

SENATE BILL NO. 691

October 30, 2025, Introduced by Senators SINGH and WOJNO and referred to Committee on Elections and Ethics.

A bill to amend 1954 PA 116, entitled
"Michigan election law,"
by amending sections 3, 52, 53, 92, 93, 132, 133, 162, 163, 192,
193, 253, 254, 345, 349, 370, 409a, 412, 432, 433, 467a, 510, 534,
535, 551, 559, 590c, 591, 592, 598, 611, 623a, 641, 642a, 686a,
737a, 766, 963, and 970e (MCL 168.3, 168.52, 168.53, 168.92,
168.93, 168.132, 168.133, 168.162, 168.163, 168.192, 168.193,
168.253, 168.254, 168.345, 168.349, 168.370, 168.409a, 168.412,
168.432, 168.433, 168.467a, 168.510, 168.534, 168.535, 168.551,

168.559, 168.590c, 168.591, 168.592, 168.598, 168.611, 168.623a, 168.641, 168.642a, 168.686a, 168.737a, 168.766, 168.963, and 168.970e), section 3 as amended by 2018 PA 603, sections 53, 93, 133, and 551 as amended by 2012 PA 276, section 163 as amended by 2021 PA 144, sections 193 and 254 as amended by 2021 PA 146, section 349 as amended by 2021 PA 147, section 370 as amended by 2022 PA 104, sections 433 and 467a as amended by 2018 PA 120, section 510 as amended by 2022 PA 195, section 534 as amended by 2018 PA 224, section 590c as added and sections 592, 598, and 623a as amended by 1988 PA 116, section 591 as amended by 2012 PA 128, section 611 as amended by 1996 PA 583, section 641 as amended by 2015 PA 197, section 642a as amended by 2012 PA 523, section 686a as amended by 1999 PA 216, section 737a as amended by 2018 PA 611, section 766 as amended by 2023 PA 82, section 963 as amended by 2015 PA 99, and section 970e as amended by 2015 PA 102.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 3. As used in this act:
- 2 (a) "Locked and sealed" is defined in section 14.
- 3 (b) "Major political party" is defined in section 16.
- 4 (c) "Metal seal" or "seal" is defined in section 14a.
- 5 (d) "Name that was formally changed" means a name changed by a
- 6 proceeding under chapter XI of the probate code of 1939, 1939 PA
- 7 288, MCL 711.1 to 711.3, or former 1915 PA 314, or through a
- 8 similar, statutorily sanctioned procedure under the law of another
- 9 state or country.
- 10 (e) "Odd year general election" means the election held on the
- 11 November regular election date in an odd numbered year.
- 12 (f) "Odd year primary election" means the election held on the
- 13 ~~August~~ **May** regular election date in an odd numbered year.

1 (g) "Primary" or "primary election" is defined in section 7.

2 (h) "Regular ballot" means a ballot that is issued to a voter
3 on election day at a polling place location.

4 (i) "Qualified elector" is defined in section 10.

5 (j) "Qualified voter file" is defined in section 509m.

6 (k) "Regular election" means an election held on a regular
7 election date to elect an individual to, or nominate an individual
8 for, elective office in the regular course of the terms of that
9 elective office.

10 (l) "Regular election date" means 1 of the dates established as
11 a regular election date in section 641.

12 (m) "Residence" is defined in section 11.

13 Sec. 52. A general primary election of all political parties
14 ~~shall~~**must** be held in every election precinct in this state on the
15 **first** Tuesday ~~succeeding~~**after** the first Monday in ~~August~~**preceding**
16 **May before** every general November election in which a governor is
17 to be elected, at which time the qualified and registered electors
18 of each political party shall vote for party candidates for the
19 office of governor. This section ~~shall~~**does** not apply to **political**
20 parties required to nominate candidates at caucuses or conventions.

21 Sec. 53. To obtain the printing of the name of ~~a person~~**an**
22 **individual** as a candidate for nomination by a political party for
23 the office of governor under a particular party heading ~~upon~~**on** the
24 official primary ballots, there ~~shall~~**must** be filed with the
25 secretary of state nominating petitions signed by a number of
26 qualified and registered electors residing in this state as
27 determined under section 544f. Nominating petitions ~~shall~~**must** be
28 signed by at least 100 registered resident electors in each of at
29 least 1/2 of the congressional districts of ~~the~~**this** state.

1 Nominating petitions ~~shall~~**must** be in the form as prescribed in
 2 section 544c. ~~Until December 31, 2013, nominating petitions shall~~
 3 ~~be received by the secretary of state for filing in accordance with~~
 4 ~~this act up to 4 p.m. of the twelfth Tuesday before the August~~
 5 ~~primary. Beginning January 1, 2014, nominating~~**Nominating** petitions
 6 ~~shall~~**must** be received by the secretary of state for filing in
 7 accordance with this act up to 4 p.m. of the fifteenth Tuesday
 8 before the ~~August~~**May** primary.

