

Initiatives and Referenda Amendments
2025 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Jennifer Dailey-Provost

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies provisions relating to statewide initiatives and statewide referenda.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- requires the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to draft an impartial

petition summary of:

- a law proposed by a statewide initiative; or
- a law that a statewide referendum seeks to overturn;

- establishes requirements and procedures for drafting and for challenging a petition

summary;

- requires that the petition summary is included with the signature packets for a statewide initiative or a statewide referendum and provides that a petition signer may read the petition summary rather than the entire text of the law that is the subject of the petition;

- provides that an individual who signs an initiative packet or a referendum packet must read the entire statement included with the packet;

- provides that the attestation relating to reading a statement provided with an initiative packet or a referendum packet or reading the law to which the initiative or referendum relates, does not require an attestation that the individual understands the statement or law; and

- makes technical and conforming 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 2024, Third Special Session, Chapter 3

- 32 **20A-7-104**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442
- 33 **20A-7-105**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 442, 465
- 34 **20A-7-202.7**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 107
- 35 **20A-7-203**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442
- 36 **20A-7-204**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442
- 37 **20A-7-204.1**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 107, 435 and last
- 38 amended by Coordination Clause, Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 107
- 39 **20A-7-209**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442
- 40 **20A-7-215**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442
- 41 **20A-7-216**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442
- 42 **20A-7-303**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442
- 43 **20A-7-304**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 107
- 44 **20A-7-304.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 107
- 45 **20A-7-308**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442
- 46 **20A-7-313**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442
- 47 **20A-7-314**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

ENACTS:

- 49 **20A-7-202.3**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 50 **20A-7-302.5**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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:

- 56 (1) "Approved device" means a device described in Subsection 20A-21-201(4) used to
- 57 gather signatures for the electronic initiative process, the electronic referendum process,
- 58 or the electronic candidate qualification process.
- 59 (2) "Budget officer" means:
 - 60 (a) for a county, the person designated as finance officer as defined in Section 17-36-3;
 - 61 (b) for a city, the person designated as budget officer in Subsection 10-6-106(4); or
 - 62 (c) for a town, the town council.
- 63 (3) "Certified" means that the county clerk has acknowledged a signature as being the
- 64 signature of a registered voter.
- 65 (4) "Circulation" means the process of submitting an initiative petition or a referendum

- 66 petition to legal voters for their signature.
- 67 (5) "Electronic initiative process" means:
- 68 (a) as it relates to a statewide initiative, the process, described in Sections 20A-7-215
69 and 20A-21-201, for gathering signatures; or
- 70 (b) as it relates to a local initiative, the process, described in Sections 20A-7-514 and
71 20A-21-201, for gathering signatures.
- 72 (6) "Electronic referendum process" means:
- 73 (a) as it relates to a statewide referendum, the process, described in Sections 20A-7-313
74 and 20A-21-201, for gathering signatures; or
- 75 (b) as it relates to a local referendum, the process, described in Sections 20A-7-614 and
76 20A-21-201, for gathering signatures.
- 77 (7) "Eligible voter" means a legal voter who resides in the jurisdiction of the county, city, or
78 town that is holding an election on a ballot proposition.
- 79 (8) "Final fiscal impact statement" means a financial statement prepared after voters
80 approve an initiative that contains the information required by Subsection 20A-7-202.5
81 (2) or 20A-7-502.5(2).
- 82 (9) "Initial fiscal impact statement" means a financial statement prepared under Section
83 20A-7-202.5 after the filing of a statewide initiative application.
- 84 (10) "Initial fiscal impact and legal statement" means a financial and legal statement
85 prepared under Section 20A-7-502.5 or 20A-7-602.5 for a local initiative or a local
86 referendum.
- 87 (11) "Initiative" means a new law proposed for adoption by the public as provided in this
88 chapter.
- 89 (12) "Initiative application" means:
- 90 (a) for a statewide initiative, an application described in Subsection 20A-7-202(2) that
91 includes all the information, statements, documents, and notarized signatures
92 required under Subsection 20A-7-202(2); or
- 93 (b) for a local initiative, an application described in Subsection 20A-7-502(2) that
94 includes all the information, statements, documents, and notarized signatures
95 required under Subsection 20A-7-502(2).
- 96 (13) "Initiative packet" means:
- 97 (a) as it relates to a statewide initiative, a copy of the initiative petition, a copy of the
98 petition summary, a copy of the proposed law, and the signature sheets, all of which
99 have been bound together as a unit; or

- 100 (b) as it relates to a local initiative, a copy of the initiative petition, a copy of the
101 proposed law, and the signature sheets, all of which have been bound together as a
102 unit.
- 103 (14) "Initiative petition":
- 104 (a) as it relates to a statewide initiative, using the manual initiative process:
- 105 (i) means the form described in Subsection 20A-7-203(2)(a), petitioning for
106 submission of the initiative to the Legislature or the legal voters; and
107 (ii) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, includes the statement described in
108 Subsection 20A-7-203(2)(b);
- 109 (b) as it relates to a statewide initiative, using the electronic initiative process:
- 110 (i) means the form described in Subsections 20A-7-215(2) and (3), petitioning for
111 submission of the initiative to the Legislature or the legal voters; and
112 (ii) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, includes the statement described in
113 Subsection 20A-7-215(5)(b);
- 114 (c) as it relates to a local initiative, using the manual initiative process:
- 115 (i) means the form described in Subsection 20A-7-503(2)(a), petitioning for
116 submission of the initiative to the legislative body or the legal voters; and
117 (ii) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, includes the statement described in
118 Subsection 20A-7-503(2)(b); or
- 119 (d) as it relates to a local initiative, using the electronic initiative process:
- 120 (i) means the form described in Subsection 20A-7-514(2)(a), petitioning for
121 submission of the initiative to the legislative body or the legal voters; and
122 (ii) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, includes the statement described in
123 Subsection 20A-7-514(4)(a).
- 124 (15)(a) "Land use law" means a law of general applicability, enacted based on the
125 weighing of broad, competing policy considerations, that relates to the use of land,
126 including land use regulation, a general plan, a land use development code, an
127 annexation ordinance, the rezoning of a single property or multiple properties, or a
128 comprehensive zoning ordinance or resolution.
- 129 (b) "Land use law" does not include a land use decision, as defined in Section 10-9a-103
130 or 17-27a-103.
- 131 (16) "Legal signatures" means the number of signatures of legal voters that:
- 132 (a) meet the numerical requirements of this chapter; and
133 (b) have been obtained, certified, and verified as provided in this chapter.

- 134 (17) "Legal voter" means an individual who is registered to vote in Utah.
- 135 (18) "Legally referable to voters" means:
- 136 (a) for a proposed local initiative, that the proposed local initiative is legally referable to
- 137 voters under Section 20A-7-502.7; or
- 138 (b) for a proposed local referendum, that the proposed local referendum is legally
- 139 referable to voters under Section 20A-7-602.7.
- 140 (19) "Local attorney" means the county attorney, city attorney, or town attorney in whose
- 141 jurisdiction a local initiative or referendum petition is circulated.
- 142 (20) "Local clerk" means the county clerk, city recorder, or town clerk in whose jurisdiction
- 143 a local initiative or referendum petition is circulated.
- 144 (21)(a) "Local law" includes:
- 145 (i) an ordinance;
- 146 (ii) a resolution;
- 147 (iii) a land use law;
- 148 (iv) a land use regulation, as defined in Section 10-9a-103; or
- 149 (v) other legislative action of a local legislative body.
- 150 (b) "Local law" does not include a land use decision, as defined in Section 10-9a-103.
- 151 (22) "Local legislative body" means the legislative body of a county, city, or town.
- 152 (23) "Local obligation law" means a local law passed by the local legislative body
- 153 regarding a bond that was approved by a majority of qualified voters in an election.
- 154 (24) "Local tax law" means a law, passed by a political subdivision with an annual or
- 155 biannual calendar fiscal year, that increases a tax or imposes a new tax.
- 156 (25) "Manual initiative process" means the process for gathering signatures for an initiative
- 157 using paper signature packets that a signer physically signs.
- 158 (26) "Manual referendum process" means the process for gathering signatures for a
- 159 referendum using paper signature packets that a signer physically signs.
- 160 (27)(a) "Measure" means a proposed constitutional amendment, an initiative, or
- 161 referendum.
- 162 (b) "Measure" does not include a ballot proposition for the creation of a new school
- 163 district under Section 53G-3-301.1, 53G-3-301.3, or 53G-3-301.4.
- 164 (28) "Petition summary" means:
- 165 (a) as it relates to a statewide initiative, the summary described in Section 20A-7-202.3;
- 166 or
- 167 (b) as it relates to a statewide referendum, the summary described in Section

168 20A-7-302.5.

169 [~~(28)~~] (29) "Presiding officers" means the president of the Senate and the speaker of the
170 House of Representatives.

171 [~~(29)~~] (30) "Referendum" means a process by which a law passed by the Legislature or by a
172 local legislative body is submitted or referred to the voters for their approval or rejection.

173 [~~(30)~~] (31) "Referendum application" means:

174 (a) for a statewide referendum, an application described in Subsection 20A-7-302(2) that
175 includes all the information, statements, documents, and notarized signatures
176 required under Subsection 20A-7-302(2); or

177 (b) for a local referendum, an application described in Subsection 20A-7-602(2) that
178 includes all the information, statements, documents, and notarized signatures
179 required under Subsection 20A-7-602(2).

180 [~~(31)~~] (32) "Referendum packet" means:

181 (a) as it relates to a statewide referendum, a copy of the referendum petition, a copy of
182 the petition summary, a copy of the law being submitted or referred to the voters for
183 their approval or rejection, and the signature sheets, all of which have been bound
184 together as a unit; or

185 (b) as it relates to a local referendum, a copy of the referendum petition, a copy of the
186 law being submitted or referred to the voters for their approval or rejection, and the
187 signature sheets, all of which have been bound together as a unit.

