LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 521

Introduced by Sanders, 45.

Read first time January 21, 2025

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to elections; to amend sections 32-104, 2 32-239, 32-307, 32-315, 32-401, 32-603, 32-620, 32-621, 32-624, 3 32-628, 32-629, 32-704, 32-707, 32-912, 32-1032, 32-1037, 32-1119, 4 32-1122, and 32-1404, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 32-101, 32-123, 32-202, 32-221, 32-231, 32-308, 32-312, 5 6 32-326, 32-405, 32-607, 32-613, 32-615, 32-617, 32-618, 32-630, 7 32-631, 32-632, 32-716, 32-717, 32-803, 32-809, 32-811, 32-1002, 32-1005, 32-1007, 32-1013, 32-1049, 32-1409, 32-1524, 32-1525, and 8 9 32-1546, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to redefine terms; to change provisions relating to voter registration, special 10 political 11 elections, petitions, parties, write-in candidates, 12 ballots, counting watchers and observers, and counting 13 recounting ballots; to provide forms for petitions; to eliminate 14 provisions relating to voter registration and political party 15 delegates; to harmonize provisions; to provide operative dates; to repeal the original sections; to outright repeal sections 32-309 and 16 32-705, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; and to declare an 17 18 emergency.
- 19 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 32-101, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

- 2 2024, is amended to read:
- 3 32-101 Sections 32-101 to 32-1552 and sections 18, 21, 24, 26, 28,
- 4 <u>37, and 47 of this act</u> shall be known and may be cited as the Election
- 5 Act.
- 6 Sec. 2. Section 32-104, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 7 amended to read:
- 8 32-104 Candidate shall mean a registered voter for whom votes may be
- 9 cast at any election and who, either tacitly or expressly, consents to be
- 10 considered. Candidate shall not include a candidate for President or Vice
- 11 President of the United States or a candidate for delegate to a county,
- 12 <u>state, or national political party convention</u>.
- 13 Sec. 3. Section 32-123, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 14 2024, is amended to read:
- 15 32-123 Valid photographic identification means:
- 16 (1) A document issued by the United States, the State of Nebraska,
- 17 an agency or a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska, or a
- 18 postsecondary institution within the State of Nebraska that:
- 19 (a) Shows the name of the individual to whom the document was
- 20 issued; and
- 21 (b) Shows a photograph or digital image of the individual to whom
- 22 the document was issued;
- 23 (2) A document issued by the United States Department of Defense,
- 24 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor, the
- 25 Veterans Administration, a branch of the uniformed services as defined in
- 26 section 85-2902, or a Native American Indian tribe or band recognized by
- 27 the United States Government that:
- 28 (a) Shows the name of the individual to whom the document was
- 29 issued; and
- 30 (b) Shows a photograph or digital image of the individual to whom
- 31 the document was issued; or

- 1 (3) A hospital, an assisted-living facility, a nursing home, <u>a</u>
- 2 <u>hospice</u>, a provider agency for home or community-based developmental
- 3 <u>disability services</u>, or any other intermediate care facility record that:
- 4 (a) Shows the name of the individual who is the subject of the
- 5 record; and
- 6 (b) Shows a photograph or digital image of the individual who is the
- 7 subject of the record.
- 8 Sec. 4. Section 32-202, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 9 2024, is amended to read:
- 10 32-202 In addition to any other duties prescribed by law, the
- 11 Secretary of State shall:
- 12 (1) Supervise the conduct of primary and general elections in this
- 13 state;
- 14 (2) Provide training and support for election commissioners, county
- 15 clerks, and other election officials in providing for day-to-day
- 16 operations of the office, registration of voters, and the conduct of
- 17 elections;
- 18 (3) Enforce the Election Act;
- 19 (4) With the assistance and advice of the Attorney General, make
- 20 uniform interpretations of the act;
- 21 (5) Provide periodic training for the agencies and their agents and
- 22 contractors in carrying out their duties under sections 32-308 and to
- 23 32-310;
- 24 (6) Develop and print forms for use as required by sections 32-308,
- 25 32-310, 32-320, 32-329, 32-947, 32-956, and 32-958;
- 26 (7) Contract with the Department of Administrative Services for
- 27 storage and distribution of the forms;
- 28 (8) Require reporting to ensure compliance with sections 32-308 <u>and</u>
- 29 to 32-310;
- 30 (9) Prepare and transmit reports as required by the National Voter
- 31 Registration Act of 1993, 52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.;

- 1 (10) Develop and print a manual describing the requirements of the
- 2 initiative and referendum process and distribute the manual to election
- 3 commissioners and county clerks for distribution to the public upon
- 4 request;
- 5 (11) Develop and print pamphlets described in section 32-1405.01;
- 6 (12) Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations as necessary for
- 7 elections conducted under sections 32-952 to 32-959;
- 8 (13) Establish a free access system, such as a toll-free telephone
- 9 number or an Internet website, that any voter who casts a provisional
- 10 ballot may access to discover whether the vote of that voter was counted
- 11 and, if the vote was not counted, the reason that the vote was not
- 12 counted. The Secretary of State shall establish and maintain reasonable
- 13 procedures necessary to protect the security, confidentiality, and
- 14 integrity of personal information collected, stored, or otherwise used by
- 15 the free access system. Access to information about an individual
- 16 provisional ballot shall be restricted to the individual who cast the
- 17 ballot;
- 18 (14) Provide a website dedicated to voter identification
- 19 requirements and procedures. The Secretary of State shall establish,
- 20 maintain, and regularly update on the website a document entitled "List
- 21 of Acceptable Forms of Identification" that lists forms of identification
- 22 that qualify as valid photographic identification for purposes of voter
- 23 identification;
- 24 (15) Provide a public awareness campaign regarding the voter
- 25 identification requirements and procedures, including communication
- 26 through multiple mediums and in-person events;
- 27 (16) Provide instructions and information to the Department of
- 28 Health and Human Services, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and the
- 29 State Department of Education for distribution by such agencies to
- 30 Nebraska residents regarding the requirement to present valid
- 31 photographic identification in order to vote and the way to obtain free

- 1 valid photographic identification; and
- 2 (17) Not use or allow the use of citizenship information shared with
- 3 or collected by the Secretary of State pursuant to the Election Act for
- 4 any purpose other than maintenance of the voter registration list,
- 5 including law enforcement purposes.
- 6 Sec. 5. Section 32-221, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 7 2024, is amended to read:
- 8 32-221 (1) The election commissioner shall appoint precinct and
- 9 district inspectors, judges of election, and clerks of election to assist
- 10 the election commissioner in conducting elections on election day. In
- 11 counties with a population of less than four hundred thousand inhabitants
- 12 as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, judges and
- 13 clerks of election and inspectors shall be appointed at least thirty days
- 14 prior to the statewide primary election, shall hold office for terms of
- 15 two years or until their successors are appointed and qualified for the
- 16 next statewide primary election, and shall serve at all elections in the
- 17 county during their terms of office. In counties with a population of
- 18 four hundred thousand or more inhabitants as determined by the most
- 19 recent federal decennial census, judges and clerks of election shall be
- 20 appointed at least thirty days prior to the first election for which
- 21 appointments are necessary and shall serve for at least four elections.
- 22 (2) Judges and clerks of election may be selected at random from a
- 23 cross section of the population of the county. All qualified citizens
- 24 shall have the opportunity to be considered for service. All qualified
- 25 citizens shall fulfill their obligation to serve as judges or clerks of
- 26 election as prescribed by the election commissioner. No citizen shall be
- 27 excluded from service as a result of discrimination based upon race,
- 28 color, religion, sex, national origin, or economic status. No citizen
- 29 shall be excluded from service unless excused by reason of ill health or
- 30 other good and sufficient reason.
- 31 (3) All persons appointed shall be of good repute and character, be

- 1 able to read and write the English language, and except as otherwise
- 2 provided in subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section 32-223, be
- 3 registered voters in the county. No candidate at an election shall be
- 4 appointed as a judge or clerk of election or inspector for such election
- 5 other than a candidate for delegate to a county, state, or national
- 6 political party convention.
- 7 (4) If a vacancy occurs in the office of judge or clerk of election
- 8 or inspector, the election commissioner shall fill such vacancy in
- 9 accordance with section 32-223. If any judge or clerk of election or
- 10 inspector fails to appear at the hour appointed for the opening of the
- 11 polls, the remaining officers shall notify the election commissioner,
- 12 select a registered voter to serve in place of the absent officer if so
- 13 directed by the election commissioner, and proceed to conduct the
- 14 election. If the election commissioner finds that a judge or clerk of
- 15 election or inspector does not possess all the qualifications prescribed
- 16 in this section or if any judge or clerk of election or inspector is
- 17 guilty of neglecting the duties of the office or of any official
- 18 misconduct, the election commissioner shall remove the person and fill
- 19 the vacancy.
- 20 Sec. 6. Section 32-231, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 21 2024, is amended to read:
- 22 32-231 (1) Each judge and clerk of election appointed pursuant to
- 23 section 32-230 shall (a) be of good repute and character and able to read
- 24 and write the English language, (b) reside in the precinct in which he or
- 25 she is to serve unless necessity demands that personnel be appointed from
- 26 another precinct, (c) be a registered voter except as otherwise provided
- 27 in subsections (6), (7), and (8) of section 32-230, and (d) serve for a
- 28 term of two years or until judges and clerks of election are appointed
- 29 for the next primary election. No candidate at an election shall be
- 30 eligible to serve as a judge or clerk of election at the same election
- 31 other than a candidate for a delegate to a county, state, or national

1 political party convention.

- (2) The county clerk may appoint district inspectors to aid the 2 county clerk in the performance of his or her duties and supervise a 3 group of precincts on election day. A district inspector shall meet the 4 5 requirements for judges and clerks of election as provided in subsection (1) of this section, shall oversee the procedures of a group of polling 6 places, and shall act as the personal agent and deputy of the county 7 clerk. The district inspector shall ensure that the Election Act is 8 9 uniformly enforced at the polling places assigned to him or her and perform tasks assigned by the county clerk. The district inspector may 10 perform all of the duties required of a judge or clerk of election. 11
- Sec. 7. Section 32-239, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
- 32-239 All vacancies of judges and clerks of election appointed 14 pursuant to section 32-230 and district inspectors appointed pursuant to 15 subsection (2) of section 32-231 shall be filled as nearly as possible in 16 the manner in which the original appointments were made. At least fifteen 17 days prior to any election, the county clerk shall review the list of 18 district inspectors and the list of judges and clerks of election in the 19 precincts in which the election is to occur and fill any vacancies. When 20 a district inspector or judge or clerk of election is a candidate for an 21 22 office to be voted upon at the election, except for a candidate for a delegate to a county, state, or national political party convention, his 23 or her position as a district inspector, judge, or clerk shall be vacant. 24
- 25 **Sec. 8.** Section 32-307, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
- 27 32-307 No materials advocating or advertising any political issue, 28 candidate, or party shall be displayed or distributed within fifty feet 29 of any voter registration site. No alcohol shall be served within fifty 30 feet of any voter registration site. The registration procedure shall be 31 conducted in a neutral manner and shall not be connected with anything

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LB521 2025

unrelated to the object of registering electors except as otherwise 1

- 2 provided in sections 32-308 and to 32-310.
- 3 Sec. 9. Section 32-308, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 4 2024, is amended to read:
- 5 32-308 (1) The Secretary of State and the Director of Motor Vehicles
- shall enter into an agreement to match information in the computerized 6
- 7 statewide voter registration list with information in the database of the
- Department of Motor Vehicles to the extent required to enable each such 8
- 9 official to verify the accuracy of the information, including
- 10 citizenship, provided on applications for voter registration.
- Director of Motor Vehicles shall enter into an agreement with the 11
- Commissioner of Social Security under section 205(r)(8) of the federal 12
- Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 405(r)(8), as such section existed on 13
- April 17, 2003, for purposes of the Election Act. 14
- (2) The Department of Motor Vehicles, with the assistance of the 15 Secretary of State, shall prescribe a voter registration application 16 17 which may be used to register to vote or change his or her address for voting purposes at the same time an elector applies for an original or 18 19 renewal motor vehicle operator's license, an original or renewal state identification card, or a replacement thereof. The voter registration 20 application shall contain the information required pursuant to section 21 32-312 and shall be designed so that it does not require the duplication 22 of information in the application for the motor vehicle operator's 23 24 license or state identification card, except that it may require a second 25 signature of the applicant. The department and the Secretary of State shall make the voter registration application available to any person 26 applying for an operator's license or state identification card. The 27

application shall be completed at the office of the department by the

close of business on the third Friday preceding any election to be

registered to vote at such election. A registration application received

after the deadline shall not be processed by the election commissioner or

- 1 county clerk until after the election.
- 2 (3) The Department of Motor Vehicles, in conjunction with the Secretary of State, shall develop a process to electronically transmit 3 voter registration application information received under subsection (2) 4 of this section to the election commissioner or county clerk of the 5 county in which the applicant resides within the time limits prescribed 6 in subsection (4) of this section. The Director of Motor Vehicles shall 7 designate an implementation date for the process which shall be on or 8 9 before January 1, 2016.
- 10 (4) The voter registration application information shall transmitted to the election commissioner or county clerk of the county in 11 which the applicant resides not later than ten days after receipt, except 12 13 that if the voter registration application information is received within five days prior to the third Friday preceding any election, it shall be 14 transmitted not later than five days after its original submission. Any 15 16 information on whether an applicant registers or declines to register and 17 the location of the office at which he or she registers shall be confidential and shall only be used for voter registration purposes. 18
- (5) For each voter registration application for which information is 19 transmitted electronically pursuant to this section, the Secretary of 20 State shall obtain a copy of the electronic representation of the 21 22 applicant's digital image and signature from the Department of Motor Vehicles' records of his or her motor vehicle operator's license or state 23 24 identification card for purposes of voter registration and voting. Each 25 voter registration application electronically transmitted under this section shall include information provided by the applicant that includes 26 whether the applicant is a citizen of the United States, whether the 27 28 applicant is of sufficient age to register to vote, the applicant's residence address, the applicant's postal address if different from the 29 residence address, the date of birth of the applicant, the party 30 affiliation of the applicant or an indication that the applicant is not 31

