

**House File 954 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 954  
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 281)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the conduct of elections, and including  
2 effective date and retroactive applicability provisions.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

DIVISION I

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY OBJECTIONS

1  
2  
3 Section 1. Section 43.18, subsection 9, Code 2025, is amended  
4 to read as follows:

5 9. A For a candidate for an office other than a federal  
6 office, a statement that the candidate is aware that the  
7 candidate is disqualified from holding office if the candidate  
8 has been convicted of a felony or other infamous crime and the  
9 candidate's rights have not been restored by the governor or by  
10 the president of the United States.

11 Sec. 2. Section 43.24, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended by  
12 adding the following new paragraph:

13 NEW PARAGRAPH. c. Objections to the eligibility of a  
14 candidate for a federal office shall not be sustained unless the  
15 objection is limited to the legal sufficiency of the nomination  
16 petition or certificate of nomination, or to the residency, age,  
17 or citizenship requirements as described in the Constitution of  
18 the United States.

19 Sec. 3. Section 44.3, subsection 2, paragraph i, Code 2025,  
20 is amended to read as follows:

21 i. A For a candidate for an office other than a federal  
22 office, a statement that the candidate is aware that the  
23 candidate is disqualified from holding office if the candidate  
24 has been convicted of a felony or other infamous crime and the  
25 candidate's rights have not been restored by the governor or by  
26 the president of the United States.

27 Sec. 4. Section 44.6, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
28 follows:

29 **44.6 Hearing before state commissioner.**

30 Objections filed with the state commissioner shall be  
31 considered by the secretary of state and auditor of state  
32 and attorney general, and a majority decision shall be final.  
33 However, if the objection is to the certificate of nomination of  
34 one or more of the above named officers, the officer or officers  
35 objected to shall not pass upon the objection, but their places

1 shall be filled, respectively, by the treasurer of state, the  
2 governor, and the secretary of agriculture. Objections relating  
3 to incorrect or incomplete information for information that is  
4 required under section 44.3 shall be sustained. Objections  
5 to the eligibility of a candidate for a federal office shall  
6 not be sustained unless the objection is limited to the  
7 legal sufficiency of the nomination petition or certificate of  
8 nomination, or to the residency, age, or citizenship requirements  
9 as described in the Constitution of the United States.

10 Sec. 5. Section 45.3, subsection 9, Code 2025, is amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 9. A For a candidate for an office other than a federal  
13 office, a statement that the candidate is aware that the  
14 candidate is disqualified from holding office if the candidate  
15 has been convicted of a felony or other infamous crime and the  
16 candidate's rights have not been restored by the governor or by  
17 the president of the United States.

18 Sec. 6. Section 54.5, Code 2025, is amended by adding the  
19 following new subsection:

20 NEW SUBSECTION. 5. An objection to a nomination made under  
21 this section on any grounds other than the legal sufficiency  
22 of the certificate of nomination shall not be sustained. The  
23 certificate of nomination shall be presumed valid.

24 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act, being  
25 deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

26 DIVISION II

27 RANKED CHOICE VOTING

28 Sec. 8. Section 49.93, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
29 follows:

30 **49.93 Number of votes for each office.**

31 1. For an office to which one person is to be elected, a  
32 voter shall not vote for more than one candidate. If two or more  
33 persons are to be elected to an office, the voter shall vote for  
34 no more than the number of persons to be elected. If a person  
35 votes for more than the permitted number of candidates, the vote

1 for that office shall not count. Valid votes cast on the rest of  
2 the ballot shall be counted.

3 2. a. An election in this state shall not be conducted using  
4 ranked choice voting or instant runoff voting.

5 b. For the purposes of this section, "ranked choice voting"  
6 or "instant runoff voting" means a method of casting and  
7 tabulating votes in which a voter ranks candidates in order of  
8 preference, tabulation of ballots proceeds in rounds such that  
9 in each round either a candidate is elected or the candidate  
10 receiving the fewest votes is defeated, votes are transferred  
11 from elected or defeated candidates to a voter's next-ranked  
12 candidate in order of preference, and tabulation ends when a  
13 candidate receives the majority of votes cast or the number of  
14 candidates elected equals the number of offices to be filled, as  
15 applicable.

