

VOTER AFFILIATION AMENDMENTS

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jordan D. Teuscher

Senate Sponsor: Curtis S. Bramble

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends the Election Code relating to a voter's change of political party affiliation.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:
▸ specifies when a voter's designation or change of political party affiliation takes effect.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

20A-2-107, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 433

20A-2-107.5, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 433

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

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

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

(1) The county clerk shall:

(a) except as provided in Subsection **20A-2-107.5(1)(c)**, record the party affiliation

29 designated by the voter on the voter registration form as the voter's party affiliation; or
30 (b) if no political party affiliation is designated by the voter on the voter registration
31 form:
32 (i) except as provided in Subsection (1)(b)(ii), record the voter's party affiliation as the
33 party that the voter designated the last time that the voter designated a party on a voter
34 registration form, unless the voter more recently registered as "unaffiliated"; or
35 (ii) record the voter's party affiliation as "unaffiliated" if the voter:
36 (A) did not previously designate a party;
37 (B) most recently designated the voter's party affiliation as "unaffiliated"; or
38 (C) did not previously register.
39 (2) (a) Any registered voter may designate or change the voter's political party
40 affiliation by complying with the procedures and requirements of this Subsection (2).
41 (b) A registered voter may designate or change the voter's political party affiliation by
42 filing a signed form with the county clerk that identifies the registered political party with
43 which the voter chooses to affiliate~~[- during any period except the following:]~~.
44 ~~[(i) the period beginning on the day after the voter registration deadline and continuing~~
45 ~~through the date of the regular primary election; and]~~
46 ~~[(ii) the period beginning on the day after the voter registration deadline and continuing~~
47 ~~through the date of the presidential primary election.]~~
48 (c) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(d), a signed form designating or changing a
49 voter's political party affiliation takes effect when the county clerk receives the signed form.
50 (d) In an even-numbered year, a form described in Subsection (2)(c) received by the
51 county clerk after March 31 takes effect on the day after that year's regular primary election if
52 the form changes a registered voter's affiliation with one political party to affiliate with another
53 political party.
54 (e) Any part of a form described in Subsection (2)(d), other than the voter's designation
55 or change of political party affiliation, takes effect when the county clerk receives the signed

56 form.

57 (f) For purposes of Subsection (2)(d), a signed form described in Subsection (2)(c) is
 58 received by the county clerk on or before March 31 if:

59 (i) the individual submits the form in person at the county clerk's office no later than 5
 60 p.m. on the last business day before April 1;

61 (ii) the individual submits the form electronically through the system described in
 62 Section [20A-2-206](#), at or before 11:59 p.m. on March 31; or

63 (iii) the individual's form is clearly postmarked on or before March 31.

64 (g) Subsection (2)(d) does not apply to the party affiliation designated by a voter on the
 65 voter registration form if the voter has not previously been registered to vote in the state.

66 Section 2. Section **20A-2-107.5** is amended to read:

67 **20A-2-107.5. Designating or changing party affiliation -- Regular primary**
 68 **election and presidential primary election.**

69 (1) At any regular primary election or presidential primary election:

70 (a) each county clerk shall provide change of party affiliation forms to the poll workers
 71 for each voting precinct within the county; ~~and~~

72 (b) ~~any~~ except as provided in Subsection (1)(c), a registered voter who is classified as
 73 "unaffiliated" may affiliate with a political party by completing the form and giving it to the
 74 poll worker~~[-]~~; and

75 (c) for an unaffiliated voter who was affiliated with a political party at any time
 76 between April 1 and the date of the regular primary election, a form described in Subsection
 77 (1)(a) takes effect on the day after the regular primary election.

78 (2) An unaffiliated voter who affiliates with a political party as provided in Subsection
 79 (1)(b) may vote in that party's primary election.