

House Study Bill 281 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
STATE GOVERNMENT BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON BLOOMINGDALE)

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:

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DIVISION I

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY OBJECTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

44.6 Hearing before state commissioner.

Objections filed with the state commissioner shall be considered by the secretary of state and auditor of state and attorney general, and a majority decision shall be final. However, if the objection is to the certificate of nomination of one or more of the above named officers, the officer or officers 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.

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DIVISION VIII

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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 b. ~~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.