188 [~~(32)~~] (33) "Referendum petition" means:

189 (a) as it relates to a statewide referendum, using the manual referendum process, the
190 form described in Subsection 20A-7-303(2)(a), petitioning for submission of a law
191 passed by the Legislature to legal voters for their approval or rejection;

192 (b) as it relates to a statewide referendum, using the electronic referendum process, the
193 form described in Subsection 20A-7-313(2), petitioning for submission of a law
194 passed by the Legislature to legal voters for their approval or rejection;

195 (c) as it relates to a local referendum, using the manual referendum process, the form
196 described in Subsection 20A-7-603(2)(a), petitioning for submission of a local law to
197 legal voters for their approval or rejection; or

198 (d) as it relates to a local referendum, using the electronic referendum process, the form
199 described in Subsection 20A-7-614(2), petitioning for submission of a local law to
200 legal voters for their approval or rejection.

201 [~~(33)~~] (34) "Signature":

- 202 (a) for a statewide initiative:
- 203 (i) as it relates to the electronic initiative process, means an electronic signature
204 collected under Section 20A-7-215 and Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(c); or
- 205 (ii) as it relates to the manual initiative process:
- 206 (A) means a holographic signature collected physically on a signature sheet
207 described in Section 20A-7-203;
- 208 (B) as it relates to an individual who, due to a qualifying disability under the
209 Americans with Disabilities Act, is unable to fill out the signature sheet or to
210 sign the voter's name consistently, the initials "AV," indicating that the voter's
211 identity will be verified by an alternate verification process described in
212 Section 20A-7-106; and
- 213 (C) does not include an electronic signature;
- 214 (b) for a statewide referendum:
- 215 (i) as it relates to the electronic referendum process, means an electronic signature
216 collected under Section 20A-7-313 and Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(c); or
- 217 (ii) as it relates to the manual referendum process:
- 218 (A) means a holographic signature collected physically on a signature sheet
219 described in Section 20A-7-303;
- 220 (B) as it relates to an individual who, due to a qualifying disability under the
221 Americans with Disabilities Act, is unable to fill out the signature sheet or to
222 sign the voter's name consistently, the initials "AV," indicating that the voter's
223 identity will be verified by an alternate verification process described in
224 Section 20A-7-106; and
- 225 (C) does not include an electronic signature;
- 226 (c) for a local initiative:
- 227 (i) as it relates to the electronic initiative process, means an electronic signature
228 collected under Section 20A-7-514 and Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(c); or
- 229 (ii) as it relates to the manual initiative process:
- 230 (A) means a holographic signature collected physically on a signature sheet
231 described in Section 20A-7-503;
- 232 (B) as it relates to an individual who, due to a qualifying disability under the
233 Americans with Disabilities Act, is unable to fill out the signature sheet or to
234 sign the voter's name consistently, the initials "AV," indicating that the voter's
235 identity will be verified by an alternate verification process described in

- 236 Section 20A-7-106; and
- 237 (C) does not include an electronic signature; or
- 238 (d) for a local referendum:
- 239 (i) as it relates to the electronic referendum process, means an electronic signature
- 240 collected under Section 20A-7-614 and Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(c); or
- 241 (ii) as it relates to the manual referendum process:
- 242 (A) means a holographic signature collected physically on a signature sheet
- 243 described in Section 20A-7-603;
- 244 (B) as it relates to an individual who, due to a qualifying disability under the
- 245 Americans with Disabilities Act, is unable to fill out the signature sheet or to
- 246 sign the voter's name consistently, the initials "AV," indicating that the voter's
- 247 identity will be verified by an alternate verification process described in
- 248 Section 20A-7-106; and
- 249 (C) does not include an electronic signature.

250 ~~[(34)]~~ (35) "Signature sheets" means sheets in the form required by this chapter that are used

251 under the manual initiative process or the manual referendum process to collect

252 signatures in support of an initiative or referendum.

253 ~~[(35)]~~ (36) "Special local ballot proposition" means a local ballot proposition that is not a

254 standard local ballot proposition.

255 ~~[(36)]~~ (37) "Sponsors" means the legal voters who support the initiative or referendum and

256 who sign the initiative application or referendum application.

257 ~~[(37)]~~ (38)(a) "Standard local ballot proposition" means a local ballot proposition for an

258 initiative or a referendum.

259 (b) "Standard local ballot proposition" does not include a property tax referendum

260 described in Section 20A-7-613.

261 ~~[(38)]~~ (39) "Tax percentage difference" means the difference between the tax rate proposed

262 by an initiative or an initiative petition and the current tax rate.

263 ~~[(39)]~~ (40) "Tax percentage increase" means a number calculated by dividing the tax

264 percentage difference by the current tax rate and rounding the result to the nearest

265 thousandth.

266 ~~[(40)]~~ (41) "Verified" means acknowledged by the person circulating the petition as required

267 in Section 20A-7-105.

268 Section 2. Section **20A-7-104** is amended to read:

269 **20A-7-104 . Signature gatherers -- Payments -- Badges -- Information --**

270 **Requirement to provide initiative or referendum for reading.**

- 271 (1) A person may not pay a person to gather signatures under this chapter based on a rate
 272 per signature, on a rate per verified signature, or on the initiative or referendum
 273 qualifying for the ballot.
- 274 (2) A person that pays a person to gather signatures under this section shall base the
 275 payment solely on an hourly rate.
- 276 (3) A person may not accept payment made in violation of this section.
- 277 (4) An individual who is paid to gather signatures for a petition described in this chapter
 278 shall, while gathering signatures, wear a badge on the front of the individual's torso that
 279 complies with the following, ensuring that the information on the badge is clearly visible
 280 to the individual from whom a signature is sought:
- 281 (a) the badge shall be printed in black ink on white cardstock and laminated; and
 282 (b) the information on the badge shall be in at least 24-point type and include the
 283 following information:
- 284 (i) an identification number that is unique to the individual gathering signatures,
 285 assigned by:
- 286 (A) for a statewide initiative or referendum, the lieutenant governor; or
 287 (B) for a local initiative or referendum, the local clerk;
- 288 (ii) the title of the initiative or referendum;
- 289 (iii) the words "Paid Signature Gatherer"; and
 290 (iv) the name of the entity paying the signature gatherer.
- 291 (5) An individual who gathers signatures under this chapter shall offer a paper document to
 292 each individual who signs the petition that:
- 293 (a) is printed in black ink on white paper, white cardstock, or a white sticker, in at least
 294 12-point type; and
- 295 (b)(i) for an initiative, includes the name of the initiative and the following statement:
 296 "You may view the initiative, its fiscal impact, and information on removing your
 297 signature from the petition at [list a uniform resource locator that links directly to the
 298 information described in Section 20A-7-202.7 or 20A-7-502.6, as applicable]."; or
- 299 (ii) for a referendum, includes the name of the referendum and the following statement:
 300 "You may view the referendum and information on removing your signature from the
 301 petition at [list a uniform resource locator that links directly to the information described in
 302 Section 20A-7-304.5 or 20A-7-604.5, as applicable]."
- 303 ~~[(6) An individual who gathers signatures under this chapter shall, before collecting a~~

304 ~~signature from an individual, present to the individual a printed or digital copy of the~~
 305 ~~initiative or referendum and wait for the individual to read the initiative or referendum.]~~

306 (6) An individual who gathers signatures under this chapter shall:

307 (a) for a statewide initiative, present the individual with a printed or digital copy of the
 308 petition summary and the law proposed by the initiative and wait for the individual to
 309 read the petition summary or the law proposed by the initiative;

310 (b) for a statewide referendum, present the individual with a printed or digital copy of
 311 the petition summary and the law that the referendum seeks to overturn and wait for
 312 the individual to read the petition summary or the law that the referendum seeks to
 313 overturn;

314 (c) for a local initiative, present the individual with a printed or digital copy of the law
 315 proposed by the initiative and wait for the individual to read the law proposed by the
 316 initiative; or

317 (d) for a local referendum, present the individual with a printed or digital copy of the
 318 law that the referendum seeks to overturn and wait for the individual to read the law
 319 that the referendum seeks to overturn.

320 (7) A person who violates this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

321 Section 3. Section **20A-7-105** is amended to read:

322 **20A-7-105 . Manual petition processes -- Obtaining signatures -- Verification --**
 323 **Submitting the petition -- Certification of signatures -- Transfer to lieutenant governor --**
 324 **Removal of signature.**

325 (1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process and the manual referendum
 326 process.

327 (2) As used in this section:

328 (a) "Local petition" means:

329 (i) a manual local initiative petition described in Part 5, Local Initiatives -
 330 Procedures; or

331 (ii) a manual local referendum petition described in Part 6, Local Referenda -
 332 Procedures.

333 (b) "Packet" means an initiative packet or referendum packet.

334 (c) "Petition" means a local petition or statewide petition.

335 (d) "Statewide petition" means:

336 (i) a manual statewide initiative petition described in Part 2, Statewide Initiatives; or

337 (ii) a manual statewide referendum petition described in Part 3, Statewide Referenda.