16 Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act takes  
17 effect January 1, 2026.

18 DIVISION III

19 PERSONS PERMITTED IN VOTING BOOTHS

20 Sec. 10. Section 49.88, subsection 3, Code 2025, is amended  
21 to read as follows:

22 3. A person standing for election on the ballot before a  
23 voter ~~shall not occupy~~ commits a violation of this section by  
24 occupying the voting booth with the voter, including to assist  
25 the voter.

26 Sec. 11. Section 49.90, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
27 follows:

28 **49.90 Assisting voter.**

29 1. Any voter who may declare upon oath that the voter is  
30 blind, cannot read the English language, or is, by reason of  
31 any physical disability other than intoxication, unable to cast  
32 a vote without assistance, shall, upon request, be assisted by  
33 the two officers as provided in section 49.89, or alternatively  
34 by any other person the voter may select in casting the vote,  
35 except that the voter shall not select a person standing for

1 election on the ballot. The officers, or the person selected by  
2 the voter, shall cast the vote of the voter requiring assistance,  
3 and shall thereafter give no information regarding the vote cast.  
4 If any elector because of a disability cannot enter the building  
5 where the polling place for the elector's precinct of residence  
6 is located, the two officers shall take a paper ballot to the  
7 vehicle occupied by the elector with a disability and allow the  
8 elector to cast the ballot in the vehicle. Ballots cast by  
9 voters with disabilities shall be deposited in the regular ballot  
10 box, or inserted in the tabulating device, and counted in the  
11 usual manner.

12 2. A person standing for election on the ballot before a  
13 voter commits a violation of section 49.88 by occupying the  
14 voting booth with the voter.

15 Sec. 12. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act takes  
16 effect January 1, 2026.

17 DIVISION IV

18 VOTER REGISTRATION DATABASE PILOT PROGRAM

19 Sec. 13. NEW SECTION. 47.7A **Statewide voter registration**  
20 **database verification pilot program.**

21 1. A statewide voter registration database verification pilot  
22 program is established within the office of the state registrar  
23 as follows:

24 a. The state registrar shall contract with a third-party  
25 vendor to develop or provide a program to allow the state  
26 registrar to verify the status of records in the statewide voter  
27 registration file and identify ineligible voters on an ongoing  
28 basis.

29 b. During the first quarter of the calendar year 2026, the  
30 state registrar shall utilize the program developed or provided  
31 by the third-party vendor to verify the status of records in the  
32 statewide voter registration file. The state registrar shall  
33 forward the results of the analysis to each county commissioner  
34 of registration prior to the date reports are required to be  
35 submitted pursuant to section 48A.40.

1 c. The state registrar shall evaluate the efficacy and cost  
2 of the pilot program as compared to the current method of  
3 verifying the list of voters in the statewide voter registration  
4 file.

5 2. This section is repealed December 31, 2028.

6 DIVISION V

7 COUNTY HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

8 Sec. 14. Section 347.9, subsection 3, Code 2025, is amended  
9 by striking the subsection.

10 Sec. 15. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. This division of this  
11 Act applies retroactively to persons elected to a county hospital  
12 board of trustees on or after January 1, 2024.

13 DIVISION VI

14 POLITICAL PARTY — DEFINITION

15 Sec. 16. Section 43.2, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code 2025,  
16 is amended to read as follows:

17 b. "Political party" shall mean a party which, at the last  
18 preceding general election, cast for its candidate for president  
19 of the United States or for governor, as the case may be, at  
20 least ~~two~~ ten percent of the total vote cast for all candidates  
21 for that office at that election. It shall be the responsibility  
22 of the state commissioner to determine whether any organization  
23 claiming to be a political party qualifies as such under this  
24 paragraph.