- 1 affiliated with any political party, the applicant's motor vehicle
- 2 operator's license number, the applicant's previous registration location
- 3 by city, county, or state, if applicable, and the applicant's signature.
- 4 (6) State agency personnel involved in the voter registration
- 5 process pursuant to this section and section 32-309 shall not be
- 6 considered deputy registrars or agents or employees of the election
- 7 commissioner or county clerk.
- 8 Sec. 10. Section 32-312, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 9 2024, is amended to read:
- 10 32-312 The registration application prescribed by the Secretary of
- 11 State pursuant to section 32-304 or 32-311.01 shall provide the
- 12 instructional statements and request the information from the applicant
- 13 as provided in this section.
- 14 CITIZENSHIP—"Are you a citizen of the United States of America?"
- 15 with boxes to check to indicate whether the applicant is or is not a
- 16 citizen of the United States.
- 17 AGE—"Are you at least eighteen years of age or will you be eighteen
- 18 years of age on or before the first Tuesday following the first Monday of
- 19 November of this year?" with boxes to check to indicate whether or not
- 20 the applicant will be eighteen years of age or older on election day.
- 21 WARNING—"If you checked 'no' in response to either of these
- 22 questions, do not complete this application.".
- 23 NAME—the name of the applicant giving the first and last name in
- 24 full, the middle name in full or the middle initial, and the maiden name
- 25 of the applicant, if applicable.
- 26 RESIDENCE—the name and number of the street, avenue, or other
- 27 location of the dwelling where the applicant resides if there is a
- 28 number. If the registrant resides in a hotel, apartment, tenement house,
- 29 or institution, such additional information shall be included as will
- 30 give the exact location of such registrant's place of residence. If the
- 31 registrant lives in an incorporated or unincorporated area not identified

by the use of roads, road names, or house numbers, the registrant shall 1

- 2 state the section, township, and range of his or her residence and the
- corporate name of the school district as described in section 79-405 in 3
- 4 which he or she is located.
- 5 POSTAL ADDRESS—the address at which the applicant receives mail if
- different from the residence address. 6
- 7 ADDRESS OF LAST REGISTRATION—the name and number of the street,
- avenue, or other location of the dwelling from which the applicant last 8
- 9 registered.
- 10 TELEPHONE NUMBERS—the telephone numbers of the applicant. At the
- request of the applicant, a designation shall be made that a telephone 11
- number is an unlisted number, and such designation shall preclude the 12
- listing of such telephone number on any list of voter registrations. 13
- EMAIL ADDRESS—an email address of the applicant. At the request of 14
- the applicant, a designation shall be made that the email address is 15
- private, and such designation shall preclude the listing of the 16
- 17 applicant's email address on any list of voter registrations.
- DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER OR LAST FOUR DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY 18
- 19 NUMBER—if the applicant has a Nebraska driver's license, the license
- number, and if the applicant does not have a Nebraska driver's license, 20
- the last four digits of the applicant's social security number. 21
- 22 DATE OF APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION—the month, day, and year when
- the applicant presented himself or herself for registration, when the 23
- 24 applicant completed and signed the registration application if the
- 25 application was submitted by mail or delivered to the election official
- by the applicant's personal messenger or personal agent, or when the 26
- 27 completed application was submitted if the registration application was
- completed pursuant to section 32-304. 28
- 29 PLACE OF BIRTH-show the state, country, kingdom, empire, or dominion
- where the applicant was born. 30
- DATE OF BIRTH—show the date of the applicant's birth. The applicant 31

- 1 shall be at least eighteen years of age or attain eighteen years of age
- 2 on or before the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November to have
- 3 the right to register and vote in any election in the present calendar
- 4 year.
- 5 REGISTRATION TAKEN BY—show the signature of the authorized official
- 6 or staff member accepting the application pursuant to section 32-309 or
- 7 32-310 or at least one of the deputy registrars taking the application
- 8 pursuant to section 32-306, if applicable.
- 9 PARTY AFFILIATION—show the party affiliation of the applicant as
- 10 Democratic, Republican, or Other or show no party affiliation as
- 11 Nonpartisan. (Note: If you wish to vote in both partisan and nonpartisan
- 12 primary elections for state and local offices, you must indicate a
- 13 political party affiliation on the registration application. If you
- 14 register without a political party affiliation (nonpartisan), you will
- 15 receive only the nonpartisan ballots for state and local offices at
- 16 primary elections. If you register without a political party affiliation,
- 17 you may vote in partisan primary elections for congressional offices.)
- 18 OTHER—information the Secretary of State determines will assist in
- 19 the proper and accurate registration of the voter.
- 20 Immediately following the spaces for inserting information as
- 21 provided in this section, the following statement shall be printed:
- To the best of my knowledge and belief, I declare under penalty of
- 23 election falsification that:
- 24 (1) I live in the State of Nebraska at the address provided in this
- 25 application;
- 26 (2) I have not been convicted of a felony or, if convicted, I have
- 27 completed my sentence for the felony, including any parole term;
- 28 (3) I have not been officially found to be non compos mentis
- 29 (mentally incompetent); and
- 30 (4) I am a citizen of the United States.
- 31 Any registrant who signs this application knowing that any of the

- 1 information in the application is false shall be guilty of a Class IV
- 2 felony under section 32-1502 of the statutes of Nebraska. The penalty for
- 3 a Class IV felony is up to two years imprisonment and twelve months post-
- 4 release supervision, a fine of up to ten thousand dollars, or both.
- 5 APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE—require the applicant to affix his or her
- 6 signature to the application.
- 7 Sec. 11. Section 32-315, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 8 amended to read:
- 9 32-315 Upon receiving a completed voter registration application
- 10 pursuant to section 32-308 $\frac{32-309}{100}$ or 32-310 indicating that a voter
- 11 who is registered in the county has changed his or her name or moved to
- 12 another residence within the same county, the election commissioner or
- 13 county clerk shall change the voter registration record of the registered
- 14 voter to the new name or new address and shall send an acknowledgment
- 15 card to the registered voter indicating that the change of registration
- 16 has been completed and the address of the voter's new polling place.
- 17 Sec. 12. Section 32-326, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 18 2024, is amended to read:
- 19 32-326 (1) The election commissioner or county clerk shall remove
- 20 the name of a registered voter from the voter registration register and
- 21 cancel the registration of such voter if:
- 22 (a) (1) The election commissioner or county clerk has received
- 23 information that the voter is deceased;
- 24 (b) (2) The voter requests in writing that his or her name be
- 25 removed;
- 26 (c) (3) The election commissioner or county clerk has received
- 27 information that the voter has moved from the address at which he or she
- 28 is registered to vote from the National Change of Address program of the
- 29 United States Postal Service pursuant to section 32-329 and the voter has
- 30 not responded to a confirmation notice sent pursuant to section 32-329
- 31 and has not voted or offered to vote at any election held prior to and

LB521 2025

1 including the second statewide federal general election following the

- 2 mailing of the confirmation notice;
- $\frac{(d)}{(4)}$ The election commissioner or county clerk has received
- 4 information that the registrant has moved out of the state and has
- 5 registered to vote or voted in another territory or state pursuant to
- 6 section 32-314;
- 7 $\underline{\text{(e)}}$ (5) The election commissioner or county clerk has received
- 8 information from the Department of Motor Vehicles that the registrant has
- 9 changed the registrant's state of residence by surrendering the
- 10 registrant's Nebraska motor vehicle operator's license or state
- 11 identification card to another state; or
- 12 (f) (6) The voter has become ineligible to vote as provided in
- 13 section 32-313.
- 14 (2) Upon receipt of a request under subdivision (1)(b) of this
- 15 <u>section</u>, the election commissioner or county clerk shall notify the voter
- 16 and indicate that the voter's registration has been canceled.
- 17 Sec. 13. Section 32-401, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 18 amended to read:
- 19 32-401 The statewide primary election shall be held on the first
- 20 Tuesday after the second Monday in May in even-numbered years. The
- 21 statewide primary election shall be held for the purposes of (1)
- 22 nominating all candidates to be voted for at the statewide general
- 23 election except (a) candidates who were unopposed at the primary election
- 24 and not required to be on the ballot and (b) candidates who petition on
- 25 the ballot or are nominated by their political party, (2) electing
- 26 delegates to the county, state, and national political party conventions,
- 27 if applicable, (3) in each presidential election year, voting on a
- 28 preference for President of the United States, and (3) (4) electing
- 29 officers in political subdivisions which hold their general elections at
- 30 the time of the statewide primary election.
- 31 Sec. 14. Section 32-405, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

- 1 2024, is amended to read:
- 2 32-405 (1) Except as otherwise specifically provided:
- 3 (a) Any special election under the Election Act shall be held on the
- 4 first Tuesday following the second Monday of the selected month, except
- 5 that if such day falls upon a legal holiday, the election shall be held
- 6 on the first Tuesday following the first Monday of the selected month;
- 7 <u>and</u> <u>unless</u> <u>otherwise</u> <u>specifically</u> <u>provided</u>. <u>Except</u> <u>as</u> <u>otherwise</u>
- 8 specifically provided,
- 9 (b) No no special election shall be held under the Election Act in
- 10 March, April, May, June, October, November, or December of an even-
- 11 numbered year unless it is held in conjunction with the statewide primary
- or general election. No special election shall be held under the Election
- 13 Act in August or September of an even-numbered year except as provided in
- 14 section 32-564 and except for a special election by a political
- 15 subdivision pursuant to section 13-519 to exceed an applicable allowable
- 16 growth percentage or section 77-3444 to exceed a property tax levy limit
- 17 in section 77-3442 or 77-3444 to approve a property tax levy or exceed a
- 18 property tax levy limitation.
- 19 (2) A special election for a Class I, II, III, IV, or V school
- 20 district which is located in whole or in part in a county in which a city
- 21 of the primary or metropolitan class is located may be held in
- 22 conjunction with the primary or general election for a city of the
- 23 primary or metropolitan class which is governed by a home rule charter.
- 24 Sec. 15. Section 32-603, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 25 amended to read:
- 26 32-603 (1) No candidate for member of the Legislature or an elective
- 27 office described in Article IV, section 1 or 20, or Article VII, section
- 28 3 or 10, of the Constitution of Nebraska shall be eligible to file as a
- 29 candidate, to petition on the ballot as a candidate, to accept a
- 30 nomination by a political party or by party convention, caucus, or
- 31 committee to fill a vacancy, or to be a declared write-in candidate for

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more than one elective office to be filled at the same election except 1 2 for the position of delegate to a county, state, or national political party convention. No candidate for any other high elective office as 3 4 defined in subsection (6) of section 32-604 shall be eligible to file as a candidate, to petition on the ballot as a candidate, to accept a 5 nomination by a political party or by party convention, caucus, or 6 7 committee to fill a vacancy, or to be a declared write-in candidate for more than one high elective office to be filled at the same election. Any 8 9 such person who has filed for a high elective office shall withdraw such 10 filing prior to filing for any other elective office to be filled at the same election except for the position of delegate to a county, state, or 11 national political party convention. Any such person who has won a 12 13 nomination in a primary election and who is nominated to any additional offices by a write-in vote or by a political party convention or 14 committee shall decline one of the nominations pursuant to section 32-623 15 16 and shall do so within seven days after receiving any subsequent 17 nomination. If the candidate fails to take such action, any subsequent nomination shall be declared void. Any filing made in violation of this 18 19 section shall be void, and the Secretary of State, election commissioner, or county clerk shall not place the name of any person on the ballot for 20 any office for which such person filed in violation of this section. 21