- 338 (3)(a) A Utah voter may sign a statewide petition if the voter is a legal voter.
- 339 (b) A Utah voter may sign a local petition if the voter:
- 340 (i) is a legal voter; and
- 341 (ii) resides in the local jurisdiction.
- 342 (4)(a) The sponsors shall ensure that the individual in whose presence each signature
- 343 sheet was signed:
- 344 (i) is at least 18 years old;
- 345 (ii) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification printed on the last
- 346 page of each packet; and
- 347 (iii) is informed that each signer is required to read~~[-and understand]:~~
- 348 (A) for a statewide initiative petition, the petition summary or the law proposed by
- 349 the initiative;
- 350 ~~[(A)] (B) for [an] a local initiative petition, the law proposed by the initiative;[-or]~~
- 351 (C) for a statewide referendum petition, the petition summary or the law that the
- 352 referendum petition seeks to overturn; or
- 353 ~~[(B)] (D) for a local referendum petition, the law that the referendum petition seeks~~
- 354 to overturn.
- 355 (b) An individual may not sign the verification printed on the last page of a packet if the
- 356 individual signed a signature sheet in the packet.
- 357 (5)(a) The sponsors, or an agent of the sponsors, shall submit a signed and verified
- 358 packet to the county clerk of the county in which the packet was circulated before 5
- 359 p.m. no later than the earlier of:
- 360 (i) for a statewide initiative:
- 361 (A) 30 days after the day on which the first individual signs the initiative packet;
- 362 (B) 316 days after the day on which the application for the initiative petition is
- 363 filed; or
- 364 (C) the February 15 immediately before the next regular general election
- 365 immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-202;
- 366 (ii) for a statewide referendum:
- 367 (A) 30 days after the day on which the first individual signs the referendum
- 368 packet; or
- 369 (B) 40 days after the day on which the legislative session at which the law passed
- 370 ends;
- 371 (iii) for a local initiative:

- 372 (A) 30 days after the day on which the first individual signs the initiative packet;
373 (B) 316 days after the day on which the application is filed;
374 (C) the April 15 immediately before the next regular general election immediately
375 after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-502, if the local initiative is a
376 county initiative; or
377 (D) the April 15 immediately before the next municipal general election
378 immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-502, if the local
379 initiative is a municipal initiative; or
380 (iv) for a local referendum:
381 (A) 30 days after the day on which the first individual signs the referendum
382 packet; or
383 (B) 45 days after the day on which the sponsors receive the items described in
384 Subsection 20A-7-604(3) from the local clerk.
385 (b) A person may not submit a packet after the applicable deadline described in
386 Subsection (5)(a).
387 (c) Before delivering an initiative packet to the county clerk under this Subsection (5),
388 the sponsors shall send an email to each individual who provides a legible, valid
389 email address on the signature sheet that includes the following:
390 (i) the subject of the email shall include the following statement, "Notice Regarding
391 Your Petition Signature"; and
392 (ii) the body of the email shall include the following statement in 12-point type:
393 "You signed a petition for the following initiative:
394 [insert title of initiative]
395 To access a copy of the initiative petition, the initiative, the fiscal impact statement, and
396 information on the deadline for removing your signature from the petition, please visit the
397 following link: [insert a uniform resource locator that takes the individual directly to the page
398 on the lieutenant governor's or county clerk's website that includes the information referred to
399 in the email]."
400 (d) For a statewide initiative, the sponsors shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the day on which
401 the sponsors submit the last initiative packet to the county clerk, submit to the
402 lieutenant governor:
403 (i) a list containing:
404 (A) the name and email address of each individual the sponsors sent, or caused to
405 be sent, the email described in Subsection (5)(c); and

- 406 (B) the date the email was sent;
- 407 (ii) a copy of the email described in Subsection (5)(c); and
- 408 (iii) the following written verification, completed and signed by each of the sponsors:
- 409 "Verification of initiative sponsor State of Utah, County of _____ I, _____,
- 410 of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:
- 411 I am a sponsor of the initiative petition entitled _____; and
- 412 I sent, or caused to be sent, to each individual who provided a legible, valid email
- 413 address on a signature sheet submitted to the county clerk in relation to the initiative petition,
- 414 the email described in Utah Code Subsection 20A-7-105(5)(c).
- 415 _____
- 416 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)".
- 417 (e) For a local initiative, the sponsors shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the day on which the
- 418 sponsors submit the last initiative packet to the local clerk, submit to the local clerk
- 419 the items described in Subsection (5)(d).
- 420 (f) Signatures gathered for an initiative petition are not valid if the sponsors do not
- 421 comply with Subsection (5)(c), (d), or (e).
- 422 (6)(a) Within 21 days after the day on which the county clerk receives the packet, the
- 423 county clerk shall:
- 424 (i) use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002, or 20A-7-106 if applicable,
- 425 to determine whether each signer is a legal voter and, as applicable, the
- 426 jurisdiction where the signer is registered to vote;
- 427 (ii) for a statewide initiative or a statewide referendum:
- 428 (A) certify on the petition whether each name is that of a legal voter;
- 429 (B) post the name, voter identification number, and date of signature of each legal
- 430 voter certified under Subsection (6)(a)(ii)(A) on the lieutenant governor's
- 431 website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor; and
- 432 (C) deliver the verified packet to the lieutenant governor;
- 433 (iii) for a local initiative or a local referendum:
- 434 (A) certify on the petition whether each name is that of a legal voter who is
- 435 registered in the jurisdiction to which the initiative or referendum relates;
- 436 (B) post the name, voter identification number, and date of signature of each legal
- 437 voter certified under Subsection (6)(a)(iii)(A) on the lieutenant governor's
- 438 website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor; and
- 439 (C) deliver the verified packet to the local clerk.

- 440 (b) For a local initiative or local referendum, the local clerk shall post a link in a
441 conspicuous location on the local government's website to the posting described in
442 Subsection (6)(a)(iii)(B):
- 443 (i) for a local initiative, during the period of time described in Subsection 20A-7-507
444 (3)(a); or
- 445 (ii) for a local referendum, during the period of time described in Subsection
446 20A-7-607(2)(a)(i).
- 447 (7) The county clerk may not certify a signature under Subsection (6):
- 448 (a) on a packet that is not verified in accordance with Subsection (4); or
449 (b) that does not have a date of signature next to the signature.
- 450 (8)(a) A voter who signs a statewide initiative petition may have the voter's signature
451 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to
452 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later
453 than the earlier of:
- 454 (i) for an initiative packet received by the county clerk before December 1:
455 (A) 30 days after the day on which the voter signs the signature removal
456 statement; or
457 (B) 90 days after the day on which the lieutenant governor posts the voter's name
458 under Subsection 20A-7-207(2); or
- 459 (ii) for an initiative packet received by the county clerk on or after December 1:
460 (A) 30 days after the day on which the voter signs the signature removal
461 statement; or
462 (B) 45 days after the day on which the lieutenant governor posts the voter's name
463 under Subsection 20A-7-207(2).
- 464 (b) A voter who signs a statewide referendum petition may have the voter's signature
465 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to
466 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later
467 than the earlier of:
- 468 (i) 30 days after the day on which the voter signs the statement requesting removal; or
469 (ii) 45 days after the day on which the lieutenant governor posts the voter's name
470 under Subsection 20A-7-307(2).
- 471 (c) A voter who signs a local initiative petition may have the voter's signature removed
472 from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to the
473 county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later than

- 474 the earlier of:
- 475 (i) 30 days after the day on which the voter signs the signature removal statement;
- 476 (ii) 90 days after the day on which the local clerk posts the voter's name under
- 477 Subsection 20A-7-507(2);
- 478 (iii) 316 days after the day on which the application is filed; or
- 479 (iv)(A) for a county initiative, April 15 immediately before the next regular
- 480 general election immediately after the application is filed under Section
- 481 20A-7-502; or
- 482 (B) for a municipal initiative, April 15 immediately before the next municipal
- 483 general election immediately after the application is filed under Section
- 484 20A-7-502.
- 485 (d) A voter who signs a local referendum petition may have the voter's signature
- 486 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to
- 487 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later
- 488 than the earlier of:
- 489 (i) 30 days after the day on which the voter signs the statement requesting removal; or
- 490 (ii) 45 days after the day on which the local clerk posts the voter's name under
- 491 Subsection 20A-7-607(2)(a).
- 492 (e) In order for the signature to be removed, the county clerk must receive the statement
- 493 described in this Subsection (8) before 5 p.m. no later than the applicable deadline
- 494 described in this Subsection (8).
- 495 (f) A county clerk shall analyze a signature, for purposes of removing a signature from a
- 496 petition, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(3).
- 497 (9)(a) If the county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under
- 498 Subsection (8) and determines that the signature should be removed from the petition
- 499 under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the county clerk shall:
- 500 (i) ensure that the voter's name, voter identification number, and date of signature are
- 501 not included in the posting described in Subsection (6)(a)(ii)(B) or (iii)(B); and
- 502 (ii) remove the voter's signature from the signature packets and signature packet
- 503 totals.
- 504 (b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection (9)(a) before the later of:
- 505 (i) the deadline described in Subsection (6)(a); or
- 506 (ii) two business days after the day on which the county clerk receives a statement
- 507 requesting signature removal under Subsection (8).

508 (10) A person may not retrieve a packet from a county clerk, or make any alterations or
509 corrections to a packet, after the packet is submitted to the county clerk.

510 Section 4. Section **20A-7-202.3** is enacted to read:

511 **20A-7-202.3 . Petition summary -- Preparation -- Challenge.**

512 (1) Within three working days after the day on which the lieutenant governor receives an
513 initiative application, the lieutenant governor shall submit a copy of the initiative
514 application to the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

515 (2) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall prepare a petition
516 summary that:

517 (a) is an impartial, general description of the law proposed by the initiative; and

518 (b) is as short as reasonably possible, given the length and complexity of the law
519 proposed by the initiative.

520 (3) Within 25 calendar days after the day on which the Office of Legislative Research and
521 General Counsel receives a copy of the initiative application from the lieutenant
522 governor, the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall:

523 (a) deliver a copy of the petition summary to the lieutenant governor's office; and

524 (b) mail a copy of the petition summary to the first five sponsors named in the initiative
525 application.

526 (4)(a) Three or more of the sponsors of the initiative petition may, within 20 calendar
527 days after the day on which the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel
528 delivers the petition summary to the lieutenant governor's office, challenge the
529 wording of the petition summary to the appropriate court.

530 (b) After receipt of the challenge, the court shall direct the lieutenant governor to send
531 notice of the challenge to:

532 (i) the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel; and

533 (ii) any political issues committee established under Section 20A-11-801 that has
534 filed written or electronic notice with the lieutenant governor that identifies the
535 name, mailing or email address, and telephone number of the individual
536 designated to receive notice about any issues relating to the initiative.

537 (c) There is a presumption that the petition summary prepared by the Office of
538 Legislative Research and General Counsel is an impartial and accurate general
539 description of the law proposed by the initiative.