25 Sec. 17. Section 43.63, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended  
26 to read as follows:

27 1. Upon receipt of the abstracts of votes from the counties,  
28 the secretary of state shall immediately open the envelopes and  
29 canvass the results for all offices. The secretary of state  
30 shall invite to attend the canvass one representative from each  
31 political party which, at the last preceding general election,  
32 cast for its candidate for president of the United States or  
33 for governor, as the case may be, at least ~~two~~ ten percent  
34 of the total vote cast for all candidates for that office at  
35 that election, as determined by the secretary of state. The

1 secretary of state shall notify the chairperson of each political  
2 party of the time of the canvass. However, the presence of a  
3 representative from a political party is not necessary for the  
4 canvass to proceed.

5 Sec. 18. Section 50.36, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended  
6 to read as follows:

7 2. The secretary of state shall invite to attend the canvass  
8 one representative from each political party which, at the last  
9 preceding general election, cast for its candidate for president  
10 of the United States or for governor, as the case may be, at  
11 least ~~two~~ ten percent of the total vote cast for all candidates  
12 for that office at that election, as determined by the secretary  
13 of state. The secretary of state shall notify the chairperson  
14 of each political party of the time of the canvass. However,  
15 the presence of a representative from a political party is not  
16 necessary for the canvass to proceed.

17 Sec. 19. Section 68B.2, subsection 13, paragraph b,  
18 subparagraph (1), Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

19 (1) Officials and employees of a political party organized  
20 in the state of Iowa representing more than ~~two~~ ten percent of  
21 the total votes cast for governor in the last preceding general  
22 election, but only when representing the political party in an  
23 official capacity.

24 DIVISION VII

25 NOMINATION FILING DEADLINES

26 Sec. 20. Section 44.4, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 1. ~~a-~~ Nominations made pursuant to this chapter and chapter  
29 45 which are required to be filed in the office of the state  
30 commissioner shall be filed in that office not more than  
31 ninety-nine days nor later than 5:00 p.m. on the ~~eighty-first~~  
32 ~~day before the first~~ Tuesday after the first Monday in June in  
33 each even-numbered year. Nominations made for a special election  
34 called pursuant to section 69.14 shall be filed by 5:00 p.m. not  
35 less than twenty-five days before the date of an election called

1 upon at least forty days' notice and not less than fourteen days  
2 before the date of an election called upon at least eighteen  
3 days' notice. Nominations made for a special election called  
4 pursuant to section 69.14A shall be filed by 5:00 p.m. not  
5 less than twenty-five days before the date of the election.  
6 Nominations made pursuant to this chapter and chapter 45 which  
7 are required to be filed in the office of the commissioner  
8 shall be filed in that office not more than ninety-two days nor  
9 later than 5:00 p.m. on the ~~seventy-fourth day before the first~~  
10 Tuesday after the first Monday in June in each even-numbered  
11 year. Nominations made pursuant to this chapter or chapter 45  
12 for city office shall be filed not more than seventy-two days  
13 nor later than 5:00 p.m. on the forty-seventh day before the city  
14 election with the county commissioner of elections responsible  
15 under section 47.2 for conducting elections held for the city,  
16 who shall process them as provided by law.

17 ~~b. Notwithstanding paragraph "a", nominations for president~~  
18 ~~and vice president of the United States shall be filed in the~~  
19 ~~office of the state commissioner not more than ninety-nine days~~  
20 ~~nor later than 5:00 p.m. on the eighty-first day before the date~~  
21 ~~of the general election to be held in November.~~

22 Sec. 21. Section 44.4, subsection 2, paragraph a,  
23 subparagraphs (1) and (2), Code 2025, are amended to read as  
24 follows:

25 (1) Those filed with the state commissioner, not ~~less~~ later  
26 than ~~seventy-four~~ seven days before after the first Tuesday after  
27 the first Monday in June in each even-numbered year, ~~or for~~  
28 ~~certificates of nomination filed under subsection 1, paragraph~~  
29 ~~"b", not less than seventy-four days before the date of the~~  
30 election.