- (2) If a filing officer determines that a candidate has filed for more than one office in violation of subsection (1) of this section, the filing officer shall notify the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State shall determine the order of the filings and notify the candidate that the subsequent filing is invalid, and the candidate's name shall not be printed on the ballot for such office. The Secretary of State shall notify the filing officers of the counties involved of the action taken on such subsequent filing.
- 30 (3) When the name of a candidate appears on the ballot for more than 31 one office during an election in violation of subsection (1) of this

- 1 section, the filing officer when possible shall correct the error by
- 2 removing the candidate's name from the ballot and reprinting corrected
- 3 ballots. When it is not possible to print a corrected set of ballots in
- 4 time for the election, all votes cast for such candidate as a candidate
- 5 for the subsequent office appearing on the ballot shall not be counted,
- 6 and no certificate of nomination or election shall be issued to such
- 7 candidate for such subsequent office.
- 8 Sec. 16. Section 32-607, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 9 2024, is amended to read:
- 10 32-607 (1)(a) All candidate filing forms shall contain the following
- 11 statement: I hereby swear that I will abide by the laws of the State of
- 12 Nebraska regarding the results of the primary and general elections, that
- 13 I am a registered voter and qualified to be elected, and that I will
- 14 serve if elected. Candidate filing forms shall also contain the following
- 15 information regarding the candidate: Name, as provided under subdivision
- 16 (b) of this subsection; residence address; mailing address if different
- 17 from the residence address; telephone number; office sought; party
- 18 affiliation if the office sought is a partisan office; a statement as to
- 19 whether or not civil penalties are owed pursuant to the Nebraska
- 20 Political Accountability and Disclosure Act; and, if civil penalties are
- 21 owed, whether or not a surety bond has been filed pursuant to subdivision
- 22 (4)(b) of section 32-602. An email address shall also be included on the
- 23 filing form as an optional field.
- 24 (b) The name contained on a candidate filing form shall be the name
- 25 by which the candidate is generally known in the community and by which
- 26 the candidate is distinguished from others and shall not contain titles,
- 27 characterizations, or designations.
- 28 (2) Candidate filing forms shall be filed with the following filing
- 29 officers:
- 30 (a) For candidates for national, state, or congressional office,
- 31 directors of public power and irrigation districts, directors of

- 1 reclamation districts, directors of natural resources districts,
- 2 directors of metropolitan utilities districts, members of the boards of
- 3 educational service units, members of governing boards of community
- 4 colleges, delegates to national conventions, and other offices filled by
- 5 election held in more than one county and judges desiring retention, in
- 6 the office of the Secretary of State;
- 7 (b) For officers elected within a county, in the office of the
- 8 election commissioner or county clerk;
- 9 (c) For officers in school districts which include land in adjoining
- 10 counties, in the office of the election commissioner or county clerk of
- 11 the county in which the greatest number of registered voters entitled to
- 12 vote for the officers reside; and
- 13 (d) For city or village officers, in the office of the election
- 14 commissioner or county clerk.
- 15 (3) Objections to the name of a candidate submitted on a candidate
- 16 filing form may be made and passed upon in the same manner as objections
- 17 to a candidate filing form pursuant to section 32-624.
- 18 Sec. 17. Section 32-613, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 19 2024, is amended to read:
- 20 32-613 Any petition to place a person's name on the primary election
- 21 ballot for President of the United States shall contain the names of not
- 22 less than one hundred voters registered with the appropriate political
- 23 party from each congressional district of the state, except that if the
- 24 political party dissolves as provided in subsection (2) of section
- 25 32-720, the Secretary of State shall not accept a petition under this
- 26 section. The name of the candidate for President shall be placed upon the
- 27 ballot only when written consent of such person has been filed with the
- 28 Secretary of State not less than sixty days before the primary election.
- 29 The form of the petition shall comply with the requirements of section
- 30 32-628 and section 18 of this act and shall as nearly as possible conform
- 31 to the form prescribed by the Secretary of State. All signed petitions

LB521 2025 LB521

1 not filed with the Secretary of State shall become invalid if not filed

- 2 <u>not less than sixty days before the primary election not filed by August</u>
- 3 1 of the presidential election year.
- 4 Sec. 18. In addition to the requirements of section 32-613, the
- 5 form of a petition for partisan candidates for President of the United
- 6 States shall be substantially as follows:
- 7 Petition for Office of President of the United States
- 8 <u>Name of Candidate:</u>
- 9 Residence Address:
- 10 <u>City, State, and Zip Code:</u>
- 11 Party Affiliation:
- 12 <u>To the Honorable, Secretary of State for the State of</u>
- 13 <u>Nebraska:</u>
- 14 We, the undersigned residents of the State of Nebraska and the
- 15 county of, respectfully demand that the above-named
- 16 <u>candidate be placed on the ballot at the primary election to be held on</u>
- 17 the day of 20...., and each for himself or herself says:
- 18 <u>I have personally signed this petition on the date opposite my name;</u>
- 19 I am a registered voter of the State of Nebraska and the county
- 20 of and am qualified to sign this petition and am affiliated
- 21 with the appropriate political party or I will be so registered,
- 22 qualified, and affiliated on or before the date on which this petition is
- 23 filed with the Secretary of State; and
- 24 My printed name, date of birth, street and number or voting
- 25 precinct, and city, village, or post office address are correctly written
- 26 <u>after my signature.</u>
- 27 (Here follow numbered lines for signature, printed name, date of
- 28 <u>birth, date, street and number or voting precinct, and city, village, or</u>
- 29 <u>post office address.)</u>
- 30 Sec. 19. Section 32-615, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 31 2024, is amended to read:

- 32-615 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section, any candidate engaged in or pursuing a write-in campaign shall file a notarized affidavit of his or her intent together with the receipt for any filing fee with the filing officer as provided in section 32-608 no earlier than January 5 and no later than the second Friday prior to the election.
- 7 (2) For any county office elected pursuant to sections 32-517 to 32-529 which is subject to subdivision (1)(b) of section 32-811, a 8 9 candidate may engage in or pursue a write-in campaign if he or she files a notarized affidavit of his or her intent together with the receipt for 10 the filing fee with the filing officer as provided in section 32-608 on 11 or before March 3 of the year of the statewide primary election. If such 12 an affidavit is filed as prescribed, the election commissioner or county 13 clerk shall place that county office on the statewide primary election 14 ballot with the names of the candidate properly filed for the nomination 15 of the applicable political party and a line for write-in candidates. 16
- (3) A candidate submitting an affidavit under this section for a partisan office on the statewide primary election ballot shall be a registered voter of the political party named in the affidavit unless the political party allows candidates not affiliated with the party by not adopting a rule under section 32-702.
- 22 (4) A candidate who has been defeated as a candidate in the primary election or defeated as a write-in candidate in the primary election 23 24 shall not be eligible as a write-in candidate for the same office in the 25 general election unless (a) a vacancy on the ballot exists pursuant to section 32-625 or (b) the candidate was a candidate for an office 26 described in sections 32-512 to 32-550 and the candidate lost the 27 28 election as a result of a determination pursuant to section 32-1122 in the case of a tie vote. 29
- 30 (5) A candidate who files a notarized affidavit shall be entitled to all write-in votes for the candidate even if only the last name of the

- 1 candidate has been written if such last name is reasonably close to the
- 2 proper spelling.
- 3 (6) If any candidate who has filed pursuant to this section notifies
- 4 the filing officer in writing duly acknowledged by the second Friday
- 5 prior to the election that the candidate declines to be a write-in
- 6 <u>candidate</u>, the notarized affidavit shall be considered withdrawn and no
- 7 votes shall be counted for the withdrawn candidate under sections 32-1005
- 8 to 32-1008.
- 9 Sec. 20. Section 32-617, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 10 2024, is amended to read:
- 11 32-617 (1) Petitions for nomination for partisan and nonpartisan
- 12 offices shall conform to the requirements of section 32-628 and section
- 13 21 of this act. Petitions shall state the office to be filled and the
- 14 name and address of the candidate. Petitions for partisan office shall
- 15 also indicate the party affiliation of the candidate. A sample copy of
- 16 the petition shall be filed with the filing officer prior to circulation.
- 17 Petitions shall be signed by registered voters residing in the district
- 18 or political subdivision in which the officer is to be elected and shall
- 19 be filed with the filing officer in the same manner as provided for
- 20 candidate filing forms in section 32-607. Petition signers and petition
- 21 circulators shall conform to the requirements of sections 32-629 and
- 22 32-630. No petition for nomination shall be filed unless there is
- 23 attached thereto a receipt showing the payment of the filing fee required
- 24 pursuant to section 32-608. Except as provided in section 32-621, such
- 25 Such petitions shall be filed by August 1 in the year of the general
- 26 <u>election for partisan offices and</u> September 1 in the year of the general
- 27 election for nonpartisan offices, and all signed petitions not filed with
- 28 the <u>filing officer Secretary of State</u> by such date shall become invalid.
- 29 (2) The filing officer shall verify the signatures according to
- 30 section 32-631. Within three days after the signatures on a petition for
- 31 nomination have been verified pursuant to such section and the filing

- 1 officer has determined that pursuant to section 32-618 a sufficient
- 2 number of registered voters signed the petitions, the filing officer
- 3 shall notify the candidate so nominated by registered or certified mail
- 4 or electronic mail, and the candidate shall, within five days after the
- 5 date of receiving such notification, file with such officer his or her
- 6 acceptance of the nomination or his or her name will not be printed on
- 7 the ballot.
- 8 (3) A candidate placed on the ballot by petition shall be termed a
- 9 candidate by petition. The words BY PETITION shall be printed upon the
- 10 ballot after the name of each candidate by petition.
- 11 Sec. 21. In addition to the requirements of sections 32-617 and
- 12 32-619, if the Secretary of State is the filing officer for a petition
- 13 for nomination for partisan and nonpartisan office, the form of the
- 14 petition shall be substantially as follows:
- 15 Petition for Office for General Election
- Name of Candidate:
- 17 <u>Residence Address:</u>
- 18 City, State, and Zip Code:
- 19 <u>Name of Office:</u>
- 20 <u>District (if applicable):</u>
- 21 Party Affiliation (if applicable):
- 22 <u>To the Honorable, Secretary of State for the State of</u>
- 23 <u>Nebraska:</u>
- 24 We, the <u>undersigned residents of the State of Nebraska and the</u>
- 25 <u>county of, respectfully demand that the above-named</u>
- 26 <u>candidate be placed on the ballot at the general election to be held on</u>
- 27 the day of 20...., and each for himself or herself says:
- I have personally signed this petition on the date opposite my name;
- 29 <u>I am a registered voter of the State of Nebraska and the county</u>
- 30 of and am qualified to sign this petition or I will be so
- 31 registered and qualified on or before the date on which this petition is

- 1 filed with the Secretary of State; and
- 2 My printed name, date of birth, street and number or voting
- 3 precinct, and city, village, or post office address are correctly written
- 4 <u>after my signature.</u>
- 5 (Here follow numbered lines for signature, printed name, date of
- 6 birth, date, street and number or voting precinct, and city, village, or
- 7 post office address.)
- 8 Sec. 22. Section 32-618, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 9 2024, is amended to read:
- 10 32-618 (1) The number of signatures of registered voters needed to
- 11 place the name of a candidate upon the nonpartisan ballot for the general
- 12 election shall be as follows:
- 13 (a) For each nonpartisan office other than members of the Board of
- 14 Regents of the University of Nebraska and board members of a Class I, II,
- 15 or III school district, at least ten percent of the total number of
- 16 registered voters voting for Governor or President of the United States
- 17 at the immediately preceding general election in the district or
- 18 political subdivision in which the officer is to be elected, not to
- 19 exceed two thousand;
- 20 (b) For members of the Board of Regents of the University of
- 21 Nebraska, at least ten percent of the total number of registered voters
- 22 voting for Governor or President of the United States at the immediately
- 23 preceding general election in the regent district in which the officer is
- 24 to be elected, not to exceed one thousand; and
- (c) For board members of a Class I, II, or III school district, at
- 26 least twenty percent of the total number of votes cast for the board
- 27 member receiving the highest number of votes at the immediately preceding
- 28 general election in the school district.
- 29 (2) The number of signatures of registered voters needed to place
- 30 the name of a candidate for an office upon the partisan ballot for the
- 31 general election shall be as follows:

- 1 (a) For each partisan office to be filled by the registered voters
- 2 of the entire state, at least four thousand, and at least seven hundred
- 3 fifty signatures shall be obtained in each congressional district in the
- 4 state;
- 5 (b) For each partisan office to be filled by the registered voters
- 6 of a county, at least twenty percent of the total number of registered
- 7 voters voting for Governor or President of the United States at the
- 8 immediately preceding general election within the county, not to exceed
- 9 two thousand, except that the number of signatures shall not be required
- 10 to exceed twenty-five percent of the total number of registered voters
- 11 voting for the office at the immediately preceding general election; and
- 12 (c) For each partisan office to be filled by the registered voters
- 13 of a political subdivision other than a county, at least twenty percent
- 14 of the total number of registered voters voting for Governor or President
- of the United States at the immediately preceding general election within
- 16 the political subdivision, not to exceed two thousand.
- 17 (3) If the filing officer verifies signatures in excess of one
- 18 <u>hundred ten percent of the number necessary to place the candidate upon</u>
- 19 the ballot, the filing officer may stop verifying signatures and consider
- 20 the petition sufficient and valid.
- 21 Sec. 23. Section 32-620, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 22 amended to read:
- 23 32-620 (1) Partisan candidates for the offices of President and Vice
- 24 President of the United States on the general election ballot shall be
- 25 certified to the Governor and Secretary of State by the national
- 26 nominating convention as provided by law.
- 27 (2) Candidates for the offices of President and Vice President of
- 28 the United States of newly established political parties may obtain
- 29 general election ballot position by filing with the Secretary of State an
- 30 application containing:
- 31 (a) The name or names to be printed on the ballot;

- 1 (b) The name of the political party;
- 2 (c) The written consent of the designated vice-presidential
- 3 candidate to have his or her name printed on the ballot; and
- 4 (d) The names and addresses of the persons who will represent the
- 5 applicant as presidential elector candidates together with the written
- 6 consent of such persons to become candidates.
- 7 (3) Candidates for the offices of President and Vice President of
- 8 the United States of nonpartisan status may obtain general election
- 9 ballot position by filing with the Secretary of State:
- 10 (a) An application containing:
- (i) The name or names to be printed on the ballot;
- 12 (ii) The status of the candidacy as nonpartisan;
- (iii) The written consent of the designated vice-presidential
- 14 candidate to have his or her name printed on the ballot; and
- 15 (iv) The names and addresses of the persons who will represent the
- 16 applicant as presidential elector candidates together with the written
- 17 consent of such persons to become candidates; and
- 18 (b) A petition signed by not less than two thousand five hundred
- 19 registered voters. Such petitions shall conform to the requirements of
- 20 section 32-628 and section 24 of this act and shall be filed with the
- 21 Secretary of State by August 1 in the year of the presidential general
- 22 election.
- 23 (4) If a presidential candidate who obtained ballot placement
- 24 pursuant to subsection (2) or (3) of this section files an affidavit with
- 25 the Secretary of State stating that the candidate declines ballot
- 26 placement at least sixty days before the general election, the name shall
- 27 <u>not be printed on the general election ballot.</u>
- 28 Sec. 24. <u>In addition to the requirements of subsection (3) of</u>
- 29 <u>section 32-620, the form of a petition for nonpartisan candidates for</u>
- 30 President of the United States shall be substantially as follows:
- 31 Petition for Office of President of United States

- 1 Name of Candidate:
- 2 <u>Residence Address:</u>
- 3 <u>City, State, and Zip Code:</u>
- 4 <u>To the Honorable, Secretary of State for the State of</u>
- 5 Nebraska:
- 6 We, the undersigned residents of the State of Nebraska and the
- 7 <u>county of, respectfully demand that the above-named</u>
- 8 <u>candidate be placed on the ballot at the general election to be held on</u>
- 9 the day of 20...., and each for himself or herself says:
- 10 <u>I have personally signed this petition on the date opposite my name;</u>
- 11 <u>I am a registered voter of the State of Nebraska and the county</u>
- 12 of and am qualified to sign this petition or I will be so
- 13 registered and qualified on or before the date on which this petition is
- 14 <u>filed with the Secretary of State; and</u>
- 15 My printed name, date of birth, street and number or voting
- 16 precinct, and city, village, or post office address are correctly written
- 17 <u>after my signature.</u>
- 18 (Here follow numbered lines for signature, printed name, date of
- 19 <u>birth, date, street and number or voting precinct, and city, village, or</u>
- 20 post office address.)
- 21 Sec. 25. Section 32-621, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 22 amended to read:
- 23 32-621 When a new political party has been properly established
- 24 under section 32-716 prior to the general election and after the primary
- 25 election of the same year, all candidates except candidates for President
- 26 or Vice President of the United States shall pay the filing fee as
- 27 provided in section 32-608, file a candidate filing form with the filing
- 28 officer as provided in section 32-607 no later than September 1 prior to
- 29 the general election accompanied by a petition of nomination containing
- 30 the names of not less than twenty-five registered voters of the political
- 31 party obtained from the appropriate jurisdiction, and comply with the

- 1 Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act. The petition of
- 2 <u>nomination shall conform to the requirements of section 32-628 and</u>
- 3 section 21 of this act. If the filing officer verifies signatures in
- 4 excess of one hundred ten percent of the number necessary to place the
- 5 candidate upon the ballot, the filing officer may stop verifying
- 6 <u>signatures and consider the petition sufficient and valid.</u>
- 7 Sec. 26. If two or more candidates with identical first and last
- 8 names file for the same office in a primary, general, or special
- 9 election, the filing officer shall notify the candidates within five days
- 10 after the nonincumbent filing deadline for that office and specify that
- 11 the candidates' names will be differentiated on the ballot. Notification
- 12 <u>shall be made by any method specified in section 25-505.01. If an</u>
- 13 <u>incumbent of that office is one of the notified candidates, the incumbent</u>
- 14 may choose a varying combination of first and middle names and initials
- 15 by which to distinguish the candidate or to have the candidate's city of
- 16 residence printed beside the candidate's name. If the incumbent does not
- 17 <u>make a choice within five days after notification or if none of the</u>
- 18 <u>candidates are an incumbent of that office, the filing officer shall</u>
- 19 designate the names by which the candidates will be identified on the
- 20 <u>ballot</u>. The filing officer shall use a varying combination of first and
- 21 <u>middle names and initials or include the city of residence of each</u>
- 22 <u>candidate</u>.
- 23 Sec. 27. Section 32-624, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 24 amended to read:
- 25 32-624 (1) A candidate filing form filed for the primary or general
- 26 election pursuant to section which appears to conform with sections
- 27 32-606 and 32-607 shall be deemed to be valid unless objections are made
- 28 in writing within seven days after the filing deadline. If an objection
- 29 is made, notice shall be mailed to all candidates who may be affected
- 30 thereby. Any political party committee may institute actions in court
- 31 based upon fraud or crime resorted to in connection with the candidate

- 1 filing forms or the acceptance of a nomination. No county committee shall
- 2 have the authority to bring such action as to candidates for
- 3 congressional or state office or as to candidates to be elected from
- 4 legislative districts composed of more than one county. A state political
- 5 party committee may institute actions to determine the legality of any
- 6 candidate for a state or congressional office or for any district office
- 7 if the district composes more than one county. Objections to the use of
- 8 the name of a political party may also be made and passed upon in the
- 9 same manner as objections to a candidate filing form or other acceptance
- 10 of nomination.
- 11 (2) The filing officer with whom the candidate filing form was filed
- 12 shall determine the validity of such objection, and his or her decision
- 13 shall be final unless an order is made in the matter by a judge of the
- 14 county court, district court, Court of Appeals, or Supreme Court on or
- 15 before the fifty-fifth day preceding the election. Such order may be made
- 16 summarily upon application of any political party committee or other
- 17 interested party and upon such notice as the court or judge may require.
- 18 The decision of the Secretary of State or the order of the court judge
- 19 shall be binding on all filing officers.
- Sec. 28. (1) A candidate filing form filed for a special election
- 21 pursuant to section 32-606.01 shall be deemed to be valid unless
- 22 objections are made in writing within three business days after the
- 23 <u>filing deadline</u>. If an objection is made, notice shall be mailed to all
- 24 <u>candidates who may be affected thereby.</u>
- 25 (2) The filing officer with whom the candidate filing form was filed
- 26 <u>shall determine the validity of such objection, and the filing officer's</u>
- 27 decision shall be final unless an order is made in the matter by a judge
- 28 of the county court, district court, Court of Appeals, or Supreme Court
- 29 <u>no later than the fourth Friday before the election. Such order may be</u>
- 30 made summarily upon application of any interested party and upon such
- 31 notice as the court may require. The order of the court shall be binding

- 1 on all filing officers.
- Sec. 29. Section 32-628, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 3 amended to read:
- 4 32-628 (1) All petitions prepared or filed pursuant to the Election
- 5 Act or any petition which requires the <u>Secretary of State</u>, election
- 6 commissioner, or county clerk to verify signatures by utilizing the voter
- 7 registration register shall provide a space at least two and one-half
- 8 inches long for written signatures, a space at least two inches long for
- 9 printed names, and sufficient space for date of birth and street name and
- 10 number, city or village, and zip code. Lines on each petition shall not
- 11 be less than one-fourth inch apart. Petitions may be designed in such a
- 12 manner that lines for signatures and other information run the length of
- 13 the page rather than the width. Petitions shall provide for no more than
- 14 twenty signatures per page.
- 15 (2) For the purpose of preventing fraud, deception, and
- 16 misrepresentation, every sheet of every petition containing signatures
- 17 shall have upon it, above the signatures, the statements contained in
- 18 this subsection, except that a petition for recall of an elected official
- 19 shall also have the additional information specified in subsection (2) of
- 20 section 32-1304. The statements shall be printed in boldface type in
- 21 substantially the following form:
- 22 WARNING TO PETITION SIGNERS-VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING
- 23 PROVISIONS OF LAW MAY RESULT IN THE FILING OF CRIMINAL CHARGES: Any
- 24 person who signs any name other than his or her own to any petition or
- 25 who is not qualified to sign the petition shall be guilty of a Class I
- 26 misdemeanor. Any person who falsely swears to a circulator's affidavit on
- 27 a petition, who accepts money or other things of value for signing a
- 28 petition, or who offers money or other things of value in exchange for a
- 29 signature upon any petition shall be guilty of a Class IV felony.
- 30 (3) Every sheet of a petition which contains signatures shall have
- 31 upon it, below the signatures, an affidavit as provided in this

2025 subsection, except that the affidavit for a petition for recall of an 1 2 elected official shall also include the additional language specified in subsection (3) of section 32-1304. The affidavit 3 shall in 4 substantially the following form: 5 STATE OF NEBRASKA) 6)ss. COUNTY OF) 7 (name of circulator) being first duly 8 sworn, deposes and says that he or she is the circulator of this petition 9 10 containing signatures, that he or she is at least eighteen years of age, that each person whose name appears on the petition 11 personally signed the petition in the presence of the affiant, that the 12 date to the left of each signature is the correct date on which the 13 14 signature was affixed to the petition and that the date was personally affixed by the person signing such petition, that the affiant believes 15 that each signer has written his or her name, street and number or voting 16 precinct, and city, village, or post office address correctly, that the 17 affiant believes that each signer was qualified to sign the petition, and 18 19 that the affiant stated to each signer the object of the petition as printed on the petition before he or she affixed his or her signature to 20 21 the petition. 22 Circulator 23 Address 24 Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public, this day of, Nebraska. 25 Notary Public 26 (4) Each sheet of a petition shall have upon its face and in plain 27 28 view of persons who sign the petition a statement in letters not smaller 29

view of persons who sign the petition a statement in letters not smaller than sixteen-point type in red print on the petition. If the petition is circulated by a paid circulator, the statement shall be as follows: This petition is circulated by a paid circulator. If the petition is LB521 2025 LB521 2025

1 circulated by a circulator who is not being paid, the statement shall be

- 2 as follows: This petition is circulated by a volunteer circulator.
- 3 Sec. 30. Section 32-629, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 4 amended to read:
- 5 32-629 For any petition prepared or filed pursuant to the Election
- 6 Act:
- 7 (1) Each petition signer shall be a registered voter and qualified
- 8 to sign a petition at the time of signing a petition, except that a
- 9 signer of a petition for President of the United States, a candidate
- 10 petition, a new political party petition, or an initiative or referendum
- 11 petition under sections 32-1401 to 32-1409 shall be a registered voter of
- 12 <u>the State of Nebraska on or before the date on which the petition is</u>
- 13 <u>filed with the filing officer; and Except as otherwise provided in</u>
- 14 section 32-1404 for initiative and referendum petitions, only a
- 15 registered voter of the State of Nebraska shall qualify as a valid signer
- 16 of a petition and may sign petitions under the Election Act.
- 17 (2) Only a person who is at least eighteen years of age shall
- 18 qualify as a valid circulator of a petition and may circulate petitions
- 19 under the Election Act. Petition circulators shall comply with section
- 20 <u>32-630.</u>
- 21 Sec. 31. Section 32-630, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 22 2024, is amended to read:
- 23 32-630 (1) Each person who signs a petition shall, at the time of
- 24 and in addition to signing, personally affix the date, print his or her
- 25 last name and first name in full, and affix his or her date of birth and
- 26 address, including the street and number or a designation of a rural
- 27 route or voting precinct and the city or village or a post office
- 28 address. A person signing a petition may use his or her initials in place
- 29 of his or her first name if such person is registered to vote under such
- 30 initials.
- 31 (2) Each circulator of a petition shall personally witness the

LB521 2025

1 signatures on the petition and shall sign the circulator's affidavit.