540 (d) The court may not revise the petition summary unless the plaintiffs rebut the
541 presumption by clearly and convincingly establishing that the petition summary is

542 false or biased.

543 (e) The court shall:

544 (i) examine the petition summary;

545 (ii) hear arguments; and

546 (iii) enter an order consistent with the requirements of this section.

547 Section 5. Section **20A-7-202.7** is amended to read:

548 **20A-7-202.7 . Posting initiative information.**

549 (1) Within one business day after the later of the day on which the lieutenant governor
550 receives the initial fiscal impact statement under Subsection 20A-7-202.5(3)(a) or the
551 day on which the lieutenant governor receives the petition summary under Subsection
552 20A-7-202.3(3)(a), the lieutenant governor shall post the following information together
553 in a conspicuous place on the lieutenant governor's website:

554 (a) the initiative application;

555 (b) the initiative petition;

556 (c) the petition summary;

557 [~~e~~] (d) the text of the proposed law;

558 [~~d~~] (e) the initial fiscal impact statement; and

559 [~~e~~] (f) information describing how an individual may remove the individual's signature
560 from the initiative petition.

561 (2) The lieutenant governor shall:

562 (a) promptly update the information described in Subsection (1) if the information
563 changes; and

564 (b) maintain the information described in Subsection (1) on the lieutenant governor's
565 website until the initiative fails to qualify for the ballot or is passed or defeated at an
566 election.

567 Section 6. Section **20A-7-203** is amended to read:

568 **20A-7-203 . Manual initiative process -- Form of initiative petition and signature**
569 **sheets.**

570 (1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process.

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

572 "INITIATIVE PETITION To the Honorable _____, Lieutenant Governor:

573 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully demand that the following proposed

574 law be submitted to the legal voters/Legislature of Utah for their/its approval or rejection at the

575 regular general election/session to be held/ beginning on _____(month\day\year);

576 Each signer says:

577 I have personally signed this initiative petition or, if I am an individual with a qualifying
578 disability, I have signed this initiative petition by directing the signature gatherer to enter the
579 initials "AV" as my signature;

580 The date next to my signature correctly reflects the date that I actually signed the
581 initiative petition;

582 I have personally read the [~~entire statement~~] petition summary or the text of the law
583 proposed by the initiative, and the other statements included with this packet;

584 I am registered to vote in Utah; and

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

586 NOTICE TO SIGNERS:

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

589 (b) If the initiative proposes a tax increase, the following statement shall appear, in at least
590 14-point, bold type, immediately following the information described in Subsection (2)(a):

591 "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
592 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
593 increase in the current tax rate."

594 (c) The sponsors of an initiative or an agent of the sponsors shall attach a copy of the
595 proposed law to each initiative petition.

596 (3) Each initiative signature sheet shall:

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

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

600 (c) include the title of the initiative printed below the horizontal line, in at least 14-point,
601 bold type;

602 (d) include a table immediately below the title of the initiative, and beginning .5 inch
603 from the left side of the paper, as follows:

604 (i) the first column shall be .5 inch wide and include three rows;

605 (ii) the first row of the first column shall be .85 inch tall and contain the words "For
606 Office Use Only" in 10-point type;

607 (iii) the second row of the first column shall be .35 inch tall;

608 (iv) the third row of the first column shall be .5 inch tall;

609 (v) the second column shall be 2.75 inches wide;

- 610 (vi) the first row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
611 "Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)" in 10-point
612 type;
- 613 (vii) the second row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 614 (viii) the third row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
615 "Street Address, City, Zip Code" in 10-point type;
- 616 (ix) the fourth row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 617 (x) the third column shall be 2.75 inches wide;
- 618 (xi) the first row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
619 "Signature of Registered Voter" in 10-point type;
- 620 (xii) the second row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 621 (xiii) the third row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
622 "Email Address (optional, to receive additional information)" in 10-point type;
- 623 (xiv) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 624 (xv) the fourth column shall be one inch wide;
- 625 (xvi) the first row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
626 "Date Signed" in 10-point type;
- 627 (xvii) the second row of the fourth column shall be .5 inch tall;
- 628 (xviii) the third row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
629 "Birth Date or Age (optional)" in 10-point type;
- 630 (xix) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall; and
- 631 (xx) the fifth row of the entire table shall be the width of the entire table, .4 inch tall,
632 and contain the following statement, "By signing this initiative petition, you are
633 stating that you have read [~~and understand~~] the petition summary or the law
634 proposed by this initiative petition." in 12-point type;
- 635 (e) the table described in Subsection (3)(d) shall be repeated, leaving sufficient room at
636 the bottom of the sheet for the information described in Subsection (3)(f); and
- 637 (f) at the bottom of the sheet, include in the following order:
- 638 (i) the words "Fiscal Impact of" followed by the title of the initiative, in at least
639 12-point, bold type;
- 640 (ii) except as provided in Subsection (5), the initial fiscal impact statement issued by
641 the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst in accordance with Subsection
642 20A-7-202.5(2)(a), including any update in accordance with Subsection
643 20A-7-204.1(5), in not less than 12-point type;

644 (iii) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, the following statement in 12-point, bold type:

645 "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
646 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
647 increase in the current tax rate."; and

648 (iv) the word "Warning," in 12-point, bold type, followed by the following statement in not
649 less than eight-point type:

650 "It is a class A misdemeanor for an individual to sign an initiative petition with a name
651 other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than
652 once for the same initiative petition, or to sign an initiative petition when the individual knows
653 that the individual is not a registered voter.

654 Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity
655 with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be
656 verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified
657 or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records."

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

660 Verification of signature collector

661 State of Utah, County of ____

662 I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

663 I am at least 18 years old;

664 All the names that appear in this initiative packet were signed by individuals who
665 professed to be the individuals whose names appear in it, and each of the individuals signed
666 the individual's name on it in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a qualifying
667 disability, I have signed this initiative petition on the individual's behalf, at the direction of the
668 individual and in the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV" as the individual's
669 signature;

670 I certify that, for each individual whose signature is represented in this initiative
671 packet by the initials "AV":

672 I obtained the individual's voluntary direction or consent to sign the initiative
673 petition on the individual's behalf;

674 I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual lacked the mental
675 capacity to give direction or consent;

676 I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual did not
677 understand the purpose or nature of my signing the initiative petition on the individual's behalf;

678 I did not intentionally or knowingly deceive the individual into directing me to,
679 or consenting for me to, sign the initiative petition on the individual's behalf; and

680 I did not intentionally or knowingly enter false information on the signature
681 sheet;

682 I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law proposed by
683 the initiative;

684 I believe that each individual's name, post office address, and residence is written
685 correctly, that each signer has read the petition summary or the law proposed by the initiative,
686 and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah;

687 The correct date of signature appears next to each individual's name; and

688 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this initiative
689 packet to encourage that individual to sign it.

690

691 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)

692 (5) If the initial fiscal impact statement described in Subsection (3)(f)(ii), as updated in
693 accordance with Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5), exceeds 200 words, the Office of the
694 Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall prepare a shorter summary statement, for the purpose of
695 inclusion on an initiative signature sheet, that does not exceed 200 words.

696 (6) If the forms described in this section are substantially followed, the initiative petitions
697 are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

698 Section 7. Section **20A-7-204** is amended to read:

699 **20A-7-204 . Manual initiative process -- Circulation requirements -- Lieutenant**
700 **governor to provide sponsors with materials.**

701 (1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process.

702 (2) In order to obtain the necessary number of signatures required by this part, the sponsors
703 or an agent of the sponsors shall, after the sponsors receive the documents described in
704 Subsection (3), circulate initiative packets that meet the form requirements of this part.

705 (3) The lieutenant governor shall provide the sponsors with a copy of the initiative petition,
706 the petition summary, and a signature sheet within three days after the day on which the
707 following conditions are fulfilled:

708 (a) the sponsors hold the final hearing required under Section 20A-7-204.1;

709 (b) the sponsors provide to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor the video tape, audio
710 tape, or comprehensive minutes described in Subsection 20A-7-204.1(4) for each
711 public hearing described in Section 20A-7-204.1;

- 712 (c) the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel has, in accordance with
 713 Subsection 20A-7-202.3(3), provided the petition summary;
- 714 (d) the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst has, in accordance with Subsection
 715 20A-7-202.5(3), provided the initial fiscal impact statement;
- 716 ~~[(e)]~~ (e)(i) the sponsors give written notice to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor
 717 that the sponsors waive the opportunity to change the text of the proposed law
 718 under Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5);
- 719 (ii) the deadline, described in Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5)(a), for changing the text of
 720 the proposed law passes without the sponsors filing an application addendum in
 721 accordance with Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5); or
- 722 (iii) if the sponsors file an application addendum in accordance with Subsection
 723 20A-7-204.1(5)~~;~~ :
- 724 (A) the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel provides to the Office
 725 of the Lieutenant Governor an updated petition summary, in accordance with
 726 Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5)(b) or a written notice indicating that no changes to
 727 the petition summary are necessary; and
- 728 (B) the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst provides to the Office of the
 729 Lieutenant Governor~~;~~
- 730 ~~[(A)]~~ an updated initial fiscal impact statement, in accordance with Subsection
 20A-7-204.1
 731 (5)(b)~~;~~ or ~~[(B)]~~ a written notice indicating that no changes to the initial fiscal
 impact statement
 732 are necessary;
- 733 ~~[(d)]~~ (f)(i) the sponsors give written notice to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor
 734 that the sponsors waive the opportunity to:
- 735 (A) challenge the petition summary in court; and
- 736 (B) if applicable, challenge the updated petition summary in court;
- 737 (ii) the deadline, described in Subsection 20A-7-202.3(4)(a), for:
- 738 (A) challenging the petition summary in court passes without the sponsors filing a
 739 petition to challenge; and
- 740 (B) if applicable, challenging the updated petition summary in court passes
 741 without the sponsors filing a petition to challenge; or
- 742 (iii) if the sponsors timely file a petition challenging the petition summary in court or,
 743 if applicable, the updated petition summary in court, the court's decision becomes

744 final;

745 (g)(i) the sponsors give written notice to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor that
 746 the sponsors waive the opportunity to:

747 (A) challenge the initial fiscal impact statement in court; and

748 (B) if applicable, challenge the updated initial fiscal impact statement in court;

749 (ii) the deadline, described in Subsection 20A-7-202.5(4)(a)(i), for:

750 (A) challenging the initial fiscal impact statement in court passes without the
 751 sponsors filing a petition to challenge; and

752 (B) if applicable, challenging the updated initial fiscal impact statement in court
 753 passes without the sponsors filing a petition to challenge; or

754 (iii) if the sponsors timely file a petition challenging the initial fiscal impact
 755 statement in court or, if applicable, the updated initial fiscal impact statement in
 756 court, and the court's decision becomes final; and

757 ~~(e)~~ (h) the sponsors sign an agreement, under Subsection (6)(a), with the Office of the
 758 Lieutenant Governor specifying the range of numbers that the sponsors will use to
 759 number the initiative packets.

