:
356	(i) check the names of all persons completing the verification on the last page of each
357	referendum packet to determine whether those persons are Utah residents and are at least 18
358	years old; and
359	(ii) submit the name of each of those persons who is not a Utah resident or who is not
360	at least 18 years old to the attorney general and county attorney.
361	(b) The county clerk may not certify a signature under Subsection (3) on a referendum
362	packet that is not verified in accordance with Section 20A-7-605.
363	(3) No later than 30 days after the day on which a county clerk receives a referendum
364	packet under Subsection (1)(a), the county clerk shall:
365	(a) determine whether each signer is a registered voter according to the requirements of

367	(b) certify on the referendum petition whether each name is that of a registered voter;
368	and
369	(c) deliver all of the verified referendum packets to the local clerk.
370	Section 9. Section 20A-7-613 is amended to read:
371	20A-7-613. Property tax referendum petition.
372	(1) As used in this section[: (a) "Certified], "certified tax rate" [is as] means the same
373	as that term is defined in Subsection 59-2-924(3)(a).
374	[(b) "Fiscal year taxing entity" means a taxing entity that operates under a fiscal year
375	that begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.]
376	(2) Except as provided in this section, the requirements of this part apply to a
377	referendum petition challenging a [fiscal year] taxing entity's legislative body's vote to impose
378	a tax rate that exceeds the certified tax rate.
379	(3) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-7-604(5), the local clerk shall number each of the
380	referendum packets and return them to the sponsors within two working days.
381	(4) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-7-606(1), the sponsors shall deliver each signed
382	and verified referendum packet to the county clerk of the county in which the packet was
383	circulated no later than 40 days after the day on which the local clerk complies with Subsection
384	(3).
385	(5) Notwithstanding Subsections 20A-7-606(2) and (3), the county clerk shall take the
386	actions required in Subsections 20A-7-606(2) and (3) within 10 working days after the day on
387	which the county clerk receives the signed and verified referendum packet as described in
388	Subsection (4).
389	(6) The local clerk shall take the actions required by Section 20A-7-607 within two
390	working days after the day on which the local clerk receives the referendum packets from the
391	county clerk.
392	(7) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-7-608(2), the local attorney shall prepare the
393	ballot title within two working days after the day on which the referendum petition is declared
394	sufficient for submission to a vote of the people.
395	(8) Notwithstanding Subsection 20A-7-609(2)(c), a referendum that qualifies for the
396	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 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 increased revenues budgeted, adopted, and approved by the [fiscal year] taxing entity's 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 legislative body, the certified tax rate for the [fiscal year] taxing entity is [its] the 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 is not required to comply with the notice and public hearing requirements of Section 59-2-919 if the [fiscal year] taxing entity 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] 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]".
 - (13) A [fiscal year] taxing entity 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

129	not have incurred but for compliance with this section.
430	(14) (a) An election officer shall include on a ballot a referendum that has not yet
431	qualified for placement on the ballot, if:
432	(i) sponsors file an application for a referendum described in this section;
433	(ii) the ballot will be used for the election for which the sponsors are attempting to
434	qualify the referendum; and
435	(iii) the deadline for qualifying the referendum for placement on the ballot occurs after
436	the day on which the ballot will be printed.
437	(b) If an election officer includes on a ballot a referendum described in Subsection
438	(14)(a), the ballot title shall comply with Subsection (12).
439	(c) If an election officer includes on a ballot a referendum described in Subsection
440	(14)(a) that does not qualify for placement on the ballot, the election officer shall inform the
441	voters by any practicable method that the referendum has not qualified for the ballot and that

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