9 Sec. 92. A general primary election of all political parties
 10 ~~shall~~**must** be held in every election precinct in this state on the
 11 **first** Tuesday ~~succeeding~~**after** the first Monday in ~~August~~ preceding
 12 **May before** every general November election, at which time the
 13 qualified and registered electors of each political party may vote
 14 for a party candidate for the office of United States ~~senator,~~
 15 **Senator**, to be filled at ~~said~~**the** election. ~~± Provided, That this~~
 16 **This** section ~~shall~~**does** not apply to **political** parties required to
 17 nominate candidates at caucuses or conventions. ~~± Provided further,~~
 18 ~~That no~~**A** nomination for the office of United States ~~senator shall~~
 19 **Senator must not** be made unless ~~such~~**the** official is to be elected
 20 at the next succeeding general November election.

21 Sec. 93. In order for the name of a ~~person~~**an individual** as a
 22 candidate for nomination by a political party for the office of
 23 United States ~~senator~~**Senator** to appear under a particular party
 24 heading on the official primary ballot, a nominating petition ~~shall~~
 25 **must** be filed with the secretary of state. The nominating petition
 26 ~~shall have been~~**must be** signed by a number of qualified and
 27 registered electors residing within this state as determined under
 28 section 544f. The nominating petition ~~shall~~**must** be signed by at
 29 least 100 qualified and registered electors in each of at least 1/2

1 of the congressional districts of this state. Nominating petitions
 2 ~~shall~~ **must** be in the form as prescribed in section 544c. ~~Until~~
 3 ~~December 31, 2013, the nominating petition shall be filed with the~~
 4 ~~secretary of state no later than 4 p.m. of the twelfth Tuesday~~
 5 ~~before the August primary. Beginning January 1, 2014, the~~ **The**
 6 nominating petition ~~shall~~ **must** be filed with the secretary of state
 7 no later than 4 p.m. of the fifteenth Tuesday before the ~~August~~ **May**
 8 primary.

9 Sec. 132. A general primary election of all political parties
 10 ~~shall~~ **must** be held in every election precinct in this state on the
 11 **first** Tuesday ~~succeeding~~ **after** the first Monday in ~~August~~ **preceding**
 12 **May before** every general November election, at which time the
 13 qualified and registered electors of each political party within
 14 every congressional district shall vote for party candidates for
 15 the office of ~~representative~~ **Representative** in ~~congress~~ **Congress** to
 16 be filled at ~~said~~ **the** election. ~~∴ Provided, That this~~ **This** section
 17 ~~shall~~ **does** not apply to **political** parties required to nominate
 18 candidates at caucuses or conventions.

19 Sec. 133. In order for the name of ~~a person~~ **an individual** as a
 20 candidate for nomination by a political party for the office of
 21 ~~representative~~ **Representative** in ~~congress~~ **Congress** to appear under
 22 a particular party heading on the official primary ballot in the
 23 election precincts of a congressional district, a nominating
 24 petition ~~shall have been~~ **must be** signed by a number of qualified
 25 and registered electors residing in the district as determined
 26 under section 544f. ~~Until December 31, 2013, if the congressional~~
 27 ~~district comprises more than 1 county, the nominating petition~~
 28 ~~shall be filed with the secretary of state no later than 4 p.m. of~~
 29 ~~the twelfth Tuesday before the August primary. Beginning January 1,~~

1 2014, ~~if~~ **If** the congressional district comprises more than 1
 2 county, the nominating petition ~~shall~~ **must** be filed with the
 3 secretary of state no later than 4 p.m. of the fifteenth Tuesday
 4 before the ~~August~~ **May** primary. ~~Until December 31, 2013, if the~~
 5 ~~congressional district is within 1 county, the nominating petition~~
 6 ~~shall be filed with the county clerk of that county no later than 4~~
 7 ~~p.m. of the twelfth Tuesday before the August primary. Beginning~~
 8 ~~January 1, 2014, if~~ **If** the congressional district is within 1
 9 county, the nominating petition ~~shall~~ **must** be filed with the county
 10 clerk of that county no later than 4 p.m. of the fifteenth Tuesday
 11 before the ~~August~~ **May** primary. Nominating petitions ~~shall~~ **must** be
 12 in the form as prescribed in section 544c.