760 (4) The sponsors of the initiative shall:

761 (a) arrange and pay for the printing of all documents that are part of the initiative
 762 packets; and

763 (b) ensure that the initiative packets and the documents described in Subsection (4)(a)
 764 meet the requirements of this part.

765 (5)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may prepare the initiative packets for
 766 circulation by creating multiple initiative packets.

767 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall create the initiative packets by binding
 768 a copy of the initiative petition with the petition summary and the text of the
 769 proposed law, including any modification made under Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5)
 770 and no more than 50 signature sheets together at the top in a manner that the
 771a initiative
 771 packets may be conveniently opened for signing.

772 (c) An initiative packet is not required to have a uniform number of signature sheets.

773 (6)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, before gathering signatures:

774 (i) contact the lieutenant governor's office to receive a range of numbers that the
 775 sponsors may use to number initiative packets;

776 (ii) sign an agreement with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, specifying the

777 range of numbers that the sponsors will use to number the initiative packets; and
 778 (iii) number each initiative packet, sequentially, within the range of numbers
 779 provided by the lieutenant governor's office, starting with the lowest number in
 780 the range.

781 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may not:

782 (i) number an initiative packet in a manner not directed by the lieutenant governor's
 783 office; or

784 (ii) circulate or submit an initiative packet that is not numbered in the manner
 785 directed by the lieutenant governor's office.

786 Section 8. Section **20A-7-204.1** is amended to read:

787 **20A-7-204.1 . Public hearings to be held before initiative petitions are circulated**

788 **-- Changes to a proposed law or an initial fiscal impact statement.**

789 (1)(a) After issuance of the initial fiscal impact statement by the Office of the
 790 Legislative Fiscal Analyst and before circulating initiative packets for signature
 791 statewide, sponsors of the initiative shall hold at least seven public hearings
 792 throughout Utah as follows:

793 (i) one in the Bear River region -- Box Elder, Cache, or Rich County;

794 (ii) one in the Southwest region -- Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, or Washington
 795 County;

796 (iii) one in the Mountain region -- Summit, Utah, or Wasatch County;

797 (iv) one in the Central region -- Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, or Wayne
 798 County;

799 (v) one in the Southeast region -- Carbon, Emery, Grand, or San Juan County;

800 (vi) one in the Uintah Basin region -- Daggett, Duchesne, or Uintah County; and

801 (vii) one in the Wasatch Front region -- Davis, Morgan, Salt Lake, Tooele, or Weber
 802 County.

803 (b) Of the seven public hearings, the sponsors of the initiative shall hold at least two of
 804 the public hearings in a first or second class county, but not in the same county.

805 (c) The sponsors may not hold a public hearing described in this section until the later of:

806 (i) one day after the day on which a sponsor receives a copy of the initial fiscal
 807 impact statement under Subsection 20A-7-202.5(3)(b); or

808 (ii) if three or more sponsors file a petition for an action challenging the accuracy of
 809 the initial fiscal impact statement under Section 20A-7-202.5, the day after the day
 810 on which the action is final.

- 811 (2)(a) The sponsors shall, before 5 p.m. at least 10 calendar days before the date of the
812 public hearing, provide written notice of the public hearing, including the date, time,
813 and location of the public hearing:
- 814 (i) to the lieutenant governor;
 - 815 (ii) to the county clerk of each county in the region where the public hearing will be
816 held;
 - 817 (iii) each state senator, state representative, and county commission or county council
818 member who is elected in whole or in part from the region where the public
819 hearing will be held; and
 - 820 (iv) in accordance with Section 45-1-101, for at least three calendar days before the
821 day of the public hearing.
- 822 (b) The lieutenant governor shall post the notice described in Subsection (2)(a) on the
823 lieutenant governor's website for at least three days before the day of the public
824 hearing.
- 825 (c) The county clerk of each county in the region where the public hearing will be held:
- 826 (i) shall post the notice described in Subsection (2)(a) for the county, as a class A
827 notice under Section 63G-30-102, for at least three days before the day of the
828 public hearing; and
 - 829 (ii) may bill the sponsors of the initiative for the cost of preparing, printing, and
830 posting the notice described in Subsection (2)(c)(i).
- 831 (3) If the initiative proposes a tax increase, the written notice described in Subsection (2) shall
832 include the following statement, in bold, in the same font and point size as the largest font and
833 point size appearing in the notice:
- 834 "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
835 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
836 increase in the current tax rate."
- 837 (4)(a) During the public hearing, the sponsors shall either:
- 838 (i) video tape or audio tape the public hearing; or
 - 839 (ii) take comprehensive minutes of the public hearing, detailing the names and titles
840 of each speaker and summarizing each speaker's comments.
- 841 (b) The lieutenant governor shall make copies of the tapes or minutes available to the
842 public.
- 843 (c) For each public hearing, the sponsors shall:
- 844 (i) during the entire time that the public hearing is held, post a copy of the petition

- 845 summary and the initial fiscal impact statement in a conspicuous location at the
846 entrance to the room where the sponsors hold the public hearing; and
- 847 (ii) place at least 50 copies of the petition summary and the initial fiscal impact
848 statement, for distribution to public hearing attendees, in a conspicuous location at
849 the entrance to the room where the sponsors hold the public hearing.
- 850 (d) Regardless of whether an individual is present to observe or speak at a public hearing:
- 851 (i) the sponsors may not end the public hearing until at least one hour after the public
852 hearing begins; and
- 853 (ii) the sponsors shall provide at least one hour at the public hearing that is open for
854 public comment.
- 855 (5)(a) Before 5 p.m. within 14 days after the day on which the sponsors conduct the
856 seventh public hearing described in Subsection (1)(a), and before circulating an
857 initiative signature packet for signatures, the sponsors of the initiative may change
858 the text of the proposed law if:
- 859 (i) a change to the text is:
- 860 (A) germane to the text of the proposed law filed with the lieutenant governor
861 under Section 20A-7-202; and
- 862 (B) consistent with the requirements of Subsection 20A-7-202(5); and
- 863 (ii) each sponsor signs, attested to by a notary public, an application addendum to
864 change the text of the proposed law.
- 865 (b)(i) Within three working days after the day on which the lieutenant governor
866 receives an application addendum to change the text of the proposed law for an
867 initiative, the lieutenant governor shall submit a copy of the application addendum
868 to the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel and the Office of the
869 Legislative Fiscal Analyst.
- 870 (ii) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall:
- 871 (A) update the petition summary by following the procedures and requirements of
872 Section 20A-7-202.3; or
- 873 (B) provide notice to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor that no changes to the
874 petition summary are necessary.
- 875 [(ii)] (iii) The Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall:
- 876 (A) update the initial fiscal impact statement, by following the procedures and
877 requirements of Section 20A-7-202.5 to reflect a change to the text of the
878 proposed law ; or

879 (B) provide written notice to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor indicating that
880 no changes to the initial fiscal impact statement are necessary.

881 Section 9. Section **20A-7-209** is amended to read:

882 **20A-7-209 . Short title and summary of initiative -- Duties of lieutenant governor**
883 **and Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.**

884 (1) On or before June 5 before the regular general election, the lieutenant governor shall
885 deliver a copy of all of the proposed laws that have qualified for the ballot to the Office
886 of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

887 (2)(a) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall:

888 (i) entitle each statewide initiative that has qualified for the ballot "Proposition
889 Number ___" and give it a number as assigned under Section 20A-6-107;

890 (ii) prepare for each initiative:

891 (A) an impartial short title, not exceeding 25 words, that generally describes the
892 subject of the initiative; and

893 (B) an impartial summary of the contents of the initiative, not exceeding 125
894 words; and

895 (iii) provide each short title, and summary to the lieutenant governor on or before
896 June 26.

897 (b) The short title and summary may be distinct from the title of the proposed law.

898 (c) If the initiative proposes a tax increase, the Office of Legislative Research and General
899 Counsel shall include the following statement, in bold, in the summary:

900 "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
901 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent
902 increase in the current tax rate."

903 (d) Subject to Subsection (4), for each statewide initiative, the official ballot shall show,
904 in the following order:

905 (i) the number of the initiative, determined in accordance with Section 20A-6-107;

906 (ii) the short title;

907 (iii) except as provided in Subsection (2)(e):

908 (A) the summary;

909 (B) the text of the proposed law; and

910 (C) a link to a location on the lieutenant governor's website where a voter may
911 review additional information relating to each initiative, including the
912 information described in Subsection 20A-7-202(2), the petition summary

913 described in Section 20A-7-202.3 as updated under Section 20A-7-204.1, the
914 initial fiscal impact statement described in Section 20A-7-202.5[;] as updated
915 under Section 20A-7-204.1, and the arguments relating to the initiative that are
916 included in the voter information pamphlet; and

917 (iv) the initial fiscal impact statement prepared under Section 20A-7-202.5, as
918 updated under Section 20A-7-204.1.