31 (2) Those filed with the commissioner, not ~~less~~ later than  
32 ~~sixty-seven~~ seven days before after the first Tuesday after  
33 the first Monday in June in each even-numbered year, except as  
34 provided in subparagraph (3).

35 Sec. 22. Section 44.9, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 1. In the office of the state commissioner, at least  
3 eighty-one days before the date of the election, ~~or for~~  
4 ~~withdrawals of nominations filed under section 44.4, subsection~~  
5 ~~1, paragraph "b", at least seventy-six days before the date of~~  
6 election.

7 Sec. 23. Section 44.11, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
8 follows:

9 **44.11 Vacancies filled.**

10 If a candidate named under this chapter withdraws or dies  
11 before the deadline established in section 44.9, declines  
12 a nomination, or if a certificate of nomination is held  
13 insufficient or inoperative by the officer with whom it is  
14 required to be filed, or in case any objection made to a  
15 certificate of nomination, or to the eligibility of any candidate  
16 named in the certificate, is sustained by the board appointed  
17 to determine such questions, the vacancy or vacancies may be  
18 filled by the convention, or caucus, or in such manner as such  
19 convention or caucus has previously provided. The vacancy or  
20 vacancies shall be filled not less than seventy-six days before  
21 the election in the case of nominations required to be filed  
22 with the state commissioner ~~or not less than seventy-one days~~  
23 ~~for nominations filed under section 44.4, subsection 1, paragraph~~  
24 ~~"b", not less than sixty-nine days before the election in the~~  
25 case of nominations required to be filed with the commissioner,  
26 not less than forty-two days before the election in the case of  
27 nominations required to be filed in the office of the school  
28 board secretary, and not less than forty-two days before the  
29 election in the case of nominations required to be filed with the  
30 commissioner for city elections.

31

DIVISION VIII

32

AFFIDAVITS OF CANDIDACY

33 Sec. 24. Section 43.18, Code 2025, is amended by adding the  
34 following new subsection:

35 NEW SUBSECTION. 10. A statement that the candidate is aware

1 that by filing this affidavit, the candidate is ineligible to  
2 appear on the same ballot for the same office other than as a  
3 candidate for the political party indicated on the affidavit.

4 Sec. 25. Section 43.67, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended  
5 by adding the following new paragraph:

6 NEW PARAGRAPH. j. A statement that the candidate is aware  
7 that by filing this affidavit, the candidate is ineligible to  
8 appear on the same ballot for the same office other than as a  
9 candidate for the political party indicated on the affidavit.

10 Sec. 26. Section 44.3, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended by  
11 adding the following new paragraph:

12 NEW PARAGRAPH. j. A statement that the candidate is aware  
13 that by filing this affidavit, the candidate is ineligible to  
14 appear on the same ballot for the same office other than as a  
15 candidate for the nonparty political organization indicated on  
16 the affidavit.

17 Sec. 27. Section 45.3, Code 2025, is amended by adding the  
18 following new subsection:

19 NEW SUBSECTION. 10. A statement that the candidate is aware  
20 that by filing this affidavit, the candidate is ineligible to  
21 appear on the same ballot for the same office other than as a  
22 candidate nominated by petition.

23 DIVISION IX

24 VOTER REGISTRATION

25 Sec. 28. Section 47.7, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 2. a. ~~On or before January 1, 2006, the~~ The state registrar  
28 of voters shall implement in a uniform and nondiscriminatory  
29 manner, a single, uniform, official, centralized, interactive  
30 computerized statewide voter registration file defined,  
31 maintained, and administered at the state level that contains  
32 the name and registration information of every legally registered  
33 voter in the state and assigns a unique identifier to each  
34 legally registered voter in the state. The state voter  
35 registration system shall be coordinated with other agency

1 databases within the state, including, but not limited to, state  
2 department of transportation driver's license records, judicial  
3 records of convicted felons and persons declared incompetent to  
4 vote, and department of health and human services records of  
5 deceased persons.