13 Sec. 162. A general primary election of all political parties
 14 ~~shall~~ **must** be held in every election precinct in this state on the
 15 **first** Tuesday ~~succeeding~~ **after** the first Monday in ~~August~~ **preceding**
 16 **May before** every general November election, at which time the
 17 qualified and registered electors of each political party within
 18 every senatorial district and every representative district shall
 19 vote for party candidates for the offices of state senator and
 20 representative ~~to be filled at the November election. ~~Provided,~~~~
 21 ~~That this~~ **This** section ~~shall~~ **does** not apply to **political** parties
 22 required to nominate candidates at caucuses or conventions.

23 Sec. 163. (1) To obtain the printing of the name of an
 24 individual as a candidate for nomination by a political party for
 25 the office of state senator or representative under a particular
 26 party heading ~~upon~~ **on** the official primary ballots in the various
 27 election precincts of a district, there must be filed nominating
 28 petitions signed by a number of qualified and registered electors
 29 residing in the district as determined under section 544f. If the

1 district comprises more than 1 county, the nominating petitions
2 must be filed with the secretary of state. If the district
3 comprises 1 county or less, the nominating petitions must be filed
4 with the county clerk of that county. Nominating petitions must be
5 in the form prescribed in section 544c. The secretary of state and
6 the various county clerks shall receive nominating petitions for
7 filing in accordance with this act up to 4 p.m. of the fifteenth
8 Tuesday before the ~~August~~**May** primary.

9 (2) ~~In lieu~~**Instead** of filing a nominating petition, a
10 nonrefundable filing fee of \$100.00 may be paid to the county clerk
11 or, for a candidate in a district comprising more than 1 county, to
12 the secretary of state. Payment of the fee and certification of the
13 name of the candidate paying the fee are governed by the same
14 provisions as in the case of nominating petitions. The fee must be
15 deposited in the general fund of the candidate's county of
16 residence and must be used only for the purchase and maintenance of
17 voting equipment.

18 Sec. 192. A general primary election of all political parties
19 ~~shall~~**must** be held in every county of this state on the **first**
20 Tuesday ~~succeeding~~**after** the first Monday in ~~August~~**preceding****May**
21 **before** the general November election at which the officers named in
22 section 191 ~~of this act~~ are to be elected, at which time the
23 qualified and registered electors of each political party may vote
24 for party candidates for the offices. This section ~~shall~~**does** not
25 apply to **political** parties required to nominate candidates at
26 caucuses or conventions.

27 Sec. 193. (1) To obtain the printing of the name of an
28 individual as a candidate for nomination by a political party for
29 an office named in section 191 under a particular party heading

1 ~~upon~~**on** the official primary ballots, there must be filed with the
2 county clerk nominating petitions signed by a number of qualified
3 and registered electors residing within the county as determined
4 under section 544f. Nominating petitions must be in the form
5 prescribed in section 544c. The county clerk shall receive
6 nominating petitions up to 4 p.m. of the fifteenth Tuesday before
7 the ~~August~~**May** primary.

8 (2) To obtain the printing of the name of a candidate of a
9 political party under the particular party's heading ~~upon~~**on** the
10 primary election ballots in the various voting precincts of the
11 county, ~~there may be filed by the candidate, in lieu~~**the candidate**
12 **may file, instead** of filing nomination petitions, a nonrefundable
13 filing fee of \$100.00 to be paid to the county clerk. Payment of
14 the fee and certification of the candidate's name paying the fee
15 are governed by the same provisions as in the case of nominating
16 petitions. The fee must be deposited in the general fund of the
17 county and must be used only for the purchase and maintenance of
18 voting equipment.

19 Sec. 253. A general primary election of all political parties
20 ~~shall~~**must** be held on the **first** Tuesday ~~succeeding~~**after** the first
21 Monday in ~~August~~**preceding****May before** every general November
22 election in which county road commissioners are elected, at which
23 time the qualified and registered electors of each political party
24 may vote for party candidates for the office of county road
25 commissioner.

26 Sec. 254. (1) To obtain the printing of the name of an
27 individual as a candidate for nomination by a political party for
28 the office of county road commissioner under a particular party
29 heading ~~upon~~**on** the official primary ballots, there must be filed

1 with the county clerk of the county nominating petitions signed by
2 a number of qualified and registered electors residing within the
3 county as determined under section 544f. Nominating petitions must
4 be in the form prescribed in section 544c. The county clerk shall
5 receive nominating petitions up to 4 p.m. of the fifteenth Tuesday
6 before the ~~August~~ **May** primary in which county road commissioners
7 are to be elected.