919 (e) Unless the information described in Subsection (2)(d)(iii) is shown on the official
920 ballot, the election officer shall include with the ballot a separate ballot proposition
921 insert that includes the short title and summary for each initiative on the ballot and a
922 link to a location on the lieutenant governor's website where a voter may review the
923 additional information described in Subsection (2)(d)(iii)(C).

924 (f) Unless the information described in Subsection (2)(d)(iii) for all initiatives on the
925 ballot, and the information described in Subsection 20A-7-308(2)(c)(iii) for all
926 referenda on the ballot, is printed on the ballot, the ballot shall include the following
927 statement at the beginning of the portion of the ballot that includes ballot measures,
928 "The ballot proposition sheet included with this ballot contains an impartial summary
929 of each initiative and referendum on this ballot, unless the summary is printed
930 directly on the ballot."

931 (3) On or before June 27, the lieutenant governor shall send a copy of the short title and
932 summary to any sponsor of the petition.

933 (4)(a)(i) At least three of the sponsors of the petition may, on or before July 6,
934 challenge the wording of the short title and summary prepared by the Office of
935 Legislative Research and General Counsel to the appropriate court.

936 (ii) After receipt of the challenge, the court shall direct the lieutenant governor to
937 send notice of the challenge to:

938 (A) any person or group that has filed an argument for or against the initiative that
939 is the subject of the challenge; or

940 (B) any political issues committee established under Section 20A-11-801 that has
941 filed written or electronic notice with the lieutenant governor that identifies the
942 name, mailing or email address, and telephone number of the individual
943 designated to receive notice about any issues relating to the initiative.

944 (b)(i) There is a presumption that the short title prepared by the Office of Legislative
945 Research and General Counsel is an impartial description of the contents of the
946 initiative.

947 (ii) The court may not revise the wording of the short title unless the plaintiffs rebut
 948 the presumption by clearly and convincingly establishing that the short title is
 949 false or biased.

950 (iii) There is a presumption that the summary prepared by the Office of Legislative
 951 Research and General Counsel is an impartial summary of the contents of the
 952 initiative.

953 (iv) The court may not revise the wording of the summary unless the plaintiffs rebut
 954 the presumption by clearly and convincingly establishing that the summary is
 955 false or biased.

956 (c) The court shall:

957 (i) examine the short title and summary;

958 (ii) hear arguments; and

959 (iii) enter an order consistent with the requirements of this section.

960 (d) The lieutenant governor shall, in accordance with the court's order, certify the short
 961 title and summary to the county clerks for inclusion in the ballot or ballot proposition
 962 insert, as required by this section.

963 Section 10. Section **20A-7-215** is amended to read:

964 **20A-7-215 . Electronic initiative process -- Form of initiative petition --**

965 **Circulation requirements -- Signature collection.**

966 (1) This section applies only to the electronic initiative process.

967 (2)(a) The first screen presented on the approved device shall include the following statement:

968 "This INITIATIVE PETITION is addressed to the Honorable _____, Lieutenant
 969 Governor:

970 The citizens of Utah who sign this petition respectfully demand that the following
 971 proposed law be submitted to the legal voters/Legislature of Utah for their/its approval or
 972 rejection at the regular general election/session to be held/beginning on
 973 _____(month\day\year)."

974 (b) An individual may not advance to the second screen until the individual clicks a link
 975 at the bottom of the first screen stating, "By clicking here, I attest that I have read [
 976 ~~and understand~~]the information presented on this screen."

977 (3)(a) The second screen presented on the approved device shall include the following
 978 statement:

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

981 (b) An individual may not advance to the third screen until the individual clicks a link at
982 the bottom of the second screen stating, "By clicking here, I attest that I have read [
983 ~~and understand~~]the information presented on this screen."

984 (4)(a) The third screen presented on the approved device shall include the title of
985 proposed law, described in Subsection 20A-7-202(2)(e)(i), followed by the petition
986 summary, followed by the entire text of the proposed law.

987 (b) An individual may not advance to the fourth screen until the individual clicks a link
988 at the bottom of the third screen stating, "By clicking here, I attest that I have read [
989 ~~and understand~~] the petition summary or the entire text of the proposed law."

990 (5) Subsequent screens shall be presented on the device in the following order, with the
991 individual viewing the device being required, before advancing to the next screen, to
992 click a link at the bottom of the screen with the following statement: "By clicking here, I
993 attest that I have read [~~and understand~~]the information presented on this screen.":

994 (a) a description of all proposed sources of funding for the costs associated with the
995 proposed law, including the proposed percentage of total funding from each source;

996 (b)(i) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, the following statement, "This
997 initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax
998 percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage
999 increase) percent increase in the current tax rate."; or

1000 (ii) if the initiative does not propose a tax increase, the following statement, "This
1001 initiative does not propose a tax increase.";

1002 (c) the initial fiscal impact statement issued by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal
1003 Analyst in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-202.5(2)(a), including any update in
1004 accordance with Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5)(b);

1005 (d) a statement indicating whether persons gathering signatures for the initiative petition
1006 may be paid for gathering signatures; and

1007 (e) the following statement, followed by links where the individual may click "yes" or "no":
1008 "I have personally read the entirety of each statement presented on this device, except
1009 that, in relation to the law proposed by the initiative, I have read either the entire petition
1010 summary or the entire proposed law;

1011 I am personally signing this initiative petition;

1012 I am registered to vote in Utah; and

1013 All information I enter on this device, including my residence and post office address, is
1014 accurate.

1015 It is a class A misdemeanor for an individual to sign an initiative petition with a name
 1016 other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than
 1017 once for the same initiative petition, or to sign an initiative petition when the individual knows
 1018 that the individual is not a registered voter.

1019 **WARNING**

1020 Even if your voter registration record is classified as private, your name, voter
 1021 identification number, and date of signature in relation to signing this initiative petition will be
 1022 made public.

1023 Do you wish to continue and sign this initiative petition?"

1024 (6)(a) If the individual clicks "no" in response to the question described in Subsection
 1025 (5)(e), the next screen shall include the following statement, "Thank you for your
 1026 time. Please return this device to the signature-gatherer."

1027 (b) If the individual clicks "yes" in response to the question described in Subsection
 1028 (5)(e), the website, or the application that accesses the website, shall take the
 1029 signature-gatherer and the individual signing the initiative petition through the
 1030 signature process described in Section 20A-21-201.

1031 Section 11. Section **20A-7-216** is amended to read:

1032 **20A-7-216 . Electronic initiative process -- Obtaining signatures -- Request to**
 1033 **remove signature.**

1034 (1) This section applies to the electronic initiative process.

1035 (2) A Utah voter may sign an initiative petition if the voter is a legal voter.

1036 (3) The sponsors shall ensure that the signature-gatherer who collects a signature from an
 1037 individual:

1038 (a) verifies that the individual is at least 18 years old and meets the residency
 1039 requirements of Section 20A-2-105; and

1040 (b) is informed that each signer is required to read [~~and understand~~] the petition summary
 1041 or the law proposed by the initiative.

1042 (4) A voter who signs an initiative petition may have the voter's signature removed from the
 1043 initiative petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to the county
 1044 clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed before 5 p.m. no later
 1045 than the earlier of:

1046 (a) for an electronic signature gathered before December 1:

1047 (i) 30 days after the day on which the voter signs the signature removal statement; or

1048 (ii) 90 days after the day on which the county clerk posts the voter's name under

- 1049 Subsection 20A-7-217(4); or
- 1050 (b) for an electronic signature gathered on or after December 1:
- 1051 (i) 30 days after the day on which the voter signs the signature removal statement; or
- 1052 (ii) 45 days after the day on which the county clerk posts the voter's name under
- 1053 Subsection 20A-7-217(4).
- 1054 (5)(a) A voter may not submit a signature removal statement described in Subsection (4)
- 1055 by email or other electronic means, unless the lieutenant governor establishes a
- 1056 signature removal process that is consistent with the requirements of this section and
- 1057 Section 20A-21-201.
- 1058 (b) A person may only remove an electronic signature from an initiative petition in
- 1059 accordance with this section.
- 1060 (c) A county clerk shall analyze a holographic signature, for purposes of removing an
- 1061 electronic signature from an initiative petition, in accordance with Subsection
- 1062 20A-1-1003(3).
- 1063 Section 12. Section **20A-7-302.5** is enacted to read:
- 1064 **20A-7-302.5 . Petition summary -- Preparation -- Challenge.**
- 1065 (1) Within three working days after the day on which the lieutenant governor receives a
- 1066 referendum application, the lieutenant governor shall submit a copy of the referendum
- 1067 application to the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.
- 1068 (2) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall prepare a petition
- 1069 summary that:
- 1070 (a) is an impartial, general description of the law that is the subject of the proposed
- 1071 referendum; and
- 1072 (b) is as short as reasonably possible, given the length and complexity of the law that is
- 1073 the subject of the proposed referendum.
- 1074 (3) Within 25 calendar days after the day on which the Office of Legislative Research and
- 1075 General Counsel receives a copy of the referendum application from the lieutenant
- 1076 governor, the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall:
- 1077 (a) deliver a copy of the petition summary to the lieutenant governor's office; and
- 1078 (b) mail a copy of the petition summary to the first five sponsors named in the
- 1079 referendum application.
- 1080 (4)(a) Three or more of the sponsors of the referendum petition may, within 20 calendar
- 1081 days after the day on which the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel
- 1082 delivers the petition summary to the lieutenant governor's office, challenge the

- 1083 wording of the petition summary to the appropriate court.
- 1084 (b) After receipt of the challenge, the court shall direct the lieutenant governor to send
- 1085 notice of the challenge to:
- 1086 (i) the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel; and
- 1087 (ii) any political issues committee established under Section 20A-11-801 that has
- 1088 filed written or electronic notice with the lieutenant governor that identifies the
- 1089 name, mailing or email address, and telephone number of the individual
- 1090 designated to receive notice about any issues relating to the referendum.
- 1091 (c) There is a presumption that the petition summary prepared by the Office of
- 1092 Legislative Research and General Counsel is an impartial and accurate general
- 1093 description of the law that is the subject of the proposed referendum.
- 1094 (d) The court may not revise the petition summary unless the plaintiffs rebut the
- 1095 presumption by clearly and convincingly establishing that the petition summary is
- 1096 false or biased.
- 1097 (e) The court shall:
- 1098 (i) examine the petition summary;
- 1099 (ii) hear arguments; and
- 1100 (iii) enter an order consistent with the requirements of this section.

