**R623. Lieutenant Governor, Elections.**

**R623-4. Processing Partisan Candidate Nomination Petitions.**

**R623-4-1. Purpose.**

(1) Pursuant to Subsection 20A-9-403(3)(f), this rule provides for the transparent, orderly, and timely submission, verification, and certification of nomination petition signatures.

(2) Pursuant to Section 20A-9-410, this rule provides procedures for complying with, and verifying compliance with, the candidate nominating process described in that part.

(3) Pursuant to Subsection 20A-3a-106(4), this rule establishes procedures to perform signature comparison audits described in Subsection 20A-9-408(9)(e) and to fulfill the chain of custody requirements described in Section 20A-9-408.3.

**R623-4-2. Authority.**

This rule is required by Title 20A, Chapter 9, Candidate Qualifications and Nominating Procedures and Subsection 20A-3a-106(4). Rulemaking authority relating to conducting an election is enacted under the authority of the Utah Constitution Act. VII, Sections 1 and 14, and Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

**R623-4-3. Definitions.**

(1) "Candidate" means a valid candidate who has filed for office within the current calendar year, or an individual who is submitting nomination packets on behalf of the candidate, such as a volunteer or contractor.

(2) "Conflicted race" means a race where:

(a) the current Governor is seeking reelection;

(b) the lieutenant governor is the reviewing officer and the race is for an office that the lieutenant governor is seeking; or

(c) the County Clerk is the reviewing officer and the race is for an office that the County Clerk is seeking.

(3) "Filing Officer" for the purposes of this rule means the same as defined in Subsection 20A-9-101(7).

(4) "Qualification threshold" means the number of signatures required for a given office as set forth in Subsections 20A-9-403(3)(a)(ii) and 20A-9-408(8)(b).

(5) "Reasonably consistent" means the same thing as substantially similar for the purposes of this rule.

(6) "Reviewing officer" for the purposes of this rule means:

(a) the lieutenant governor for federal, state, and multicounty legislative and state school board races;

(b) a County Clerk with whom the lieutenant governor has contracted to provide nomination petition signature verification services; or

(c) the County Clerk for single county legislative and state school board races within the County Clerk's county.

(7) "Substantially similar" means that two or more signatures share significant characteristics and resemble each other to a considerable extent, but are not necessarily identical.

(8) "Verification criteria" for signatures means the same thing as it is defined in Section R623-11-3.

**R623-4-4. Uniform Nomination Petition Processing Standards.**

(1) A nomination submission packet shall be submitted in the following manner:

(a) A candidate shall submit the petition packets, personally or by a designated agent, to the reviewing officer before the deadlines established in Sections 20A-9-403 and 20A-9-408.

(b) A candidate shall submit packets to the reviewing officer no later than 5pm on the date of the deadline described in accordance with Sections 20A-9-403 and 20A-9-408. Additionally, a candidate may submit packets only:

(i)(A) between 8am and 4pm on the last business day of each week after declaring candidacy; and

(B) excepting the deadline in Sections 20A-9-403 and 20A-9-408, any business day between 8am and 4pm during the week of the deadline described in Subsection (a).

(ii)(A) A candidate may, instead of the date provided in Subsection (b)(i)(A), submit between 8am and 4pm on any single designated weekday of the filing officer's choosing, if the chosen date is decided before January 2 of the year in which candidate filings occur.

(B) The filing officer shall provide written notice of the designated weekday for submitting packets to each signature gathering candidate upon the candidate filing a declaration of candidacy.

(b) A candidate's initial submission of nomination petition signatures shall contain sufficient signatures to meet or exceed the qualification threshold.

(c) When submitting any nomination petition, a candidate or designated agent shall comply with and supply the documents required under Subsections 20A-9-408.3(1) through (3).

(2) The reviewing officer shall provide the candidate with a copy of the submission documents that includes the following:

(a) the signature of the person making the submission;

(b) the signature of the person authorized to receive the submission;

(c) the date and time of submission; and

(d) a list of any packet numbers included in the submission.

(3) If the reviewing officer rejects a submission:

(a) the reviewing officer shall provide the candidate with a written explanation for the rejection; and

(b) the rejected submission is not returned to the candidate.

(4) A candidate may supplement a nomination petition packet by submitting an unlimited number of supplemental nomination petition packets following the initial submission until the applicable deadline established in Sections 20A-9-403 and 20A-9-408.

(a) The intake of supplemental nomination petition packets shall comply with Subsections R623-4-4(1) through (3).

(b) The processing of supplemental nomination petition packets shall comply with Subsection R623-4-4(5) and Section R623-4-5.

(5) When completing the order of nomination petition packet verification, the reviewing officer shall ensure that nomination petition packets for different candidates within the same race:

(a) are verified in the order of submission; and

(b) may not be verified simultaneously.

**R623-4-5. Procedure for Verification of Nomination Petition Packets.**

(1) The reviewing officer shall verify nomination petition packets in accordance with Section 20A-1-1002, Subsection 20A-9-403(3), and Rule R623-11.

(2) If an individual signed two candidate nomination petitions for the same office, the signature on the first submitted nomination petition that meets the requirements of Section 20A-1-1002, Subsection 20A-9-403(3), and Rule R623-11, is valid in accordance with Section 20A-9-411.

(3) The reviewing officer shall review and certify each signature submitted for a candidate in accordance with Subsection 20A-9-408(9)(f).

(4) The reviewing officer may discontinue the verification of a nomination petition if, in writing, a candidate withdraws:

(a) candidacy; or

(b) the notice of intent to gather signatures.

(5) The reviewing officer shall review each signature in an individual packet once review of that packet has begun.

(6) The reviewing officer shall:

(a) communicate results to a candidate within one business day after the signature audit described in Section R623-12-6 is conducted; and

(b) notify a candidate in writing that the candidate has met the qualification threshold.

**R623-4-6. Withdrawal of Petition Packets and Petition Signatures.**

(1) A candidate may not withdraw or take possession of a nomination petition packet once it is presented to the election officer, regardless of whether it has been accepted or rejected.

(2) A voter who has signed a candidate's nomination petition may have the voter's signature removed from the petition by submitting to the reviewing officer a statement in accordance with Subsection 20A-9-408(9)(d).

**KEY: candidate petitions, election law, elections**

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**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art. VII, Secs. 1 and 14; 20A-9**