8 (2) To obtain the printing of the name of a candidate of a
9 political party under the particular party's heading ~~upon~~ **on** the
10 primary election ballots in the various voting precincts of the
11 county, ~~there may be filed by each candidate, in lieu~~ **each**
12 **candidate may file, instead** of filing nominating petitions, a
13 nonrefundable filing fee of \$100.00 to be paid to the county clerk.
14 Payment of the fee and certification of the name of the candidate
15 paying the fee are governed by the same provisions as in the case
16 of nominating petitions. The fee must be deposited in the general
17 fund of the county and must be used only for the purchase and
18 maintenance of voting equipment.

19 Sec. 345. A primary of all political parties ~~shall~~ **must** be
20 held in every organized township of this state on the **first** Tuesday
21 ~~succeeding~~ **after** the first Monday in ~~August~~ **preceding** **May before**
22 every general November election, at which time the qualified and
23 registered electors of each political party may vote for party
24 candidates for township offices.

25 Sec. 349. (1) To obtain the printing of the name of an
26 individual as a candidate for nomination by a political party for a
27 township office under the particular party heading ~~upon~~ **on** the
28 official primary ballots, there must be filed with the township
29 clerk nominating petitions signed by a number of qualified and

1 registered electors residing within the township as determined
 2 under section 544f. Nominating petitions must be in the form
 3 prescribed in section 544c. The township clerk shall receive
 4 nominating petitions up to 4 p.m. of the fifteenth Tuesday before
 5 the ~~August~~**May** primary.

6 (2) To obtain the printing of the name of a candidate of a
 7 political party under the particular party's heading ~~upon~~**on** the
 8 primary election ballots in the various voting precincts of the
 9 township, ~~there may be filed by the candidate, in lieu~~**the**
 10 **candidate may file, instead** of filing nominating petitions, a
 11 nonrefundable filing fee of \$100.00 to be paid to the township
 12 clerk. Payment of the fee and certification of the candidate's name
 13 paying the fee are governed by the same provisions as in the case
 14 of nominating petitions. The fee must be deposited in the general
 15 fund of the township and must be used only for the purchase and
 16 maintenance of voting equipment.

17 (3) ~~Within~~**Not later than** 4 days after the last day for filing
 18 nominating petitions or a filing fee, the township clerk shall
 19 deliver to the county clerk a list setting forth the name, address,
 20 and political affiliation and office sought of each candidate who
 21 has qualified for a position on the primary ballot.

22 Sec. 370. (1) Except as provided in section 370a or subsection
 23 (2), if a vacancy occurs in an elective or appointive township
 24 office, the vacancy must be filled by appointment by the township
 25 board, and the individual appointed shall hold the office for the
 26 remainder of the unexpired term.

27 (2) If 1 or more vacancies occur in an elective township
 28 office that cause the number of members serving on the township
 29 board to be less than the minimum number of **township** board members

1 that is required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of
2 business by the **township** board, the board of county election
3 commissioners shall make temporary appointment of the number of
4 **township board** members required to constitute a quorum for the
5 transaction of business by the township board. An official
6 appointed under this subsection shall hold the office only until
7 the official's successor is elected or appointed and qualified. An
8 official who is temporarily appointed under this subsection shall
9 not vote on the appointment of ~~himself or herself~~ **that official** to
10 an elective or appointive township office.

11 (3) If a township official submits a written resignation from
12 an elective township office, for circumstances other than a
13 resignation related to a recall election, that specifies a date and
14 time when the resignation is effective, the township board, within
15 30 days before that effective date and time, may appoint an
16 individual to fill the vacancy at the effective date and time of
17 the resignation. The resigning official shall not vote on the
18 appointment.

19 (4) Except as provided in subsection (5), if the township
20 board does not make an appointment under subsection (3), or if a
21 vacancy occurs in an elective township office and the vacancy is
22 not filled by the township board or the board of county election
23 commissioners within 45 days after the beginning of the vacancy,
24 the county clerk of the county in which the township is located
25 shall call a special election within 5 calendar days to fill the
26 vacancy. Not later than 4 p.m. on the fifteenth calendar day after
27 the county clerk calls a special election under this section, the
28 county party committee for each political party in the county in
29 which the township is located shall submit a nominee to fill the

1 vacancy. The special election must be held on the next regular
 2 election date that is not ~~less~~**fewer** than 60 days after the
 3 deadline for submitting nominees under this section or 70 days
 4 after the deadline for submitting nominees under this section if
 5 the next regular election date is the even year ~~August~~**May** primary
 6 or the general November election. Notice of the special election
 7 must be given in the same manner required by section 653a. A
 8 special election called under this section does not affect the
 9 rights of a qualified elector to register for any other election.
 10 An individual elected to fill a vacancy shall serve for the
 11 remainder of the unexpired term.