- 2 (3) No person shall:
- 3 (a) Sign any name other than his or her own to any petition;
- 4 (b) Knowingly sign his or her name more than once for the same
- 5 petition effort or measure;
- 6 (c) Sign a petition if he or she is not a registered voter and
- 7 qualified to sign the same except as provided in subdivision (1) of
- 8 section <u>32-629</u> 32-1404;
- 9 (d) Falsely swear to any signature upon any such petition;
- (e) Accept money or other thing of value for signing any petition;
- 11 or
- 12 (f) Offer money or other thing of value in exchange for a signature
- 13 upon any petition.
- 14 Sec. 32. Section 32-631, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 15 2024, is amended to read:
- 16 32-631 (1) Any petition prepared or filed pursuant to the Election
- 17 Act shall be filed as one instrument, and no additional petition papers
- 18 <u>may be submitted after filing.</u> All petitions that are filed with the
- 19 <u>Secretary of State</u>, election commissioner, or county clerk for signature
- 20 verification shall be retained in the election office and shall be open
- 21 to public inspection. Upon receipt of the pages of a petition, the
- 22 Secretary of State, election commissioner, or county clerk shall issue a
- 23 written receipt indicating the number of pages of the petition in his or
- 24 her custody to the person filing the petition for signature verification.
- 25 Petitions may be destroyed twenty-two months after the election to which
- they apply.
- 27 (2) The <u>Secretary of State</u>, election commissioner, or county clerk
- 28 shall determine the validity and sufficiency of such petition by
- 29 comparing the names, dates of birth if applicable, and addresses of the
- 30 signers with the voter registration records to determine if the signers
- 31 were registered voters pursuant to subdivision (1) of section 32-629 on

- the date of signing the petition. If it is determined that a signer has 1 2 affixed his or her signature more than once to any petition and that only one person is registered by that name, the Secretary of State, election 3 commissioner, or county clerk shall strike from the pages of the petition 4 all but one such signature. Only one of the duplicate signatures shall be 5 added to the total number of valid signatures. All signatures, dates of 6 7 birth, and addresses shall be presumed to be valid if the election commissioner or county clerk has found the signers to be registered 8 9 voters on or before the date on which the petition was signed. This 10 presumption shall not be conclusive and may be rebutted by any credible evidence which the <u>Secretary of State</u>, election commissioner, or county 11 clerk finds sufficient. 12
- (3) If the <u>Secretary of State</u>, election commissioner, or county clerk verifies signatures in excess of one hundred ten percent of the number necessary for the issue to be placed on the ballot, the <u>Secretary of State</u>, election commissioner, or county clerk may cease verifying signatures and certify the number of signatures verified to the person who delivered the petitions for verification.
- (4) If the number of signatures verified does not equal or exceed 19 the number necessary to place the issue on the ballot upon completion of 20 the comparison of names and addresses with the voter registration 21 22 records, the Secretary of State, election commissioner, or county clerk shall prepare in writing a certification under seal setting forth the 23 24 name and address of each signer found not to be a registered voter and 25 the petition page number and line number where the signature is found. If the signature or address is challenged for a reason other than the 26 27 nonregistration of the signer, the <u>Secretary of State</u>, election 28 commissioner, or county clerk shall set forth the reasons for the challenge of the signature. 29
- 30 <u>(5) The Secretary of State may purchase, lease, lease-purchase,</u>
 31 rent, or contract for software that assists in processing a filed

- 1 petition.
- 2 Sec. 33. Section 32-632, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 3 2024, is amended to read:
- 4 32-632 (1) Any person may remove his or her name from a petition by
- 5 signing and delivering a written letter to the Secretary of State,
- 6 election commissioner, or county clerk. Name removal letters shall be
- 7 filed with the following officers:
- 8 (a) For initiative and referendum petitions, new political party
- 9 petitions, and petitions for President of the United States, with the
- 10 Secretary of State;
- 11 (b) For candidate petitions, with the filing officer prescribed in
- 12 section 32-607;
- 13 (c) For recall petitions, with the filing officer prescribed in
- 14 section 32-1301; and
- 15 (d) For all other petitions, with the applicable election
- 16 commissioner, county clerk, or city clerk.
- 17 (2) The name removal letter shall be delivered to and received by
- 18 the officer prescribed in subsection (1) of this section by the following
- 19 deadlines:
- 20 (a) For initiative and referendum petitions, by the deadline for
- 21 filing petitions pursuant to section 32-1407;
- 22 (b) For new political party petitions, prior to or on the day the
- 23 petition is filed for verification with the Secretary of State;
- 24 (c) For petitions for President of the United States, <u>prior to or on</u>
- 25 the day the petition is filed for verification with the Secretary of
- 26 State by the deadline for filing petitions pursuant to section 32-613 for
- 27 the primary election or pursuant to section 32-620 for the general
- 28 election;
- 29 (d) For candidate petitions, <u>prior to or on the day the petition is</u>
- 30 <u>filed for verification with the filing officer</u> by the deadline for filing
- 31 petitions pursuant to section 32-617;

- 1 (e) For recall petitions, by the deadline for filing petitions
- 2 prescribed by section 32-1305; and
- 3 (f) For all other petitions, prior to or on the day the petition is
- 4 filed for verification with the election commissioner, county clerk, or
- 5 city clerk.
- 6 (3) The Secretary of State, election commissioner, or county clerk
- 7 shall verify the signature in the letter with the signature appearing in
- 8 the voter registration records.
- 9 Sec. 34. Section 32-704, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 10 amended to read:
- 11 32-704 Any person seeking to be elected as a delegate or alternate
- 12 delegate to the national convention of a political party shall submit a
- 13 filing form under this section regardless of the method of election used
- 14 by the political party. The filing form for nomination of a candidate for
- 15 election as a delegate or alternate delegate to the national convention
- 16 of a political party shall (1) contain a statement of commitment to a
- 17 candidate for the office of President of the United States or that he or
- 18 she is uncommitted, (2) include a pledge swearing to support the
- 19 candidate for President of the United States to which the candidate for
- 20 delegate or alternate delegate to the national convention is committed
- 21 until (a) such candidate receives less than thirty-five percent of the
- 22 votes for nomination by such convention or releases the delegate from
- 23 such commitment or (b) two convention nominating ballots have been taken,
- 24 and (3) be filed with the political party Secretary of State. No filing
- 25 form for nomination shall be accepted unless signed by the candidate. The
- 26 Secretary of State shall prescribe the filing form for nomination.
- 27 **Sec. 35.** Section 32-707, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 28 amended to read:
- 29 32-707 (1) A political party may conduct county conventions at an
- 30 hour and place to be designated by a political party. The political party
- 31 shall cause to be published, at least seven days prior to the date of the

- 1 county convention, an official notice of the date, time, and place of the
- 2 convention. The political party may elect to have delegates to the county
- 3 convention register with the election commissioner or county clerk.
- 4 (2) If a political party elects to have delegates to the county
- 5 convention register with the election commissioner or county clerk, such
- 6 delegates shall register with the election commissioner or county clerk
- 7 on or before March 1 of each year in which the political party conducts a
- 8 county convention. The election commissioner or county clerk shall
- 9 deliver to the state chairperson of a political party the roll, properly
- 10 certified, showing the name, address, and precinct of each delegate
- 11 registered for such convention, no later than March 15 of each
- 12 presidential election year. If there is not a full quota of delegates for
- 13 the county convention as established by the political party, the
- 14 delegates at the county convention may select delegates to fill the quota
- 15 from the registered voters affiliated with the political party in the
- 16 county.
- 17 Sec. 36. Section 32-716, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 18 2024, is amended to read:
- 19 32-716 (1) Any person, group, or association desiring to form a new
- 20 political party shall present to the Secretary of State petitions
- 21 containing signatures totaling not less than one percent of the total
- 22 votes cast for Governor at the most recent general election for such
- 23 office. The signatures of registered voters on such petitions shall be so
- 24 distributed as to include registered voters totaling at least one percent
- 25 of the votes cast for Governor in the most recent gubernatorial election
- 26 in each of the three congressional districts in this state. Petition
- 27 signers and petition circulators shall conform to the requirements of
- 28 sections 32-629 and 32-630. The petitions shall be filed with the
- 29 Secretary of State no later than January 15 before any statewide primary
- 30 election for the new political party to be entitled to have ballot
- 31 position in the primary election of that year. If the new political party

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desires to be established and have ballot position for the general 1 election and not in the primary election of that year, the petitions 2 shall be filed with the Secretary of State on or before July 15 of that 3 4 year. Prior to the circulation of petitions to form a new political party, a sample copy of the petitions shall be filed with the Secretary 5 of State by the person, group, or association seeking to establish the 6 new party. The sample petition shall be accompanied by the name and 7 address of the person or the names and addresses of the members of the 8 9 group or association sponsoring the petition to form a new political party. Sponsors of the petition may be added or removed with the 10 unanimous written consent of the original sponsor or sponsors at any time 11 prior to or on the day the petition is filed for verification with the 12 13 Secretary of State. The sponsor or sponsors of the petition shall file, as one instrument, all petition papers comprising a new political party 14 petition for signature verification with the Secretary of State. All 15 signed petitions in circulation but not filed with the Secretary of State 16 shall become invalid after July 15 in the year of the statewide general 17 election. 18

(2) The petition shall conform to the requirements of section 32-628 19 and section 37 of this act. The Secretary of State shall prescribe the 20 form of the petition for the formation of a new political party. The 21 petition shall be addressed to and filed with the Secretary of State and 22 shall state its purpose and the name of the party to be formed. Such name 23 24 shall not be or include the name of any political party then in existence 25 or any word forming any part of the name of any political party then in existence, and in order to avoid confusion regarding party affiliation of 26 a candidate or registered voter, the name of the party to be formed shall 27 not include the word "independent" or "nonpartisan". The petition shall 28 contain a statement substantially as follows: 29

We, the undersigned registered voters of the State of Nebraska and the county of being severally qualified to sign this

- 1 petition, respectfully request that the above-named new political party
- 2 be formed in the State of Nebraska, and each for himself or herself says:
- 3 I have personally signed this petition on the date opposite my name; I am
- 4 a registered voter of the State of Nebraska and county of
- 5 and am qualified to sign this petition; and my date of birth and city,
- 6 village, or post office address and my street and number or voting
- 7 precinct are correctly written after my name.
- 8 Sec. 37. In addition to the requirements of section 32-716, the
- 9 form of a petition to form a new political party shall be substantially
- 10 as follows:
- 11 <u>Petition for Formation of a New Political Party</u>
- 12 <u>Name of Party to be Formed:</u>
- 13 <u>Purpose of Party:</u>
- 14 <u>To the Honorable Secretary of State for the State of</u>
- 15 Nebraska:
- We, the undersigned residents of the State of Nebraska and the
- 17 county of, respectfully demand that the above-named new
- 18 political party be formed in the State of Nebraska, and each for himself
- 19 or herself says:
- 20 <u>I have personally signed this petition on the date opposite my name;</u>
- 21 <u>I am a registered voter of the State of Nebraska and the county</u>
- 22 of and am qualified to sign this petition or I will be so
- 23 registered and qualified on or before the date on which this petition is
- 24 <u>filed with the Secretary of State; and</u>
- 25 My printed name, date of birth, street and number or voting
- 26 precinct, and city, village, or post office address are correctly written
- 27 after my signature.
- 28 (Here follow numbered lines for signature, printed name, date of
- 29 birth, date, street and number or voting precinct, and city, village, or
- 30 post office address.)
- 31 Sec. 38. Section 32-717, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

- 1 2024, is amended to read:
- 2 32-717 (1) Within twenty business days after all the petitions to
- 3 form a new political party which contain signatures are filed with the
- 4 Secretary of State, he or she shall determine the validity and
- 5 sufficiency of such petitions and signatures. Clerical and technical
- 6 errors in a petition shall be disregarded if the forms prescribed by the
- 7 Secretary of State are substantially followed. If the Secretary of State
- 8 <u>verifies signatures in excess of one hundred ten percent of the number</u>
- 9 <u>necessary for the formation of a new political party, the Secretary of</u>
- 10 State may stop verifying signatures and notify the person, group, or
- 11 <u>association forming the new political party pursuant to subsection (2) of</u>
- 12 this section.
- 13 (2) If the petitions are determined to be sufficient and valid, the
- 14 Secretary of State shall notify issue a certification establishing the
- 15 new political party. Copies of such certification shall be issued to the
- 16 person, group, or association forming the new political party. Within
- 17 twenty days after notification the certification of establishment of the
- 18 new political party by the Secretary of State, the person, group, or
- 19 association forming the new political party or its new officers shall
- 20 file with the Secretary of State the constitution and bylaws of such
- 21 party along with a certified list of the names and addresses of the
- 22 officers of the new political party. Upon receipt of the constitution and
- 23 bylaws of such party, the Secretary of State shall issue a certification
- 24 establishing the new political party. If the constitution and bylaws of a
- 25 new political party are not filed within twenty days after the Secretary
- 26 of State's notification, no certification shall be issued and the party
- 27 <u>shall not be considered properly established.</u>
- 28 Sec. 39. Section 32-803, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 29 2024, is amended to read:
- 30 32-803 (1) A sample of the official ballot shall be printed in one
- 31 or more newspapers of general circulation in the county, city, or village