1101 Section 13. Section **20A-7-303** is amended to read:

1102 **20A-7-303 . Manual referendum process -- Form of referendum petition and**

1103 **signature sheets.**

- 1104 (1) This section applies only to the manual referendum process.
- 1105 (2)(a) Each proposed referendum petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:
- 1106 "REFERENDUM PETITION To the Honorable ____, Lieutenant Governor:
- 1107 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully order that Senate (or House) Bill No.
- 1108 ____, entitled (title of act, and, if the petition is against less than the whole act, set forth here
- 1109 the part or parts on which the referendum is sought), passed by the Legislature of the state of
- 1110 Utah during the ____ Session, be referred to the people of Utah for their approval or rejection
- 1111 at a regular general election or a statewide special election;
- 1112 Each signer says:
- 1113 I have personally signed this referendum petition or, if I am an individual with a
- 1114 qualifying disability, I have signed this referendum petition by directing the signature gatherer
- 1115 to enter the initials "AV" as my signature;
- 1116 The date next to my signature correctly reflects the date that I actually signed the

1117 referendum petition;

1118 I have personally read [~~the entire statement~~] the petition summary or the text of the law
1119 that the referendum seeks to overturn, and the other statements included with this referendum
1120 packet;

1121 I am registered to vote in Utah; and

1122 My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name.".

1123 (b) The sponsors of a referendum or an agent of the sponsors shall attach a copy of the
1124 law that is the subject of the referendum to each referendum petition.

1125 (3) Each referendum signature sheet shall:

1126 (a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

1127 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line three-fourths inch from the top, with the space above
1128 that line blank for the purpose of binding;

1129 (c) include the title of the referendum printed below the horizontal line, in at least
1130 14-point, bold type;

1131 (d) include a table immediately below the title of the referendum, and beginning .5 inch
1132 from the left side of the paper, as follows:

1133 (i) the first column shall be .5 inch wide and include three rows;

1134 (ii) the first row of the first column shall be .85 inch tall and contain the words "For
1135 Office Use Only" in 10-point type;

1136 (iii) the second row of the first column shall be .35 inch tall;

1137 (iv) the third row of the first column shall be .5 inch tall;

1138 (v) the second column shall be 2.75 inches wide;

1139 (vi) the first row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
1140 "Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)" in 10-point
1141 type;

1142 (vii) the second row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;

1143 (viii) the third row of the second column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
1144 "Street Address, City, Zip Code" in 10-point type;

1145 (ix) the fourth row of the second column shall be .5 inch tall;

1146 (x) the third column shall be 2.75 inches wide;

1147 (xi) the first row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
1148 "Signature of Registered Voter" in 10-point type;

1149 (xii) the second row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;

1150 (xiii) the third row of the third column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words

1151 "Email Address (optional, to receive additional information)" in 10-point type;
 1152 (xiv) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall;
 1153 (xv) the fourth column shall be one inch wide;
 1154 (xvi) the first row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
 1155 "Date Signed" in 10-point type;
 1156 (xvii) the second row of the fourth column shall be .5 inch tall;
 1157 (xviii) the third row of the fourth column shall be .35 inch tall and contain the words
 1158 "Birth Date or Age (optional)" in 10-point type;
 1159 (xix) the fourth row of the third column shall be .5 inch tall; and
 1160 (xx) the fifth row of the entire table shall be the width of the entire table, .4 inch tall,
 1161 and contain the following words "By signing this referendum petition, you are
 1162 stating that you have read [~~and understand~~] the petition summary or the law that
 1163 this referendum petition seeks to overturn." in 12-point type;

1164 (e) the table described in Subsection (3)(d) shall be repeated, leaving sufficient room at
 1165 the bottom of the sheet for the information described in Subsection (3)(f); and

1166 (f) at the bottom of the sheet, include the word "Warning," in 12-point, bold type, followed by
 1167 the following statement in not less than eight-point type:

1168 "It is a class A misdemeanor for an individual to sign a referendum petition with a name
 1169 other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than
 1170 once for the same referendum petition, or to sign a referendum petition when the individual
 1171 knows that the individual is not a registered voter.

1172 Birth date or age information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity
 1173 with voter registration records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be
 1174 verified as a valid signature if you change your address before petition signatures are verified
 1175 or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration records."

1176 (4) The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the following printed or typed
 1177 statement:

1178 Verification of signature collector

1179 State of Utah, County of ____

1180 I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

1181 I am at least 18 years old;

1182 All the names that appear in this referendum packet were signed by individuals who
 1183 professed to be the individuals whose names appear in it, and each of the individuals signed
 1184 the individual's name on it in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a qualifying

1185 disability, I have signed this referendum petition on the individual's behalf, at the direction of
1186 the individual and in the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV" as the individual's
1187 signature;

1188 I certify that, for each individual whose signature is represented in this referendum
1189 packet by the initials "AV":

1190 I obtained the individual's voluntary direction or consent to sign the referendum
1191 petition on the individual's behalf;

1192 I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual lacked the mental
1193 capacity to give direction or consent;

1194 I do not believe, or have reason to believe, that the individual did not
1195 understand the purpose or nature of my signing the referendum petition on the individual's
1196 behalf;

1197 I did not intentionally or knowingly deceive the individual into directing me to,
1198 or consenting for me to, sign the referendum petition on the individual's behalf; and

1199 I did not intentionally or knowingly enter false information on the signature
1200 sheet;

1201 I did not knowingly make a misrepresentation of fact concerning the law this petition
1202 seeks to overturn;

1203 I believe that each individual's name, post office address, and residence is written
1204 correctly, that each signer has read the petition summary or the law that the referendum seeks
1205 to overturn, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah;

1206 The correct date of signature appears next to each individual's name; and

1207 I have not paid or given anything of value to any individual who signed this referendum
1208 packet to encourage that individual to sign it.

1209

1210

1211 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date).

1212 (5) If the forms described in this section are substantially followed, the referendum
1213 petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

1214 Section 14. Section **20A-7-304** is amended to read:

1215 **20A-7-304 . Manual referendum process -- Circulation requirements --**

1216 **Lieutenant governor to provide sponsors with materials.**

1217 (1) This section applies only to the manual referendum process.

1218 (2) In order to obtain the necessary number of signatures required by this part, the sponsors

- 1219 or an agent of the sponsors shall, after the sponsors receive the documents described in
1220 Subsection (3), circulate referendum packets that meet the form requirements of this part.
- 1221 (3) The lieutenant governor shall provide the sponsors with a copy of the referendum
1222 petition, the petition summary, and a signature sheet within three days after the day on
1223 which all of the following conditions are fulfilled:
- 1224 (a) the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel has, in accordance with
1225 Subsection 20A-7-302.5(3), provided the petition summary;
- 1226 (b)(i) the sponsors give written notice to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor that
1227 the sponsors waive the opportunity to challenge the petition summary in court;
1228 (ii) the deadline, described in Subsection 20A-7-302.5(4)(a), for challenging the
1229 petition summary in court passes without the sponsors filing a petition to
1230 challenge; or
- 1231 (iii) if the sponsors timely file a petition challenging the petition summary in court,
1232 the court's decision becomes final; and
- 1233 (c) the sponsors sign an agreement, under Subsection (6)(a), with the Office of the
1234 Lieutenant Governor specifying the range of numbers that the sponsors will use to
1235 number the referendum packets.
- 1236 (4) The sponsors of the referendum petition shall:
- 1237 (a) arrange and pay for the printing of all documents that are part of the referendum
1238 packets; and
- 1239 (b) ensure that the referendum packets and the documents described in Subsection (4)(a)
1240 meet the form requirements of this section.
- 1241 (5)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may prepare the referendum packets for
1242 circulation by creating multiple referendum packets.
- 1243 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall create referendum packets by binding
1244 a copy of the referendum petition with the petition summary, the text of the law that
1245 is the subject of the referendum and no more than 50 signature sheets together at the
1246 top in a manner that the referendum packets may be conveniently opened for signing.
- 1247 (c) A referendum packet is not required to have a uniform number of signature sheets.
- 1248 (6)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, before gathering signatures:
- 1249 (i) contact the lieutenant governor's office to receive a range of numbers that the
1250 sponsors may use to number referendum packets;
- 1251 (ii) sign an agreement with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, specifying the
1252 range of numbers that the sponsor will use to number the referendum packets; and

- 1253 (iii) number each referendum packet, sequentially, within the range of numbers
 1254 provided by the lieutenant governor's office, starting with the lowest number in
 1255 the range.
- 1256 (b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may not:
- 1257 (i) number a referendum packet in a manner not directed by the lieutenant governor's
 1258 office; or
- 1259 (ii) circulate or submit a referendum packet that is not numbered in the manner
 1260 directed by the lieutenant governor's office.

1261 Section 15. Section **20A-7-304.5** is amended to read:

1262 **20A-7-304.5 . Posting referendum information.**

- 1263 (1) ~~On~~ Within one business day after the day on which the lieutenant governor ~~[complies~~
 1264 ~~with Subsection 20A-7-304(3), or provides the sponsors with access to the website~~
 1265 ~~defined in Section 20A-21-101]~~ receives the petition summary under Subsection
 1266 20A-7-302.5(3), the lieutenant governor shall post the following information together in
 1267 a conspicuous place on the lieutenant governor's website:
- 1268 (a) the referendum application;
- 1269 ~~[(a)]~~ (b) the referendum petition;
- 1270 (c) the petition summary;
- 1271 ~~[(b)]~~ (d) a copy of the law that is the subject of the referendum petition; and
- 1272 ~~[(c)]~~ (e) information describing how an individual may remove the individual's signature
 1273 from the referendum petition.
- 1274 (2) The lieutenant governor shall:
- 1275 (a) promptly update the information described in Subsection (1) if the information
 1276 changes; and
- 1277 (b) maintain the information described in Subsection (1) on the lieutenant governor's
 1278 website until the referendum fails to qualify for the ballot or is passed or defeated at
 1279 an election.