12 (5) Subsection (4) does not apply to the office of township
 13 constable. If a vacancy occurs in the office of township constable,
 14 the township board shall determine if and when the vacancy is
 15 filled by appointment. If the township board does not fill the
 16 vacancy by appointment, the office of township constable ~~must~~
 17 ~~remain~~**remains** vacant until the next general or special election in
 18 which township offices are filled.

19 Sec. 409a. A general nonpartisan primary election ~~shall~~**must**
 20 be held in every appellate court district of this state on the
 21 **first** Tuesday ~~succeeding~~**after** the first Monday in ~~August~~
 22 **May before** every general November election in which judges of the
 23 court of appeals are to be elected, at which time the qualified and
 24 registered electors may vote for nonpartisan candidates for the
 25 office of judge of the court of appeals. ~~Provided, however, That~~
 26 ~~if,~~**If,** upon **the** expiration of the time for filing petitions for
 27 the primary election of ~~said~~**the** judge of the court of appeals in
 28 any appellate court district, it ~~shall appear~~**appears** that there
 29 are not to exceed twice the number of candidates as there are

1 ~~persons~~**individuals** to be elected, then the secretary of state
 2 shall certify to the county board or boards of election
 3 commissioners the names of ~~such~~**the** candidates for court of appeals
 4 judge whose nominating petitions, filing fee, or affidavit of
 5 candidacy have been properly filed, and ~~such~~**those** candidates ~~shall~~
 6 ~~be~~**are** the nominees for judge of the court of appeals and ~~shall~~
 7 **must** be so certified. As to ~~such~~**that** office, there ~~shall~~**must not**
 8 be ~~no~~**a** primary election and this office ~~shall~~**must** be omitted from
 9 the judicial primary ballot.

10 Sec. 412. A general nonpartisan primary election ~~shall~~**must** be
 11 held in every county of this state on the **first** Tuesday ~~succeeding~~
 12 **after** the first Monday in ~~August~~~~prior to~~**May before** the general
 13 election at which judges of the circuit court are elected, at which
 14 time the qualified and registered electors may vote for nonpartisan
 15 candidates for the office of judge of the circuit court. If, upon
 16 the expiration of the time for filing petitions or incumbency
 17 affidavits of candidacy for the primary election of ~~said~~**the** judge
 18 of the circuit court in any judicial circuit, it ~~shall~~~~appear~~
 19 **appears** that there are not to exceed twice the number of candidates
 20 as there are ~~persons~~**individuals** to be elected, then the secretary
 21 of state shall certify to the county board of election
 22 commissioners the name of ~~such~~**the** candidate for circuit court
 23 judge whose petitions or affidavits have been properly filed, and
 24 ~~such~~**the** candidate ~~shall be~~**is** the nominee for the judge of the
 25 circuit court and ~~shall~~**must** be so certified. As to ~~such~~**that**
 26 office, there ~~shall~~**must not** be ~~no~~**a** primary election and this
 27 office ~~shall~~**must** be omitted from the judicial primary ballot.

28 Sec. 432. A general nonpartisan primary election ~~shall~~**must** be
 29 held in every county of this state on the **first** Tuesday ~~succeeding~~

1 **after** the first Monday in ~~August preceding~~ **May before** every general
 2 November election at which judges of probate are to be elected, at
 3 which time the qualified and registered electors may vote for
 4 nonpartisan candidates for the office of judge of probate. If, upon
 5 the expiration of the time for filing petitions or incumbency
 6 affidavits of candidacy for the primary election of ~~said the~~
 7 probate judges in any county, it ~~shall appear~~ **appears** that there
 8 are not to exceed twice the number of candidates as there are
 9 ~~persons~~ **individuals** to be elected, then the county clerk shall
 10 certify to the county board of election commissioners the name of
 11 ~~such the~~ candidate for probate judge whose petitions have been
 12 properly filed, and ~~such the~~ candidate ~~shall be~~ **is** the nominee for
 13 the judge of probate and ~~shall must~~ be so certified. As to ~~such~~
 14 **that** office, there ~~shall must not~~ be ~~no a~~ primary election and this
 15 office ~~shall must~~ be omitted from the judicial primary ballot.

16 Sec. 433. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection,
 17 to obtain the printing of the name of ~~a person~~ **an individual** as a
 18 candidate for nomination for the office of judge of probate ~~upon on~~
 19 the official nonpartisan primary ballots, there must be filed with
 20 the county clerk of each county nominating petitions containing the
 21 signatures, addresses, and dates of signing of a number of
 22 qualified and registered electors residing in the county as
 23 determined under section 544f or by the filing of an affidavit
 24 according to section 433a. In the case of a probate court district,
 25 to obtain the printing of the name of ~~a person~~ **an individual** as a
 26 candidate for nomination for the office of judge of probate ~~upon on~~
 27 the official nonpartisan primary ballots, there must be filed with
 28 the secretary of state nominating petitions containing the
 29 signatures, addresses, and dates of signing of a number of

1 qualified and registered electors residing in the probate court
2 district as determined under section 544f or by the filing of an
3 affidavit according to section 433a. The county clerk or, in the
4 case of a probate court district, the secretary of state shall
5 receive nominating petitions up to 4 p.m. on the fifteenth Tuesday
6 before the ~~August~~ **May** primary. The provisions of sections 544a and
7 544b apply.