6 ~~On or after January 1, 2007,~~ a A county shall not  
7 establish or maintain a voter registration system separate from  
8 the state voter registration system. Each county shall provide  
9 to the state registrar the names, voter registration information,  
10 and voting history of each registered voter in the county in the  
11 form required by the state registrar.

12 c. A state or local election official may obtain immediate  
13 electronic access to the information contained in the  
14 computerized voter registration file. All voter registration  
15 information obtained by a local election official shall be  
16 electronically entered into the computerized voter registration  
17 file on an expedited basis at the time the information is  
18 provided to the local election official. The state registrar  
19 shall provide such support as may be required to enable local  
20 election officials to electronically enter the information into  
21 the computerized voter registration file on an expedited basis.  
22 The list generated from the computerized file shall serve as the  
23 official voter registration list for the conduct of all elections  
24 for federal office in the state.

25 d. The state registrar shall prescribe by rule the procedures  
26 for access to the state voter registration file, including all of  
27 the following:

28 (1) Access protocols for adding, changing, or deleting  
29 information from the state voter registration file.

30 (2) Training requirements for all state voter registration  
31 file users.

32 (3) Technology safeguards, including county information  
33 technology network requirements, necessary to access the state  
34 voter registration file.

35 (4) Breach incident response requirements and protocols on

1 all matters related to elections.

2 e. The state registrar may rescind access to the statewide  
3 voter registration file from a user who is not in compliance with  
4 the prescribed rules.

5 f. ~~(1)~~ The state registrar shall, in the first quarter  
6 of each calendar year, conduct a verification of all voters  
7 in the statewide voter registration file, which shall include  
8 cross-referencing the records in the statewide voter registration  
9 file with similar records maintained by other states. The state  
10 registrar of voters shall cancel the registration of a voter  
11 found to be ineligible pursuant to section 48A.30. The state  
12 registrar shall submit a report to the general assembly by April  
13 30 of each year regarding the number of voter registrations  
14 canceled pursuant to this paragraph. The state registrar shall  
15 also publish this report on the internet site of the state  
16 registrar.

17 ~~(2)~~ g. The state registrar may contract with a third-party  
18 vendor, including state and federal government agencies and  
19 private entities, to develop or provide a program to allow the  
20 state registrar to verify the status of records in the statewide  
21 voter registration file and identify ineligible voters on an  
22 ongoing basis.

23 h. The state registrar may adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
24 17A for the use of federal and other state agency sources  
25 of information. The state registrar and county commissioners  
26 of elections may use those sources of information for voter  
27 registration file maintenance.

28 i. The department of transportation shall transmit to the  
29 state registrar a list of each person seventeen years of age  
30 or older in the state who has submitted documentation indicating  
31 that the person is not a citizen of the United States.

32 Sec. 29. Section 48A.10A, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2025, are  
33 amended to read as follows:

34 1. The state registrar shall compare lists of persons who  
35 are registered to vote with the department of transportation's

1 driver's license ~~and files~~, nonoperator's identification card  
 2 files, and noncitizen identification files, and shall, on an  
 3 initial basis, issue a voter identification card to each active,  
 4 registered voter whose name does not appear in the department  
 5 of transportation's files. The voter identification card shall  
 6 include the name of the registered voter, a signature line above  
 7 which the registered voter shall sign the voter identification  
 8 card, the registered voter's identification number assigned to  
 9 the voter pursuant to section 47.7, subsection 2, an additional  
 10 four-digit personal identification number assigned by the state  
 11 commissioner, and the times during which polling places will be  
 12 open on election days.

