



MINUTES

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 | 8:30 a.m. | 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Ronald M. Winterton, Chair
Rep. Jefferson S. Burton, Chair
Sen. Calvin R. Musselman
Sen. Jen Plumb
Rep. Paul A. Cutler
Rep. Anthony E. Loubet
Rep. Matt MacPherson
Rep. Grant Amjad Miller
Rep. Michael J. Petersen
Rep. Angela Romero
Rep. Lisa Shepherd
Rep. Andrew Stoddard

Rep. Mark A. Strong

Members Absent:

Sen. Brady Brammer
Sen. Michael K. McKell
Rep. Doug Fiefia
Rep. Jason E. Thompson

Staff Present:

Megan L. Bolin, Senior Policy Analyst
Kirsi Jarvis, Policy Analyst
Michael Cipriano, Associate General Counsel
Thomas R. Vaughn, Managing Associate
General Counsel
Tracey Fredman, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Burton called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

[1 - Biennial Executive Board Report_2026-07-31](#)

[1 - Staff Presentation, Newly Created Executive Board Report Overview](#)

Kirsi Jarvis presented an overview of the annual governor's review contained in the Newly Created Executive Board Report.

2. Signature Gathering and Verification

[2 - Staff Presentation, Electronic Signature Gathering](#)

[2 - 2026 General Session draft legislation, Candidate Petition Amendments, v10](#)

Kirsi Jarvis presented an overview of electronic signature gathering in Utah and other jurisdictions.

Zach Fish, Election Systems Specialist, and Shelly Jackson, Deputy Director of Elections, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, gave a demonstration of the electronic signature gathering platform being developed and responded to questions from the committee.

MOTION: Sen. Winterton moved to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2025, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 8.

Yeas - 9

Rep. J. Burton
Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. G. Miller
Rep. M. Petersen
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. M. Strong
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0Absent - 8

Sen. B. Brammer
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. A. Loubet
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. A. Romero
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. J. Thompson

Rep. Jordan Teuscher, commented on the background and purpose of the legislation that put the electronic signature gathering platform into place, and proposed a sunset of the manual process at some future date to push petition sponsors into using the electronic process.

Rep. Teuscher responded to questions during the committee discussion that followed.

[2 - 2026 General Session draft legislation, Signature Verification Revisions, v15](#)

[2 - 2026 General Session draft legislation, Candidate Petition Amendments, v10](#)

Michael Cipriano reviewed the provisions of 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Signature Verification Revisions," and "Candidate Petition Amendments."

Public comments were heard from the following:

Melanie Monestere, Vice Chair, Utah Republican Party;

Chris Null, former Chair, Salt Lake County Republican Party;

Lannie Chapman, Salt Lake County Clerk;

Marilyn Momeny, citizen;

Wendy Hart, citizen;

Maryann Christensen, Executive Director, Utah Legislative Watch;

Jen Brown, President, Utah Citizens for the Constitution;

Robert Axson, Chairman, Salt Lake County, Utah Republican Party; and

Shelly Jackson, Deputy Director of Elections, Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

MOTION: Rep. Shepherd moved to open bill file to sunset manual signature gathering and improve the electronic signature gathering process. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 3 - 5.

Yeas - 9

Rep. J. Burton
Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. A. Loubet
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 3

Rep. G. Miller
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. A. Romero

Absent - 5

Sen. B. Brammer
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. M. MacPherson
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. J. Thompson

MOTION: Sen. Winterton moved to recommend as a committee bill 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Signature Verification Revisions." The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 5 - 6.

Yeas - 6

Rep. J. Burton
Rep. A. Loubet
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. M. Strong
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 5

Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. G. Miller
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. A. Romero
Rep. A. Stoddard

Absent - 6

Sen. B. Brammer
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. M. MacPherson
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. J. Thompson

MOTION: Rep. Shepherd moved to recommend as a committee bill 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Candidate Petition Amendments." The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 5 - 6.

Yeas - 6

Rep. J. Burton
Rep. A. Loubet
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. M. Strong
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 5

Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. G. Miller
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. A. Romero
Rep. A. Stoddard

Absent - 6

Sen. B. Brammer
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. M. MacPherson
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. J. Thompson

3. Voter Identification

[3 - Staff Presentation, Voter Identification at a Polling Place](#)

Thomas Vaughn and Megan Bolin discussed voter identification when voting in person, including an analysis of federal case law, and a comparison of other states' voter identification laws.

4. Draft Legislation: "Voting Equipment Amendments"

[4 - 2026 General Session draft legislation, Voting Equipment Amendments, v14](#)

Rep. Cutler reviewed the provisions of 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Voting Equipment Amendments," which would amend provisions related to voting equipment.

Michael Cipriano commented on the draft legislation and responded to questions from the committee.

Public comments were heard from the following:

Brian McKenzie, Davis County Clerk; and

Shelly Jackson, Deputy Director of Elections, Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

MOTION: Rep. McPherson moved to recommend as a committee bill 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Voting Equipment Amendments." The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 12

Rep. J. Burton
Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. A. Loubet
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. G. Miller
Rep. M. Petersen
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. A. Romero
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0Absent - 5

Sen. B. Brammer
Rep. D. Fiefia
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. J. Thompson

5. Sunset Review: Purchase from Community Rehabilitation Programs[5 - Staff Presentation, 2025 Government Operations Sunset Review](#)

Kirsi Jarvis reviewed the sunset review process.

Windy Aphayrath, Director and Chief Procurement Officer, Division of Purchasing and General Services, discussed the purpose and implementation of Section 63G-6a-805, Purchase from community rehabilitation programs, which is scheduled to sunset on July 1, 2026.

MOTION: Sen. Plumb moved to extend the sunset date of Section 63G-6a-805 for up to 10 years and to establish accountability measures for future evaluation of the program. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 1 - 7.

Yeas - 9

Rep. J. Burton
Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. A. Loubet
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. G. Miller
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 1

Rep. M. Strong

Absent - 7

Sen. B. Brammer
Rep. D. Fiefia
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. A. Romero
Rep. J. Thompson

6. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. McPherson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 7.



Yeas - 10

Rep. J. Burton
Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. A. Loubet
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. G. Miller
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 7

Sen. B. Brammer
Rep. D. Fiefia
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. A. Romero
Rep. J. Thompson

Chair Burton adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m.