8 (2) Nominating petitions filed under this section are valid
9 only if they clearly indicate for which of the following offices
10 the candidate is filing, consistent with section 435a(2):

11 (a) An unspecified existing judgeship for which the incumbent
12 judge is seeking election.

13 (b) An unspecified existing judgeship for which the incumbent
14 judge is not seeking election.

15 (c) A new judgeship.

16 (3) ~~A person~~ **An individual** who files nominating petitions for
17 election to more than 1 probate judgeship has not more than 3 days
18 following the close of filing to withdraw from all but 1 filing.

19 (4) In a primary and general election for 2 or more judgeships
20 where more than 1 of the categories in subsection (2) could be
21 selected, a candidate shall apply to the bureau of elections for a
22 written statement of office designation to correspond to the
23 judgeship sought by the candidate. The office designation provided
24 by the secretary of state must be included in the heading of all
25 nominating petitions. Nominating petitions containing an improper
26 office designation are invalid.

27 (5) The secretary of state shall issue an office designation
28 of incumbent position for any judgeship for which the incumbent
29 judge is eligible to seek reelection. If an incumbent judge does

1 not file an affidavit of candidacy by the deadline, the secretary
2 of state shall notify all candidates for that office that a
3 nonincumbent position exists. All nominating petitions circulated
4 for the nonincumbent position after the deadline must bear an
5 office designation of nonincumbent position. All signatures
6 collected before the affidavit of candidacy filing deadline may be
7 filed with the nonincumbent nominating petitions.

8 (6) If a candidate for nomination for the office of judge of
9 probate receives incorrect or inaccurate written information from
10 the county clerk or, in the case of a probate court district, the
11 secretary of state concerning the number of nominating petition
12 signatures required under section 544f and that incorrect or
13 inaccurate written information is published or distributed by the
14 county clerk or, in the case of a probate court district, the
15 secretary of state, the candidate may bring an action in a court of
16 competent jurisdiction for equitable relief. A court may grant
17 equitable relief to a candidate under this subsection if all of the
18 following occur:

19 (a) The candidate brings the action for equitable relief
20 ~~within~~ **not later than** 6 days after the candidate is notified by the
21 county clerk or, in the case of a probate court district, the
22 secretary of state that the candidate's nominating petition
23 contains insufficient signatures.

24 (b) The candidate files an affidavit certifying that ~~he or she~~
25 **the candidate** contacted and received from the county clerk or, in
26 the case of a probate court district, the secretary of state
27 incorrect or inaccurate written information concerning the number
28 of nominating petition signatures required under section 544f.

29 (c) The county clerk or, in the case of a probate court

1 district, the secretary of state published or distributed the
2 incorrect or inaccurate written information concerning the number
3 of nominating petition signatures required under section 544f
4 before the filing deadline under subsection (1).

5 (d) The county clerk or, in the case of a probate court
6 district, the secretary of state did not inform the candidate at
7 least 14 days before the filing deadline under subsection (1) that
8 incorrect or inaccurate written information concerning the number
9 of nominating petition signatures required under section 544f had
10 been published or distributed.

11 (7) If a court grants equitable relief to a candidate under
12 subsection (6), the candidate must be given the opportunity to
13 obtain additional nominating petition signatures to meet the
14 requirements under section 544f. The additional nominating petition
15 signatures obtained by a candidate must be filed with the county
16 clerk or, in the case of a probate court district, the secretary of
17 state no later than 4 p.m. on the fifth business day after the date
18 that the court order granting equitable relief is filed.

19 (8) The nominating petition signatures filed under this
20 section are subject to challenge as provided in section 552.

21 Sec. 467a. A general nonpartisan primary election must be held
22 in every district and election division of this state on the **first**
23 Tuesday after the first Monday in ~~August~~**May** before the general
24 election at which judges of the district court are elected, at
25 which time the qualified and registered electors may vote for
26 nonpartisan candidates for judge of the district court. If upon the
27 expiration of the time for filing petitions of candidacy for the
28 primary election of the judge of the district court in any district
29 or election division, it appears that there are not to exceed twice

1 the number of candidates as there are ~~persons~~**individuals** to be
 2 elected, the secretary of state shall certify to the county board
 3 of election commissioners the name of those candidates for district
 4 court judge whose petitions or affidavits of candidacy have been
 5 properly filed and those candidates are the nominees for the judge
 6 of the district court and must be so certified. As to that office,
 7 there must not be a primary election and this office must be
 8 omitted from the judicial primary ballot.