13 2. The commissioner shall issue voter identification cards  
 14 on an ongoing basis as prescribed by the state registrar.  
 15 The commissioner shall, as a part of the voter acknowledgment  
 16 process required under sections 48A.26 and 48A.26A, issue  
 17 a voter identification card to a registered voter under  
 18 this subsection at the time of registration or update to  
 19 registration if the registered voter's name does not appear  
 20 in the department of transportation's driver's license, ~~or~~  
 21 nonoperator's identification card, or noncitizen identification  
 22 files. A registered voter whose name appears in the  
 23 department of transportation's driver's license, ~~or~~ nonoperator's  
 24 identification card, or noncitizen identification files shall not  
 25 be issued a voter identification card pursuant to this section.

26 Sec. 30. Section 48A.25A, Code 2025, is amended by adding the  
 27 following new subsection:

28 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. A voter registration record shall be  
 29 designated as unconfirmed status if the registrant self-reports  
 30 to be a noncitizen on the voter registration form and signs  
 31 the portion of the form affirming the person's United States  
 32 citizenship.

33 Sec. 31. Section 48A.30, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended  
 34 by adding the following new paragraph:

35 NEW PARAGRAPH. h. The registered voter submits documentation

1 that indicates that the registered voter is not a citizen of the  
2 United States or reports to a state or federal agency that the  
3 registered voter is not a citizen of the United States.

4 Sec. 32. Section 48A.30, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended  
5 to read as follows:

6 2. When a registration is canceled pursuant to subsection 1,  
7 paragraph "d", "e", ~~or "g"~~, or "h", the commissioner shall send a  
8 notice of the cancellation to the registered voter.

9 Sec. 33. Section 48A.37, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended  
10 to read as follows:

11 2. Electronic records shall include a status code designating  
12 whether the records are active, inactive, incomplete, pending,  
13 unconfirmed, or canceled.

14 a. Inactive records are records of registered voters to whom  
15 notices have been sent pursuant to section 48A.28, and who have  
16 not returned the card or otherwise responded to the notice,  
17 and those records have been designated inactive pursuant to  
18 section 48A.29. Inactive records are also records of registered  
19 voters to whom notices have been sent pursuant to section  
20 48A.26A and who have not responded to the notice. Incomplete  
21 records are records missing required information pursuant to  
22 section 48A.11, subsection 8. Pending records are records of  
23 applicants whose applications have not been verified pursuant to  
24 section 48A.25A. Unconfirmed records are records of registered  
25 voters about whom the state registrar or county commissioner has  
26 received information from a reliable source indicating that the  
27 registered voter is not qualified. Canceled records are records  
28 that have been canceled pursuant to section 48A.30. All other  
29 records are active records.

30 b. An inactive record shall be made active when the  
31 registered voter requests an absentee ballot, votes at an  
32 election, registers again, or reports a change of name, address,  
33 telephone number, or political party or organization affiliation.  
34 An incomplete record shall be made active when a completed  
35 application is received from the applicant and verified pursuant

1 to section 48A.25A. A pending record shall be made active upon  
2 verification or upon the voter providing identification pursuant  
3 to section 48A.8. An unconfirmed record shall be made active  
4 upon the registered voter providing evidence that the registered  
5 voter is qualified.

6 Sec. 34. Section 49.77, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code 2025,  
7 is amended to read as follows:

8 a. Any person desiring to vote shall sign a voter's  
9 declaration provided by the officials, in substantially the  
10 following form:

VOTER'S DECLARATION  
OF ELIGIBILITY

I do solemnly swear or affirm that I am a resident of  
the .... precinct, .... ward or township, city of .....,  
county of ....., Iowa. I am a citizen of the United States.  
I am a registered voter. I was born on the .... day of ....  
(month) .... (year). I have not voted and will not  
vote in any other precinct in said election.  
I understand that any false statement in this declaration is a  
criminal offense punishable as provided by law.  
.....  
Signature of Voter  
.....  
Address  
.....  
Telephone (optional)  
Approved:  
.....  
Board Member

30 Sec. 35. Section 49.80, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code 2025,  
31 is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

32 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (5) The person's citizenship status.