1280 Section 16. Section **20A-7-308** is amended to read:

1281 **20A-7-308 . Short title and summary of referendum -- Duties of lieutenant**
 1282 **governor and Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.**

- 1283 (1) Whenever a referendum petition is declared sufficient for submission to a vote of the
 1284 people, the lieutenant governor shall deliver a copy of the referendum petition and the
 1285 law to which the referendum relates to the Office of Legislative Research and General
 1286 Counsel.

- 1287 (2)(a) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall:
- 1288 (i) entitle each statewide referendum that qualifies for the ballot "Proposition Number
- 1289 ___" and assign a number to the referendum in accordance with Section 20A-6-107;
- 1290 (ii) prepare for each referendum:
- 1291 (A) an impartial short title, not exceeding 25 words, that generally describes the
- 1292 law to which the referendum relates; and
- 1293 (B) an impartial summary of the contents of the law to which the referendum
- 1294 relates, not exceeding 125 words; and
- 1295 (iii) submit the short title and summary to the lieutenant governor within 15 days
- 1296 after the day on which the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel
- 1297 receives the petition under Subsection (1).
- 1298 (b) The short title and summary may be distinct from the title of the law that is the
- 1299 subject of the referendum.
- 1300 (c) Subject to Subsection (4), for each statewide referendum, the official ballot shall
- 1301 show, in the following order:
- 1302 (i) the number of the referendum, determined in accordance with Section 20A-6-107;
- 1303 (ii) the short title; and
- 1304 (iii) except as provided in Subsection (2)(d):
- 1305 (A) the summary;
- 1306 (B) a copy of the law; and
- 1307 (C) a link to a location on the lieutenant governor's website where a voter may
- 1308 review additional information relating to each referendum, including the
- 1309 information described in Subsection 20A-7-302(2), the petition summary
- 1310 described in Section 20A-7-302.5, and the arguments relating to the
- 1311 referendum that are included in the voter information pamphlet.
- 1312 (d) Unless the information described in Subsection (2)(c)(iii) is shown on the official
- 1313 ballot, the election officer shall include with the ballot a separate ballot proposition
- 1314 insert that includes the short title and summary for each referendum on the ballot and
- 1315 a link to a location on the lieutenant governor's website where a voter may review the
- 1316 additional information described in Subsection (2)(c)(iii)(C).
- 1317 (e) Unless the information described in Subsection 20A-7-209(2)(d)(iii) for all initiatives
- 1318 on the ballot, and the information described in Subsection (2)(c)(iii) for all referenda
- 1319 on the ballot, is printed on the ballot, the ballot shall include the following statement
- 1320 at the beginning of the portion of the ballot that includes ballot measures, "The ballot

1321 proposition sheet included with this ballot contains an impartial summary of each
1322 initiative and referendum on this ballot, unless the summary is printed directly on the
1323 ballot."

1324 (3) Immediately after the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel submits the
1325 short title and summary to the lieutenant governor, the lieutenant governor shall mail or
1326 email a copy of the short title and summary to any of the sponsors of the referendum
1327 petition.

1328 (4)(a)(i) At least three of the sponsors of the referendum petition may, within 15
1329 days after the day on which the lieutenant governor sends the short title and
1330 summary, challenge the wording of the short title and summary prepared by the
1331 Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to the appropriate court.

1332 (ii) After receipt of the appeal, the court shall direct the lieutenant governor to send
1333 notice of the appeal to:

1334 (A) any person or group that has filed an argument for or against the law to which
1335 the referendum relates; and

1336 (B) any political issues committee established under Section 20A-11-801 that has
1337 filed written or electronic notice with the lieutenant governor that identifies the
1338 name, mailing or email address, and telephone number of the person
1339 designated to receive notice about any issues relating to the referendum.

1340 (b)(i) There is a presumption that the short title prepared by the Office of Legislative
1341 Research and General Counsel is an impartial description of the contents of the
1342 referendum.

1343 (ii) The court may not revise the wording of the short title unless the plaintiffs rebut
1344 the presumption by clearly and convincingly establishing that the short title is
1345 false or biased.

1346 (iii) There is a presumption that the summary prepared by the Office of Legislative
1347 Research and General Counsel is an impartial summary of the contents of the law
1348 to which the referendum relates.

1349 (iv) The court may not revise the wording of the summary unless the plaintiffs rebut
1350 the presumption by clearly and convincingly establishing that the summary is
1351 false or biased.

1352 (c) The court shall:

1353 (i) examine the short title and summary;

1354 (ii) hear arguments; and

1355 (iii) enter an order consistent with the requirements of this section.

1356 (d) The lieutenant governor shall, in accordance with the court's order, certify the short
1357 title and summary to the county clerks for inclusion in the ballot or ballot proposition
1358 insert, as required by this section.

1359 Section 17. Section **20A-7-313** is amended to read:

1360 **20A-7-313 . Electronic referendum process -- Form of referendum petition --**
1361 **Circulation requirements -- Signature collection.**

1362 (1) This section applies only to the electronic referendum process.

1363 (2)(a) The first screen presented on the approved device shall include the following statement:

1364 "This REFERENDUM PETITION is addressed to the Honorable ____, Lieutenant
1365 Governor:

1366 The citizens of Utah who sign this petition respectfully order that Senate (or House) Bill
1367 No. ____, entitled (title of act, and, if the petition is against less than the whole act, set forth
1368 here the part or parts on which the referendum is sought), passed by the Legislature of the state
1369 of Utah during the ____ Session, be referred to the people of Utah for their approval or
1370 rejection at a regular general election or a statewide special election."

1371 (b) An individual may not advance to the second screen until the individual clicks a link
1372 at the bottom of the first screen stating, "By clicking here, I attest that I have read [
1373 ~~and understand~~]the information presented on this screen."

1374 (3)(a) The second screen presented on the approved device shall include the entire text
1375 of the law that is the subject of the referendum petition.

1376 (b) An individual may not advance to the third screen until the individual clicks a link at
1377 the bottom of the second screen stating, "By clicking here, I attest that I have read [
1378 ~~and understand~~]the entire text of the law that is the subject of the referendum
1379 petition."

1380 (4)(a) The third screen presented on the approved device shall include a statement
1381 indicating whether persons gathering signatures for the referendum petition may be
1382 paid for gathering signatures.

1383 (b) An individual may not advance to the fourth screen until the individual clicks a link
1384 at the bottom of the first screen stating, "By clicking here, I attest that I have read [
1385 ~~and understand~~]the information presented on this screen."

1386 (5) The fourth screen presented on the approved device shall include the following statement,
1387 followed by links where the individual may click "yes" or "no":

1388 "I have personally read the entirety of each statement presented on this device, except

1389 that, in relation to the law that the referendum seeks to overturn, I have read either the entire
 1390 petition summary or the entire text of the law;

1391 I am personally signing this referendum petition;

1392 I am registered to vote in Utah; and

1393 All information I enter on this device, including my residence and post office address, is
 1394 accurate.

1395 It is a class A misdemeanor for an individual to sign a referendum petition with a name
 1396 other than the individual's own name, or to knowingly sign the individual's name more than
 1397 once for the same referendum petition, or to sign a referendum petition when the individual
 1398 knows that the individual is not a registered voter.

1399 **WARNING**

1400 Even if your voter registration record is classified as private, your name, voter
 1401 identification number, and date of signature in relation to signing this referendum petition will
 1402 be made public.

1403 Do you wish to continue and sign this referendum petition?"

1404 (6)(a) If the individual clicks "no" in response to the question described in Subsection
 1405 (5), the next screen shall include the following statement, "Thank you for your time.
 1406 Please return this device to the signature-gatherer."

1407 (b) If the individual clicks "yes" in response to the question described in Subsection (5),
 1408 the website, or the application that accesses the website, shall take the
 1409 signature-gatherer and the individual signing the referendum petition through the
 1410 signature process described in Section 20A-21-201.

1411 Section 18. Section **20A-7-314** is amended to read:

1412 **20A-7-314 . Electronic referendum process -- Obtaining signatures -- Request to**
 1413 **remove signature.**

1414 (1) This section applies to the electronic referendum process.

1415 (2) A Utah voter may sign a referendum petition if the voter is a legal voter.

1416 (3) The sponsors shall ensure that the signature-gatherer who collects a signature from an
 1417 individual:

1418 (a) verifies that the individual is at least 18 years old and meets the residency
 1419 requirements of Section 20A-2-105; and

1420 (b) is informed that each signer is required to read [~~and understand~~] the petition summary
 1421 or the law that is the subject of the referendum petition.

1422 (4) A voter who signs a referendum petition may have the voter's signature removed from

- 1423 the referendum petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to the
1424 county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed before 5 p.m.
1425 no later than the earlier of:
- 1426 (a) 30 days after the day on which the voter signs the statement requesting removal; or
 - 1427 (b) 45 days after the day on which the lieutenant governor posts the voter's name under
1428 Subsection 20A-7-315(4).
- 1429 (5)(a) A voter may not submit a signature removal statement described in Subsection (4)
1430 by email or other electronic means, unless the lieutenant governor establishes a
1431 signature removal process that is consistent with the requirements of this section and
1432 Section 20A-21-201.
- 1433 (b) A person may only remove an electronic signature from a referendum petition in
1434 accordance with this section.
 - 1435 (c) A county clerk shall analyze a holographic signature, for purposes of removing an
1436 electronic signature from a referendum petition, in accordance with Subsection
1437 20A-1-1003(3).
- 1438 Section 19. **Effective Date.**
1439 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.