9 Sec. 510. ~~(1) Until December 31, 2022, at least once a month,~~
 10 ~~the county clerk shall forward a list of the last known address and~~
 11 ~~birth date of all individuals over 17-1/2 years of age who have~~
 12 ~~died in the county to the clerk of each city or township in the~~
 13 ~~county. The city or township clerk shall compare this list with the~~
 14 ~~registration records and cancel the registration of the deceased~~
 15 ~~electors.~~

16 (1) ~~(2) Beginning January 1, 2023, and except~~**Except** as
 17 otherwise provided in subsections **(5) and (6)**, ~~and (7)~~, at least
 18 once a month, and not later than the second business day of each
 19 month, each county clerk shall update the qualified voter file to
 20 initiate the cancellation of the voter registration of all
 21 individuals over 17-1/2 years of age who have died in the county.

22 (2) ~~(3) Beginning January 1, 2023, each~~**Each** time a county
 23 clerk updates the qualified voter file under subsection ~~(2), (6),~~
 24 ~~or (7), (1), (5), or (6)~~, the secretary of state shall, ~~within~~**not**
 25 **later than** 24 hours after the qualified voter file is updated, send
 26 an electronic notification to the appropriate city or township
 27 clerk regarding each initiated cancellation of voter registration
 28 in that city or township.

29 (3) ~~(4) Beginning January 1, 2023, upon~~**Upon** receiving an

1 electronic notification under subsection ~~(3)~~, **(2)**, the city or
 2 township clerk shall compare the electronic notification with the
 3 voter registration records in that city or township and complete
 4 the cancellation of the voter registration of each deceased elector
 5 in that city or township.

6 **(4)** ~~(5) Beginning January 1, 2023, if~~ **If** the secretary of
 7 state updates the qualified voter file to cancel the voter
 8 registration of any deceased elector, the secretary of state shall,
 9 ~~within~~ **not later than** 24 hours after the qualified voter file is
 10 updated, send an electronic notification to the appropriate city or
 11 township clerk regarding each canceled voter registration in that
 12 city or township. The secretary of state shall notify each
 13 appropriate city or township clerk of any voter registration that
 14 needs to be canceled after 4 p.m. on the day before an election so
 15 that the city or township clerk can cancel the voter registration.

16 **(5)** ~~(6) Beginning January 1, 2023, on~~ **On** the first Friday in
 17 ~~July~~ **April** before an ~~August~~ **a May** election and continuing until 16
 18 days before that ~~August~~ **May** election, each county clerk shall
 19 update the qualified voter file by the close of business each
 20 Friday before that ~~August~~ **May** election to initiate the cancellation
 21 of the voter registration of all individuals over 17-1/2 years of
 22 age who have died in the county. ~~Beginning January 1, 2023, on~~ **On**
 23 the first Friday in October before a November election and
 24 continuing until 16 days before that November election, each county
 25 clerk shall update the qualified voter file by the close of
 26 business each Friday before that November election to initiate the
 27 cancellation of the voter registration of all individuals over 17-
 28 1/2 years of age who have died in the county.

29 **(6)** ~~(7) Beginning January 1, 2023, 15~~ **Fifteen** days before each

1 ~~August~~**May** and November election and continuing until the day
 2 before each ~~August~~**May** and November election, each county clerk
 3 shall update the qualified voter file by the close of business each
 4 business day before the ~~August~~**May** or November election to initiate
 5 the cancellation of the voter registration of all individuals over
 6 17-1/2 years of age who have died in the county. Each county clerk
 7 shall notify each appropriate city or township clerk in the county
 8 of any voter registration that needs to be canceled after 4 p.m. on
 9 the day before ~~an August~~**a May** or November election so that the
 10 city or township clerk can cancel the voter registration.

11 (7) ~~(8)~~ Upon receiving notice that an elector in the city or
 12 township has died and determining that the elector was issued an
 13 absent voter ballot, the clerk of that city or township shall make
 14 the clerk's best effort to remove the absent voter ballot return
 15 envelope or any ballot returned by that elector from processing and
 16 spoil the ballot for that elector.