33 Sec. 36. Section 50.22, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended  
34 to read as follows:

35 2. The decision to count or reject each ballot shall be

1 made upon the basis of the information given on the envelope  
2 containing the provisional ballot, the evidence concerning  
3 the challenge, the registration and the returned receipts of  
4 registration. Ballots submitted to the board pursuant to section  
5 49.78 or 49.81 that are not cured by the deadline provided in  
6 section 49.81, subsection 6, shall be rejected.

7 DIVISION X

8 ELECTION MISCONDUCT

9 Sec. 37. Section 39A.7, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
10 follows:

11 **39A.7 Election misconduct — investigation.**

12 1. The attorney general county sheriff, or other law  
13 enforcement agency with jurisdiction, shall investigate  
14 allegations of election misconduct reported to the attorney  
15 general. Election misconduct by an election official shall also  
16 be investigated for prosecution under chapter 721.

17 2. Upon the completion of an investigation required by this  
18 section, the attorney general county sheriff, or other law  
19 enforcement agency with jurisdiction, shall submit the results of  
20 the investigation, including the report from the law enforcement  
21 agency, to the attorney general and the state commissioner, and  
22 the attorney general shall explain whether the attorney general  
23 will pursue charges. Any information that is requested by or  
24 in the possession of the state commissioner pursuant to this  
25 chapter remains a confidential record pursuant to section 22.7,  
26 subsection 5.

27 EXPLANATION

28 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
29 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

30 This bill relates to the conduct of elections. The bill is  
31 organized in divisions.

32 DIVISION I — CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY OBJECTIONS. This division  
33 relates to the nomination of candidates for federal office. The  
34 bill exempts candidates for federal office from the requirement  
35 that a candidate sign a statement that the candidate is aware

1 that the candidate is disqualified from holding office if the  
2 candidate has been convicted of a felony or other infamous crime  
3 and the candidate's rights have not been restored by the governor  
4 or by the president of the United States. The bill limits  
5 objections to the eligibility of a candidate for a federal office  
6 that may be filed with the state commissioner of elections to  
7 objections to the legal sufficiency of the nomination petition or  
8 certificate of election, or to the residency, age, or citizenship  
9 requirements as described in the United States Constitution.  
10 With respect to nominations for president or vice president of  
11 the United States, the bill allows objections only to the legal  
12 sufficiency of the certificate of nomination. The certificate of  
13 nomination shall be presumed valid.

14 This division of the bill takes effect upon enactment.

15 DIVISION II — RANKED CHOICE VOTING. This division relates  
16 to the use of ranked choice and instant runoff voting for  
17 elections in this state. The bill prohibits ranked choice and  
18 instant runoff voting, defined in the bill as a system in which  
19 voters rank multiple candidates for a single office in order of  
20 preference and candidates are eliminated and votes transferred  
21 between candidates in a series of rounds, from being used to cast  
22 or tabulate ballots in any election in this state.

23 This division of the bill takes effect January 1, 2026.

24 DIVISION III — PERSONS PERMITTED IN VOTING BOOTHS. This  
25 division amends the subsection of Code section 49.88 (limitation  
26 on persons in booth and time for voting) prohibiting a person  
27 standing for election on the ballot before a voter from occupying  
28 the voting booth with the voter and Code section 49.90 (assisting  
29 voter) to say that the candidate violates Code section 49.88 by  
30 occupying the voting booth with the voter.

31 This division of the bill takes effect January 1, 2026.

32 DIVISION IV — VOTER REGISTRATION DATABASE PILOT PROGRAM. This  
33 division requires the state registrar of voters to contract with  
34 a third-party vendor to develop or provide a program to allow  
35 the state registrar to verify the status of records in the

1 statewide voter registration file and identify ineligible voters  
2 on an ongoing basis. During the first quarter of 2026, the bill  
3 requires the state registrar of voters to utilize the program  
4 developed or provided by the third-party vendor to verify the  
5 status of records in the statewide voter registration file. The  
6 state registrar shall forward the results of the analysis to each  
7 county commissioner of registration prior to the date that county  
8 commissioners of registration are required to submit voter list  
9 maintenance reports. The bill requires the state registrar of  
10 voters to evaluate the efficacy and cost of the pilot program as  
11 compared to the current method of maintaining the statewide voter  
12 registration database. The pilot program is repealed effective  
13 December 31, 2028.

