



2025 LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

FOR MUNICIPALITIES & SPECIAL DISTRICTS

QUICK REFERENCE

- Voters **must opt in starting 2029** to receive by-mail ballots.
- **ID Required on ballots** starting 2026.
- **All ballots must be in the Clerk's possession by 8 P.M. on Election Day**, starting 2025.
- Candidates must use their legal name; nicknames allowed with an affidavit.

S.B. 54 - CANDIDATE NAME REQUIREMENTS

LEGAL NAME USE

- Candidates **must use their legal first and last name** on the ballot.
- A **legal middle name** may replace the first name **with an affidavit signed by five acquaintances**.
- **Common name derivatives/nicknames** (e.g., Jim for James) are allowed, with the approval of the election officer.

NICKNAME USE

A nickname is permitted if it:

- Does not mislead or impersonate someone else.
Does not imply political, religious, or economic affiliation.
- Does not express an opinion.
- Is not offensive, profane, or misleading.
- Is not a title, rank, or job description.
- Is **verified by five acquaintances** via affidavit.
- Appears **before, after, or in place** of the first or middle name.

H.B. 300 - BY-MAIL BALLOTS & VOTER ID

BY-MAIL BALLOT OPT-IN

- Starting **January 1, 2029**, voters must **opt in** to receive a by-mail ballot.
- Until 2029, active registered voters will continue receiving a ballot automatically.
- Opt-in status lasts **eight years** before renewal is required.
- New voter registration forms and website updates are coming later this year.

BALLOT ID REQUIREMENT

- By-mail voters must provide the **last four digits** of their Utah Driver License, State ID, or SSN **on their ballot**, starting in 2026.
- If ID is missing or incorrect, ballots can still be **validated by signature until 2029**.
- After January 1, 2029, ballots must be validated using the last four digits.
- Voters without these IDs may include a **photocopy of another valid ID** beginning in 2029. See the full list of valid IDs at sco.to/voting-id

BALLOT DEADLINE

- Ballots **must be received by 8:00 PM on Election Day**, regardless of postmark.
- **Late ballots will not be counted.**

EMERGENCY BALLOTS

- Hospitalized voters may **authorize someone** to pick up their ballot.

This summary is provided for informational purposes only and reflects our interpretation of recent legislative activity. It is not legal advice. Please consult with your attorney to determine how these changes may apply to your municipality or district.