

House Government Operations Committee
January 30th 2025

Bill: SB 53 – Election Code Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Calvin R. Musselman

Floor Sponsor: Representative Stephanie Gricius

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill amends the Election Code and related provisions.

Discussion: Senator Musselman described SB 53 as an election clean-up Bill that it includes some policy changes. The sponsor noted that last year, Representative Teuscher sponsored legislation that passed allowing non-Utah residents to serve as signature gatherers. This Bill addresses necessary changes that should have been made to that legislation. Specifically, it places responsibility on county clerks for handling requests to remove signatures. It also clarifies when a municipal officer in a newly incorporated city or town must file a declaration of candidacy, shortening the timeframe from 60 days to 30 days. Additionally, it establishes clear guidelines for removing a signature from any petition.

Ryan Kelly, Director of Elections in the Lieutenant Governor's Office, and Ricky Hatch, Weber County Clerk Auditor, spoke in support of the Bill. Some members of the public expressed concerns that it could interfere with verifying citizenship for voting or petitioning. The sponsor reassured them that the Bill only removes the citizenship requirement for signature gatherers, not for signers themselves.

Yeas: 11

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: SB 53 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.