14 DIVISION V — COUNTY HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES. This division  
15 strikes a provision setting the term length for persons elected  
16 to a county hospital board of trustees in a county with a  
17 population of at least 400,000 to six years, returning the term  
18 length to four years.

19 This division of the bill applies retroactively to persons  
20 elected to a county hospital board of trustees on or after  
21 January 1, 2024.

22 DIVISION VI — POLITICAL PARTY — DEFINITION. Under current  
23 law, the definition of "political party" is a party which, at  
24 the last preceding general election, cast for its candidate for  
25 president of the United States or for governor, as the case may  
26 be, at least 2 percent of the total vote cast for all candidates  
27 for that office at that election. This division increases the  
28 threshold to at least 10 percent of the total vote cast.

29 DIVISION VII — NOMINATION FILING DEADLINES. This division  
30 changes the filing deadline for candidates nominated by petition  
31 or by a nonparty political organization for election at a general  
32 election to 5:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday after the first Monday  
33 in June, the same day on which political parties are required to  
34 hold a primary election.

35 DIVISION VIII — AFFIDAVITS OF CANDIDACY. This division

1 requires that affidavits of candidacy include a statement that  
2 the candidate is aware that, by filing the affidavit, the  
3 candidate is ineligible to appear on the same ballot for the same  
4 office through nomination by another method.

5 DIVISION IX — VOTER REGISTRATION. This division relates to  
6 voter registration file maintenance and the verification of the  
7 eligibility of registered voters. The bill specifies that the  
8 state registrar of voters may contract with federal and state  
9 agencies and private entities for voter registration verification  
10 purposes and allows the state registrar to adopt rules regarding  
11 the use of federal and state sources of information for voter  
12 registration file maintenance.

13 The bill requires the department of transportation to share  
14 with the state registrar of voters a list of each person  
15 who has submitted documentation indicating that the person is  
16 not a citizen of the United States and requires the state  
17 registrar of voters to compare the list of registered voters  
18 with the noncitizen identification information maintained by the  
19 department of transportation.

20 The bill requires a voter registration to be marked as  
21 "unconfirmed" if a registrant marks on the voter registration  
22 form that the registrant is a noncitizen and also signs the  
23 portion of the form affirming that the registrant is a citizen of  
24 the United States or if the state registrar of voters or county  
25 commissioner of elections receives reliable information that the  
26 registered voter is not a citizen of the United States. The  
27 bill requires a voter registration to be changed from unconfirmed  
28 to active if the registered voter provides evidence that the  
29 registered voter is qualified to vote. The bill adds a statement  
30 regarding citizenship status to the declaration of eligibility  
31 signed by each voter prior to receiving a ballot.

32 The bill also requires a voter registration to be canceled  
33 if the registered voter submits documentation that indicates  
34 that the registered voter is not a citizen of the United States  
35 or reports to a state or federal agency that the registered

1 voter is not a citizen of the United States. The bill allows  
2 a precinct election official to question a person about the  
3 person's citizenship status if the right of the person to vote  
4 is challenged at the time the person is offering to vote.

5 The bill requires the special precinct election board to  
6 reject provisional ballots that have not been cured by the  
7 statutory deadline.

8 DIVISION X — ELECTION MISCONDUCT. This division assigns  
9 responsibility for investigating election misconduct reported  
10 to the attorney general to the county sheriff or other law  
11 enforcement agency with jurisdiction. Upon completion of the  
12 investigation, the bill requires the law enforcement agency  
13 to report the results of the investigation to the attorney  
14 general, in addition to the state commissioner of elections as  
15 required under current law. Information in the possession of or  
16 requested by the state commissioner of elections as part of an  
17 investigation remains a confidential record.