- 1 as designated by the election commissioner, county clerk, city council,
- 2 or village board. The sample shall be printed in English and in any other
- 3 language required pursuant to the Voting Rights Language Assistance Act
- 4 of 1992.
- 5 (2) Except for elections conducted in accordance with section
- 6 32-960, such publication shall be made not more than thirty fifteen nor
- 7 less than two days before the day of election, and the same shall appear
- 8 in only one regular issue of each paper. For elections conducted in
- 9 accordance with section 32-960, such publication shall be made not less
- 10 than thirty days before the election.
- 11 (3) The form of the ballot so published shall conform in all
- 12 respects to the form prescribed for official ballots as set forth in
- 13 sections 32-806, 32-809, and 32-812, but larger or smaller type may be
- 14 used. When paper ballots are not being used, a reduced-size facsimile of
- 15 the official ballot shall be published as it appears on the voting
- 16 system. Such publication shall include suitable instructions to the
- 17 voters for casting their ballots using the voting system being used at
- 18 the election.
- 19 (4) The rate charged by the newspapers and paid by the county board
- 20 for the publication of such sample ballot shall not exceed the rate
- 21 regularly charged for display advertising in such newspaper in which the
- 22 publication is made.
- 23 Sec. 40. Section 32-809, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 24 2024, is amended to read:
- 25 32-809 (1) The form of the official ballot at the statewide primary
- 26 election shall be prescribed by the Secretary of State. At the top of the
- 27 ballot and over all else shall be printed in boldface type the name of
- 28 the political party, Official Ballot, Primary Election 20.. .
- 29 Each division containing the names of the office and a list of candidates
- 30 for such office shall be separated from other groups by a bold line. The
- 31 ballot shall list at-large candidates and subdistrict candidates under

- 1 appropriate headings.
- 2 (2) All proposals for constitutional amendments and candidates on the nonpartisan ballot shall be submitted on a ballot where bold lines 3 separate one office or issue from another. Proposals for constitutional 4 5 amendments proposed by the Legislature shall be placed on the ballot as provided in sections 49-201 to 49-211. All constitutional amendments 6 7 shall be placed on a separate ballot when a paper ballot is used which requires the ballot after being voted to be folded before being deposited 8 9 in a ballot box. When an optical-scan ballot is used which requires a ballot envelope or sleeve in which the ballot after being voted is placed 10 before being deposited in a ballot box, constitutional amendments may be 11 printed on either side of the ballot and shall be separated from other 12 offices or issues by a bold line. Constitutional amendments so arranged 13 shall constitute a separate ballot. 14
- (3) Except as otherwise provided in section 32-811, the statewide 15 16 primary election ballot shall contain the name of every candidate filing or recognized under subsection (1) of section 32-606 and sections 32-611, 17 32-613, and 32-614 and no other names. No name of a candidate for member 18 of the Legislature or an elective office described in Article IV, section 19 1, of the Constitution of Nebraska shall appear on any ballot or any 20 series of ballots at any primary election more than once. When two or 21 22 more of the last names of candidates for the same office at the primary election are the same in spelling or sound, the official ballots may, on 23 the request of any such candidate, have his or her address printed 24 25 immediately below his or her name in capital and lowercase letters in lightface type of the same size as the type in which the name of the 26 27 candidate is printed.
- 28 **Sec. 41.** Section 32-811, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 29 2024, is amended to read:
- 30 32-811 (1)(a) If the names of candidates properly filed for 31 nomination at the primary election for directors of natural resources

- 1 districts, directors of public power districts, members of airport
- 2 authority boards elected pursuant to sections 32-547 to 32-549, members
- 3 of the boards of governors of community college areas, members of the
- 4 boards of Class I, Class II, Class III, or Class V school districts which
- 5 nominate candidates at a primary election, and officers of cities of the
- 6 first or second class and cities having a city manager plan of government
- 7 do not exceed two candidates for each position to be filled, any such
- 8 candidates shall be declared nominated and their names shall not appear
- 9 on any primary election ballots.
- 10 (b) If the number of candidates properly filed for the nomination of
- 11 a political party at the primary election for any county officer elected
- 12 pursuant to sections 32-517 to 32-529 does not exceed the number of
- 13 candidates to be nominated by that party for that office, any such
- 14 properly filed candidates shall be declared nominated and their names
- 15 shall not appear on any primary election ballots.
- 16 (c) The official abstract of votes kept by the county or state shall
- 17 show the names of such candidates with the statement Nominated Without
- 18 Opposition. The election commissioner or county clerk shall place the
- 19 names of such automatically nominated candidates on the general election
- 20 ballot as provided in section 32-814 or 32-815.
- 21 (2) Candidates shall not appear on the ballot in the primary
- 22 election for the offices listed in subsection (2) of section 32-606.
- 23 (3) If the number of candidates for delegates to a county or
- 24 national political party convention are the same in number or less than
- 25 the number of candidates to be elected, the names shall not appear on the
- 26 primary election ballot and those so filed shall receive a certificate of
- 27 election.
- 28 Sec. 42. Section 32-912, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 29 amended to read:
- 30 32-912 (1) Any registered voter desiring to vote in a primary
- 31 election held under the Election Act shall be entitled to participate in

1 such primary election upon presenting himself or herself at the polling place for his or her residence. A registered voter who is affiliated with 2 a political party shall receive from the receiving board all nonpartisan 3 ballots and the partisan ballot of the political party indicated on his 4 or her voter registration. Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) 5 of this section, a registered voter who is not affiliated with any 6 political party shall receive only nonpartisan ballots at a primary 7 8 election.

- 9 (2) Any political party may allow registered voters who are not affiliated with a political party to vote in the primary election for any 10 elective office for which the party has candidates except for the office 11 of delegate to the party's county, state, or national convention. Any 12 13 political party desiring to permit such registered voters to vote for candidates of that party in the primary election shall file a letter 14 stating that the governing body of the political party has adopted a rule 15 16 allowing registered voters who are not affiliated with a political party to vote in the primary election for candidates of that party. The letter 17 and copy of the adopted rule shall be filed with the Secretary of State 18 at least sixty days before the primary election. The Secretary of State 19 shall notify the appropriate election commissioners and county clerks in 20 writing that the political party filing the letter will allow registered 21 voters who are not affiliated with a political party to vote in the 22 primary election for candidates of that party. Once filed, the rule 23 24 allowing such voters to vote in such primary election shall be 25 irrevocable and shall apply only to the primary election immediately following the adoption of the rule. 26
- 27 (3) A registered voter who is not affiliated with a political party 28 and who desires to vote in the primary election for the office of United 29 States Senator or United States Representative may request a partisan 30 ballot for either or both of such offices from any political party. The 31 election commissioner or county clerk shall post a notice in a

- 1 conspicuous location, easily visible and readable by voters prior to
- 2 approaching the receiving board, that a registered voter who is not
- 3 affiliated with a political party may request such ballots. No such
- 4 registered voter shall receive more than one such partisan ballot.
- 5 (4) The registered voters residing in a political subdivision may
- 6 cast their ballots for candidates for the offices in that subdivision and
- 7 for issues proposed for that subdivision, except that when officers are
- 8 to be nominated or elected from a subdistrict of the political
- 9 subdivision, the registered voters residing in the subdistrict may only
- 10 vote for candidates from the subdistrict and for candidates for officers
- 11 to be elected at large from the whole political subdivision.
- 12 Sec. 43. Section 32-1002, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 13 2024, is amended to read:
- 14 32-1002 (1) As the ballots are removed from the ballot box pursuant
- 15 to sections 32-1012 to 32-1018, the receiving board shall separate the
- 16 envelopes containing the provisional ballots from the rest of the ballots
- 17 and deliver them to the election commissioner or county clerk.
- 18 (2) Upon receipt of a provisional ballot, the election commissioner
- 19 or county clerk shall verify that the certificate on the front of the
- 20 envelope or the form attached to the envelope is in proper form and that
- 21 the certification has been signed by the voter.
- 22 (3) The election commissioner or county clerk shall also (a) verify
- 23 that such person has not voted anywhere else in the county or been issued
- 24 a ballot for early voting, (b) investigate whether any credible evidence
- 25 exists that the person was properly registered to vote in the county
- 26 before the deadline for registration for the election, (c) investigate
- 27 whether any information has been received pursuant to section 32-308,
- 28 32-309, 32-310, or 32-324 that the person has resided, registered, or
- 29 voted in any other county or state since registering to vote in the
- 30 county, and (d) upon determining that credible evidence exists that the
- 31 person was properly registered to vote in the county, make the

LB521 25 2025

1 appropriate changes to the voter registration register by entering the

- 2 information contained in the registration application completed by the
- 3 voter at the time of voting a provisional ballot.
- 4 (4) A provisional ballot cast by a voter pursuant to section 32-915
- 5 shall be counted if:
- 6 (a) Credible evidence exists that the voter was properly registered
- 7 in the county before the deadline for registration for the election;
- 8 (b) The voter has resided in the county continuously since
- 9 registering to vote in the county;
- 10 (c) The voter has not voted anywhere else in the county or has not
- 11 otherwise voted early using a ballot for early voting;
- 12 (d) The voter has completed a registration application prior to
- 13 voting as prescribed in subsection (6) of this section and:
- 14 (i) The residence address provided on the registration application
- 15 completed pursuant to subdivision (1)(e) of section 32-915 is located
- 16 within the precinct in which the person voted; and
- 17 (ii) If the voter is voting in a primary election, the party
- 18 affiliation provided on the registration application completed prior to
- 19 voting the provisional ballot is the same party affiliation that appears
- 20 on the voter's voter registration record based on his or her previous
- 21 registration application; and
- 22 (e) The certification on the front of the envelope or form attached
- 23 to the envelope is in the proper form and signed by the voter.
- 24 (5) A provisional ballot cast by a voter pursuant to section 32-915
- 25 shall not be counted if:
- 26 (a) The voter was not properly registered in the county before the
- 27 deadline for registration for the election;
- 28 (b) Information has been received pursuant to section 32-308,
- 29 $\frac{32-309}{1}$, 32-310, or 32-324 that the voter has resided, registered, or
- 30 voted in any other county or state since registering to vote in the
- 31 county in which he or she cast the provisional ballot;

521 LB521 25 2025

1 (c) Credible evidence exists that the voter has voted elsewhere or

- 2 has otherwise voted early;
- 3 (d) The voter failed to complete and sign a registration application
- 4 pursuant to subsection (6) of this section and subdivision (1)(e) of
- 5 section 32-915;
- 6 (e) The residence address provided on the registration application
- 7 completed pursuant to subdivision (1)(e) of section 32-915 is in a
- 8 different county or in a different precinct than the county or precinct
- 9 in which the voter voted;
- 10 (f) If the voter is voting in a primary election, the party
- 11 affiliation on the registration application completed prior to voting the
- 12 provisional ballot is different than the party affiliation that appears
- 13 on the voter's voter registration record based on his or her previous
- 14 registration application; or
- 15 (g) The voter failed to complete and sign the certification on the
- 16 envelope or form attached to the envelope pursuant to subsection (3) of
- 17 section 32-915.
- 18 (6) An error or omission of information on the registration
- 19 application or the certification required under section 32-915 shall not
- 20 result in the provisional ballot not being counted if:
- 21 (a)(i) The errant or omitted information is contained elsewhere on
- 22 the registration application or certification; or
- (ii) The information is not necessary to determine the eligibility
- 24 of the voter to cast a ballot; and
- 25 (b) Both the registration application and the certification are
- 26 signed by the voter.
- 27 (7) Upon determining that the voter's provisional ballot is eligible
- 28 to be counted, the election commissioner or county clerk shall remove the
- 29 ballot from the envelope without exposing the marks on the ballot and
- 30 shall place the ballot with the ballots to be counted by the county
- 31 canvassing board.

- 1 (8) The election commissioner or county clerk shall notify the
- 2 system administrator of the system created pursuant to section 32-202 as
- 3 to whether the ballot was counted and, if not, the reason the ballot was
- 4 not counted.
- 5 (9) The verification and investigation shall be completed within
- 6 seven business days after the election.
- 7 Sec. 44. Section 32-1005, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 8 2024, is amended to read:
- 9 32-1005 If the last name or a reasonably close spelling of the last
- 10 name of a person engaged in or pursuing a write-in campaign pursuant to
- 11 section 32-615 or 32-633 is written or printed on a line provided for
- 12 that purpose and the square or oval opposite such line has been marked
- 13 with a cross or other clear, intelligible mark, the vote shall be valid
- 14 and the ballot shall be counted except as provided in section 32-1007. A
- 15 write-in vote for a person who is not engaged in or pursuing a write-in
- 16 campaign pursuant to section 32-615 or 32-633 shall not be counted.
- 17 Sec. 45. Section 32-1007, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 18 2024, is amended to read:
- 19 32-1007 (1) If the last name of a person engaged in or pursuing a
- 20 write-in campaign pursuant to section 32-615 is the same or substantially
- 21 similar to the last name of another person engaged in or pursuing a
- 22 write-in campaign for the same office or a candidate appearing on the
- 23 <u>ballot for the same office, the write-in vote shall be valid only if, in</u>
- 24 addition to the requirements of section 32-1005, the first or generally
- 25 recognized name of the person engaged in or pursuing the write-in
- 26 <u>campaign</u> is also written or printed on the line provided for that
- 27 <u>purpose</u>.
- 28 (2) If only the last name of a person is in the write-in space on
- 29 the ballot and the last name is the same or substantially similar to the
- 30 last name of another person engaged in or pursuing a write-in campaign
- 31 for the same office or a candidate appearing on the ballot for the same

- 1 office there is more than one person in the county having the same last
- 2 name, the counting board shall reject the ballot for that office unless
- 3 the last name is reasonably close to the proper spelling of the last name
- 4 of a candidate engaged in or pursuing a write-in campaign pursuant to
- 5 section 32-615. The counting board shall make the following notation on
- 6 the rejected ballot: Rejected for the office of, no first or
- 7 generally recognized name.
- 8 Sec. 46. Section 32-1013, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 9 2024, is amended to read:
- 10 32-1013 (1) In each counting location, watchers may be appointed to
- 11 be present and observe the counting of ballots. Each political party
- 12 shall be entitled to one watcher at each location appointed and supplied
- 13 with credentials by the county central committee of such political party.
- 14 The district court having jurisdiction over any such county may appoint
- 15 additional watchers for any location.
- 16 (2) The watchers and the members of the counting board shall take
- 17 the following oath administered by the election commissioner or county
- 18 clerk or an election official designated by the election commissioner or
- 19 county clerk: I do solemnly swear that I will not in any manner make
- 20 known to anyone other than duly authorized election officials the results
- 21 of the votes as they are being counted until the polls have officially
- 22 closed and the summary of votes cast is delivered to the election
- 23 commissioner or county clerk.
- 24 (3) Except for polling places using precinct-based optical scanners,
- 25 all other persons shall be excluded from the place where the counting is
- 26 being conducted except for observers authorized by the election
- 27 commissioner or county clerk. No such observer shall be connected with
- 28 any candidate, political party, or measure on the ballot.
- 29 (4) No such watcher or observer shall be excluded from the counting
- 30 <u>location unless the election commissioner or county clerk provides an</u>
- 31 unobstructed view of the counting of ballots by use of closed-circuit

- 1 television or similar device.
- 2 Sec. 47. The election commissioner or county clerk shall verify the
- 3 signature on each identification envelope received in his or her office
- 4 with the signature on the voter registration records.
- 5 Sec. 48. Section 32-1032, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 6 amended to read:
- 7 32-1032 Upon the completion of the canvass by the county canvassing board, all books shall again be sealed, and the election commissioner or 8 9 county clerk shall keep all election materials, including the ballots-10 cast containers from each precinct, the sealed envelopes containing the precinct list of registered voters, the precinct sign-in register, the 11 official summary or summaries of votes cast, and the container for early 12 13 voting materials, for not less than twenty-two months when statewide general, special elections involve federal 14 primary, or candidates, and issues and not less than fifty days for local elections 15 not held in conjunction with a statewide primary, general, or special 16 17 election. The election commissioner or county clerk shall keep on file one copy of each ballot face used in each precinct of the official 18 partisan, nonpartisan, constitutional amendment, and initiative and 19 referendum ballots, as used for voting, and all election notices used at 20 each primary and general election for twenty-two months. The precinct 21 22 sign-in register, the record of early voters, and the official summary of votes cast shall be subject to the inspection of any person who may wish 23 24 to examine the same after the primary, general, or special election. The 25 election commissioner or county clerk shall not allow any other election materials to be inspected, including ballots, the names of voters who 26 filled out a provisional voter identification verification envelope 27 pursuant to section 32-915.03, and provisional ballot envelopes, except 28 when an election is contested or the materials become necessary to be 29 used in evidence in the courts. The election commissioner or county clerk 30 shall direct the destruction of such materials after such time, except 31

1 that the election commissioner or county clerk may retain materials for

- 2 the purposes of establishing voter histories.
- 3 Sec. 49. Section 32-1037, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 4 amended to read:
- 5 32-1037 There shall be a board of state canvassers consisting of the
- 6 Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of Public Accounts, State
- 7 Treasurer, and Attorney General. The board of state canvassers shall meet
- 8 at a location designated by the Secretary of State the office of the
- 9 Secretary of State or such other location within the State Capitol as
- 10 designated by the Secretary of State on the fourth Monday after each
- 11 statewide primary and general election for the sole purpose of canvassing
- 12 the votes cast for all officers and issues certified to the election
- 13 commissioner or county clerk by the Secretary of State. The board of
- 14 state canvassers may adjourn from day to day until all returns are
- 15 received and all votes are tabulated. The Governor on the advice of the
- 16 Secretary of State or the Attorney General may call an extraordinary
- 17 session of the board of state canvassers. The duty of the board of state
- 18 canvassers to canvass the votes is ministerial in nature.
- 19 Sec. 50. Section 32-1049, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 20 2024, is amended to read:
- 21 32-1049 Any election commissioner or county clerk using a vote
- 22 counting device to count ballots in a centralized location shall:
- 23 (1) Provide for the proper sealing of the containers and the
- 24 security of the ballots when transported from each polling place to the
- 25 centralized location and when removed from their containers and delivered
- 26 to the personnel who operate the vote counting devices;
- 27 (2) Provide a process of counting which allows for the ballots of
- 28 each precinct to be placed in a sealed container and placed in a secure
- 29 location after the counting process has been completed;
- 30 (3) Provide for a method of overseeing the ballots that have been
- 31 overvoted or damaged which does not involve judging voter intent to

assure that these ballots have not been or will not be intentionally 1

- 2 mismarked;
- 3 (4) Provide for a procedure for counting write-in votes when such
- votes and names of write-in candidates are to be counted and recorded; 4
- 5 (5) Provide for at least three independent tests to be conducted
- before counting begins to verify the accuracy of the counting process, 6
- which includes the computerized program installed for counting various 7
- ballots by vote counting devices, by (a) the election commissioner or 8
- 9 county clerk, (b) the chief deputy election commissioner or a registered
- voter with a different party affiliation than that of the election 10
- commissioner or county clerk, and (c) the person who installed the 11
- program in the vote counting device or the person in charge of operating 12
- 13 the device;
- (6) Before any ballots are counted by a vote counting device, 14
- provide for the running of a zero report that indicates the vote counting 15
- devices are clear of any previous results; 16
- 17 (7) (6) Provide for storing and safeguarding the magnetic tapes or
- computer chips of the vote counting devices for the required period of 18
- 19 time;
- (8) (7) Provide the appropriate security personnel or measures 20
- necessary to safeguard the secrecy and security of the counting process; 21
- (9) (8) Develop a procedure for picking up and counting ballots 22
- during election day at the discretion of the election commissioner or 23
- 24 county clerk. No report or tabulation of vote totals for such ballots
- 25 shall be produced or generated prior to one hour before the closing of
- the polls; 26
- (10) (9) Develop a procedure for picking up and transporting ballots 27
- from a secure ballot drop-box to the office of the election commissioner 28
- or county clerk; and 29
- (11) Provide a process for verifying early voting ballots that 30
- includes verifying the voter's signature on the envelope and, for 31

1 elections conducted pursuant to section 32-953, the voter's valid

- 2 photographic identification;
- 3 (12) Provide for verification of provisional ballots;
- 4 (13) Provide a timeline for counting that includes the anticipated
- 5 date the counting and canvassing boards will convene; and
- 6 (14) Submit a written plan to the Secretary of State
- 7 specifically outlining the procedures that will be followed before,
- 8 <u>during</u>, and after on election day to implement this section. The plan
- 9 shall be submitted no later than twenty-five days before the election and
- 10 $\underline{\text{may}}$ shall be modified τ as necessary τ for each primary, general, or
- 11 special election.
- 12 Sec. 51. Section 32-1119, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 13 amended to read:
- 14 32-1119 (1) Any candidate who failed to be nominated or elected
- 15 shall be entitled to a recount if it appears, as evidenced by the
- 16 abstract of votes, that the candidate failed to be nominated or elected
- 17 by one of the following margins:
- 18 (a) If more than five hundred votes were cast for the office, one
- 19 percent or less of the votes received by the candidate:
- 20 <u>(i) Who received the highest number of votes, for offices in which</u>
- 21 two or fewer candidates are nominated or one candidate is elected; or
- 22 (ii) Who received the fewest number of votes qualifying the
- 23 candidate for nomination or election, for offices in which three or more
- 24 candidates are nominated or two or more candidates are elected; and
- 25 (b) If five hundred or fewer votes were cast for the office, two
- 26 percent or less of the votes received by the candidate:
- 27 (i) Who received the highest number of votes, for offices in which
- 28 two or fewer candidates are nominated or one candidate is elected; or
- 29 (ii) Who received the fewest number of votes qualifying the
- 30 <u>candidate for nomination or election, for offices in which three or more</u>
- 31 candidates are nominated or two or more candidates are elected.

- 1 If it appears as evidenced by the abstract of votes that any 2 candidate failed to be nominated or elected by a margin of (a) one percent or less of the votes received by the candidate who received the 3 4 highest number of votes for the office at an election in which more than 5 five hundred total votes were cast or (b) two percent or less of the 6 votes received by the candidate who received the highest number of votes 7 for the office at an election in which five hundred or less total votes were cast, then such candidate shall be entitled to a recount. 8
- 9 (2) Any losing candidate may waive his or her right to a recount by
 10 filing a written statement with the Secretary of State, election
 11 commissioner, or county clerk with whom he or she made his or her filing.
 12 All expenses of a recount under this section shall be paid by those
 13 political subdivisions involved in the recount.
- (3) (2) Recounts shall be made by the county canvassing board which officiated in making the official county canvass of the election returns.

 If any member of the county canvassing board cannot participate in the recount, another person shall be appointed by the election commissioner or county clerk to take the member's place.
- 19 <u>(4)</u> (3) Recounts for candidates who filed with the Secretary of
 20 State shall be made on the fifth Wednesday after the election and shall
 21 commence at 9 a.m. The Secretary of State shall inform each election
 22 commissioner or county clerk of the names of the candidates for which the
 23 board of state canvassers deems a recount to be necessary.
- 24 <u>(5)</u> (4) The election commissioner or county clerk shall be 25 responsible for recounting the ballots for those candidates for whom the 26 county canvassing board deems a recount to be necessary. The recount 27 shall be made as soon as possible after the adjournment of the county 28 canvassing board, except that if a recount is required under subsection 29 <u>(4)</u> (3) of this section, the recounts may be conducted concurrently.
- 30 <u>(6) (5)</u> The Secretary of State, election commissioner, or county 31 clerk shall notify all candidates whose ballots will be recounted of the

- 1 time, date, and place of the recount. Candidates whose ballots will be
- 2 recounted may be present or be represented by an agent appointed by the
- 3 candidate.
- 4 (7) (6) The procedures for the recounting of ballots shall be the
- 5 same as those used for the counting of ballots on election day. The
- 6 recount shall be conducted at the county courthouse, except that if vote
- 7 counting devices are used for the counting or recounting, such counting
- 8 or recounting may be accomplished at the site of the devices. Counties
- 9 counting ballots by using a vote counting device shall first recount the
- 10 ballots by use of the device. If substantial changes are found, the
- 11 ballots shall then be counted using such device in any precinct which
- 12 might reflect a substantial change.
- 13 Sec. 52. Section 32-1122, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 14 amended to read:
- 15 32-1122 (1) If a recount after a primary election results in any two
- 16 or more persons having an equal and the highest number of votes for the
- 17 same nomination for the same county, city, village, or school district
- 18 office, the county canvassing board shall, in the presence of the
- 19 candidates or their representatives, determine by lot which of the
- 20 candidates shall be nominated. The election commissioner or county clerk
- 21 shall notify such candidates by certified mail to appear at his or her
- 22 office on a given day and hour to determine the same before the county
- 23 canvassing board. If a candidate or candidate's representative fails to
- 24 appear at the given day and hour, a person designated by the election
- 25 commissioner or county clerk shall participate in the candidate's stead.
- 26 The election commissioner or county clerk shall make a certificate of
- 27 nomination for the person so nominated and shall cause such certificate
- 28 to be delivered to the person entitled thereto.
- 29 (2) If a recount after a general or special election results in any
- 30 two or more persons having an equal and the highest number of votes for
- 31 the same county, city, village, or school district office, the county

- 1 canvassing board shall, in the presence of the candidates or their
- 2 representatives, determine by lot which of the candidates shall be
- 3 elected. The election commissioner or county clerk shall notify such
- 4 candidates by certified mail to appear at his or her office on a given
- 5 day and hour to determine the same before the county canvassing board. If
- 6 a candidate or candidate's representative fails to appear at the given
- 7 day and hour, a person designated by the election commissioner or county
- 8 clerk shall participate in the candidate's stead. The election
- 9 commissioner or county clerk shall make a certificate of election for the
- 10 person so elected and shall cause such certificate to be delivered to the
- 11 person entitled thereto.
- 12 (3) If a recount after a primary election results in any two or more
- 13 persons having an equal and the highest number of votes for nomination to
- 14 an office canvassed by the board of state canvassers, the board shall
- decide by lot which of such persons is nominated.
- 16 (4) If a recount after a general or special election results in any
- 17 two or more persons having an equal and the highest number of votes for
- 18 the office of the Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of Public
- 19 Accounts, State Treasurer, Attorney General, or other officer elected to
- 20 an executive department, the Legislature shall choose one of such persons
- 21 for the office. If the office involved in the recount is the office of
- 22 the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor shall be the candidate for
- 23 Lieutenant Governor chosen by the person selected by the Legislature as
- 24 Governor.
- 25 (5) If a recount after a general or special election results in any
- 26 two or more persons having an equal and the highest number of votes for
- 27 an office canvassed by the board of state canvassers, the board shall
- 28 decide by lot which of such persons is elected, except officers elected
- 29 to the executive department.
- 30 Sec. 53. Section 32-1404, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 31 amended to read:

9

1 32-1404 <u>Initiative and referendum petition signers shall conform to</u>
2 the requirements of sections 32-629 and 32-630. A signer of an initiative

3 and referendum petition shall be a registered voter of the State of

4 Nebraska on or before the date on which the petition is required to be

5 filed with the Secretary of State and shall meet the requirements of

6 section 32-630. A person who circulates initiative and referendum

7 petitions shall comply with the requirements of section 32-629 and

8 subsection (2) of section 32-630 and with the prohibitions contained in

subdivisions (3)(a), (d), and (f) of section 32-630.

Sec. 54. Section 32-1409, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 11 2024, is amended to read:

32-1409 (1) Upon the receipt of the petitions, the Secretary of 12 13 State, with the aid and assistance of the election commissioner or county clerk, shall determine the validity and sufficiency of signatures on the 14 pages of the filed petition. The various pages of the filed petition may 15 16 remain in the office of the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall deliver the various pages or copies of the various pages of the 17 filed petition to the election commissioner or county clerk by hand 18 carrier, by use of law enforcement officials, or by certified mail, 19 return receipt requested, or by a secure method designated by the 20 Secretary of State. Upon receipt of the pages of the petition, the 21 22 election commissioner or county clerk shall issue to the Secretary of State a written receipt that the pages of the petition are in the custody 23 24 of the election commissioner or county clerk. The Secretary of State, 25 election commissioner, or county clerk shall determine if each signer was a registered voter on or before the date on which the petition was 26 required to be filed with the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State, 27 election commissioner, or county clerk shall compare the signer's 28 signature, printed name, date of birth, street name and number or voting 29 precinct, and city, village, or post office address with the voter 30 registration records to determine whether the signer was a registered 31

The determination of the Secretary of State, 1 voter. election 2 commissioner, or county clerk may be rebutted by any credible evidence which the Secretary of State, election commissioner, or county clerk 3 4 finds sufficient. The express purpose of the comparison of names and addresses with the voter registration records, in addition to helping to 5 determine the validity of such petition, the sufficiency of such 6 petition, and the qualifications of the signer, shall be to prevent 7 fraud, deception, and misrepresentation in the petition process. If the 8 9 Secretary of State receives reports from a sufficient number of the 10 counties that signatures in excess of one hundred ten percent of the number necessary to place the issue on the ballot have been verified, the 11 Secretary of State may instruct the election commissioners and county 12 13 clerks in all counties to stop verifying signatures and certify the 14 number of signatures verified as of receipt of the instruction from the Secretary of State. 15

(2) Upon completion of the determination of registration, the 16 17 election commissioner or county clerk shall prepare in writing a certification under seal setting forth the name and address of each 18 19 signer found not to be a registered voter and the petition page number and line number where the name is found, and if the reason for the 20 invalidity of the signature or address is other than the nonregistration 21 22 of the signer, the election commissioner or county clerk shall set forth the reason for the invalidity of the signature. If the election 23 24 commissioner or county clerk determines that a signer has affixed his or 25 her signature more than once to any page or pages of the petition and only one person is registered by that name, the election 26 commissioner or county clerk shall prepare in writing a certification 27 28 under seal setting forth the name of the duplicate signature and shall count only the <u>first verified</u> earliest dated signature. The election 29 commissioner or county clerk shall deliver all pages of the petition and 30 the certifications to the Secretary of State within forty days after the 31

- 1 receipt of such pages or copies of such pages from the Secretary of
- 2 State. The delivery shall be by hand carrier, by use of law enforcement
- 3 officials, or by certified mail , return receipt requested. The Secretary
- 4 of State may grant to the election commissioner or county clerk an
- 5 additional ten days to <u>deliver</u> return all <u>certifications</u> and pages of the
- 6 petition in extraordinary circumstances.
- 7 (3) Upon receipt of the pages of the petition, the Secretary of
- 8 State shall issue a written receipt indicating the number of pages of the
- 9 petition that are in his or her custody. When all the petitions and
- 10 certifications have been received by the Secretary of State, he or she
- 11 shall strike from the pages of the petition all but the earliest dated
- 12 signature of any duplicate signatures and such stricken signatures shall
- 13 not be added to the total number of valid signatures. Not more than
- 14 twenty signatures on one sheet shall be counted. All signatures secured
- in a manner contrary to sections 32-1401 to 32-1416 shall not be counted.
- 16 Clerical and technical errors in a petition shall be disregarded if the
- 17 forms prescribed in sections 32-1401 to 32-1403 are substantially
- 18 followed. The Secretary of State shall total the valid signatures and
- 19 determine if constitutional and statutory requirements have been met. The
- 20 Secretary of State shall immediately serve a copy of such determination
- 21 by the most expeditious method available certified or registered mail
- 22 upon the person filing the initiative or referendum petition. If the
- 23 petition is found to be valid and sufficient, the Secretary of State
- 24 shall proceed to place the measure on the general election ballot.
- 25 (4) The Secretary of State may adopt and promulgate rules and
- 26 regulations for the issuance of all necessary forms and procedural
- 27 instructions to carry out this section.
- 28 Sec. 55. Section 32-1524, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 29 2024, is amended to read:
- 30 32-1524 (1) No judge or clerk of election or precinct or district
- 31 inspector shall do any electioneering or disseminate information or

- 1 materials advertising or advocating for or against any ballot measure
- 2 while acting as an election official.
- 3 (2) No person shall do any electioneering, disseminate information
- 4 or materials advertising or advocating for or against any ballot measure,
- 5 or circulate petitions within any polling place or any building
- 6 designated for voters to cast ballots by the election commissioner or
- 7 county clerk pursuant to the Election Act while the polling place or
- 8 building is set up for voters to cast ballots or within two hundred feet
- 9 of the entrances to any such polling place or building except as
- 10 otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this section.
- 11 (3) No person shall do any electioneering, or disseminate
- 12 information or materials advertising or advocating for or against any
- 13 ballot measure, or circulate petitions within two hundred feet of any
- 14 secure ballot drop-box.
- 15 (4) Subject to any local ordinance, a person may display yard signs
- 16 on private real property within two hundred feet of a polling place or
- 17 building designated for voters to cast ballots or a secure ballot drop-
- 18 box if the property is not under common ownership with the property on
- 19 which the polling place, building, or secure ballot drop-box is located.
- 20 (5) Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a Class V
- 21 misdemeanor.
- 22 Sec. 56. Section 32-1525, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 23 2024, is amended to read:
- 24 32-1525 (1) No person shall conduct an exit poll, a public opinion
- 25 poll, or any other interview with voters on election day seeking to
- 26 determine voter preference within twenty feet of the entrance of any
- 27 polling place or, if inside the polling place or building, within one
- 28 hundred feet of any voting booth.
- 29 (2)(a) No poll watcher shall interfere with any voter in the
- 30 preparation or casting of such voter's ballot or prevent any election
- 31 worker from performing the worker's duties.

31

1 (b) A poll watcher shall not provide assistance to a voter as 2 described in section 32-918 unless selected by the voter to provide

- 3 assistance as provided in section 32-918.
- 4 (c) A poll watcher shall not do any electioneering or disseminate 5 any information or materials advertising or advocating for or against any 6 ballot measure while engaged in observing at a polling place.
- 7 (d) A poll watcher shall maintain a distance of at least eight feet from the sign-in table, the sign-in register, the polling booths, the 8 9 ballot box, and any ballots which have not been cast, except that if the 10 polling place is not large enough for a distance of eight feet, the judge of election shall post a notice of the minimum distance the poll watcher 11 must maintain from the sign-in table, the sign-in register, the polling 12 13 booths, the ballot box, and any ballots which have not been cast. The posted notice shall be clearly visible to the voters and shall be posted 14 15 prior to the opening of the polls on election day. The minimum distance shall not be determined to exclude a poll watcher from being in the 16 17 polling place.
- 18 <u>(3)(a) No counting watcher or observer shall prevent any election</u>
 19 <u>worker from performing the worker's duties.</u>
- (b) A counting watcher or observer shall maintain a distance of at 20 <u>least eight feet from any ballots, ballot boxes, sign-in registers, and</u> 21 vote counting devices, except that if the counting location is not large 22 enough for a distance of eight feet, the election commissioner or county 23 24 clerk shall post a notice of the minimum distance the counting watcher or 25 observer must maintain from any ballots, ballot boxes, sign-in registers, and vote counting devices. The posted notice should be clearly visible to 26 the counting watcher or observer and shall be posted prior to the 27 28 counting board convening. The minimum distance shall not be determined to exclude a counting watcher or observer from being in the counting 29 location except as provided in subsection (3) of section 32-1013. 30
 - (4) (3) Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a Class

- 1 V misdemeanor.
- 2 Sec. 57. Section 32-1546, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 3 2024, is amended to read:
- 4 32-1546 (1) Any person who is not, at the time of signing a
- 5 petition, a registered voter and qualified to sign the petition except as
- 6 provided for initiative and referendum petitions in subdivision (1) of
- 7 section 32-629 32-1404 or who signs any name other than his or her own to
- 8 any petition shall be guilty of a Class I misdemeanor.
- 9 (2) Any person who falsely swears to a circulator's affidavit on a
- 10 petition, who accepts money or other things of value for signing a
- 11 petition, or who offers money or other things of value in exchange for a
- 12 signature upon any petition shall be guilty of a Class IV felony.
- 13 (3) Any person who falsifies a letter submitted pursuant to section
- 14 32-632 or subsection (3) of section 32-1305 or who signs any name other
- 15 than his or her own to such letter shall be guilty of a Class I
- 16 misdemeanor.
- 17 Sec. 58. Sections 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17,
- 18 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36,
- 19 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 49, 51, 53, 54, 57, 60, and 62 of
- 20 this act become operative three calendar months after the adjournment of
- 21 this legislative session. Sections 50 and 59 of this act become operative
- 22 on January 1, 2026. The other sections of this act become operative on
- 23 their effective date.
- 24 Sec. 59. Original section 32-1049, Revised Statutes Cumulative
- 25 Supplement, 2024, is repealed.
- 26 **Sec. 60.** Original sections 32-104, 32-239, 32-307, 32-315, 32-401,
- 27 32-603, 32-620, 32-621, 32-624, 32-628, 32-629, 32-704, 32-707, 32-912,
- 28 32-1037, 32-1119, and 32-1404, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and
- 29 sections 32-202, 32-221, 32-231, 32-308, 32-312, 32-326, 32-607, 32-613,
- 30 32-615, 32-617, 32-618, 32-630, 32-632, 32-716, 32-717, 32-803, 32-809,
- 31 32-811, 32-1002, 32-1005, 32-1007, 32-1409, and 32-1546, Revised Statutes

LB521 2025

- 1 Cumulative Supplement, 2024, are repealed.
- 2 Sec. 61. Original sections 32-1032 and 32-1122, Reissue Revised
- 3 Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 32-101, 32-123, 32-405, 32-631,
- 32-1013, 32-1524, and 32-1525, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 4
- 2024, are repealed. 5
- The following sections are outright repealed: Sections 6 Sec. 62.
- 7 32-309 and 32-705, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska.
- 8 Sec. 63. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
- passed and approved according to law. 9