17 Sec. 534. A general primary of all political parties except as
 18 provided in sections 532 and 685 must be held in every election
 19 precinct in this state on the **first** Tuesday after the first Monday
 20 in ~~August~~**May** before every general November election, at which time
 21 the qualified and registered voters of each political party may
 22 vote for party candidates for the office of governor, United States
 23 Senator, Representative in Congress, state senator, representative
 24 in the legislature, county executive, prosecuting attorney,
 25 sheriff, county clerk, county treasurer, register of deeds, drain
 26 commissioner, public works commissioner, county road commissioner,
 27 county mine inspector, surveyor, and candidates for office in
 28 townships. A nomination for an office must be made only if the
 29 official is to be elected at the next succeeding general November

1 election.

2 Sec. 535. A general primary ~~shall~~**must** be held in every
3 election precinct in this state on the **first** Tuesday ~~succeeding~~
4 **after** the first Monday in ~~August~~ ~~preceding~~**May before** every general
5 November election, at which time the qualified and registered
6 voters may vote for nonpartisan candidates for the office of judge
7 of the court of appeals, judge of the circuit court, judge of
8 probate, and for circuit court commissioner in the years ~~in which~~
9 ~~such~~**that those** officers are to be elected.

10 Sec. 551. ~~Until December 31, 2013, the secretary of state and~~
11 ~~the various county, township, and city clerks shall receive~~
12 ~~nominating petitions or filing fees filed under this act up to 4~~
13 ~~p.m., eastern standard time, of the twelfth Tuesday before the~~
14 ~~August primary. Beginning January 1, 2014, the~~ **The** secretary of
15 state and the various county, township, and city clerks shall
16 receive nominating petitions or filing fees filed under this act up
17 to 4 p.m. ~~, eastern standard time,~~ of the fifteenth Tuesday before
18 the ~~August~~**May** primary. ~~The provisions of this~~ **This** section ~~do~~**does**
19 not apply to a city that does not nominate its officers under the
20 provisions of this act.

21 Sec. 559. It ~~shall be~~**is** the duty of the board of election
22 commissioners of each county in this state to prepare and furnish
23 the necessary official primary election ballots, except for city
24 offices, ~~which~~**that** may be required for use by the electors of any
25 political party at the ~~August~~**May** primary.

26 Sec. 590c. (1) A qualifying petition for an office ~~shall~~**must**
27 be filed with the filing officer authorized to receive a partisan
28 nominating petition or a certificate of nomination for that office.

29 (2) A qualifying petition for an office elected at the general

1 November election ~~shall~~**must** be filed not later than 4 p.m. of the
2 ~~one hundred-tenth~~**seventh** day before the ~~general~~**May primary**
3 election. A qualifying petition for an official elected at an
4 election other than the general November election ~~shall~~**must** be
5 filed not later than the deadline established by statute or charter
6 for filing a partisan petition or certificate of nomination for the
7 office or at least 90 days before that election, whichever is
8 later.

9 (3) A candidate who files a qualifying petition ~~shall~~**is** not
10 ~~be~~ permitted to withdraw ~~his or her~~**the** candidacy unless a written
11 notice of withdrawal is filed with the filing officer who received
12 the petition. The **written** notice ~~shall~~**of withdrawal must** be filed
13 not later than 4 p.m. of the ~~third~~**fourth** day after the last day
14 for filing a qualifying petition.

15 Sec. 591. ~~(1)~~ Except as provided in ~~subsection (2)~~ and section
16 532, the state convention of all political parties for the
17 nomination of candidates for state offices in the even numbered
18 years ~~shall~~**must** commence not ~~less~~**fewer** than 60 days before the
19 general November election. The date, time, and location of the
20 state convention ~~shall~~**must** be designated by the state central
21 committees of the various political parties in their call for a
22 state convention. The calls ~~shall~~**must** be issued at least 60 days
23 before the ~~August~~**May** primaries.

24 ~~(2) In 2012 only, the state convention of all political~~
25 ~~parties for the nomination of candidates for state offices shall~~
26 ~~commence not less than 58 days before the general November~~
27 ~~election. The date, time, and location of the state convention~~
28 ~~shall be designated by the state central committees of the various~~
29 ~~political parties in their call for a state convention. The calls~~

1 ~~shall be issued at least 60 days before the August primaries.~~

2 Sec. 592. (1) Except as provided in section 532, the county
3 conventions of all political parties for the election of delegates
4 to a state convention for the nomination of state officers in the
5 even numbered years ~~shall~~**must** be held not ~~less~~**fewer** than 8 days
6 ~~nor more than 25 days after the August primaries.~~**May primary and**
7 **not fewer than 21 days before the state convention.**

8 (2) All county conventions of a political party ~~shall~~**must** be
9 held on the same day throughout ~~the~~**this** state. The date ~~shall~~**must**
10 be designated by the state central committee of a political party
11 in its call for the state convention. The place and hour of meeting
12 of a county convention ~~shall~~**must** be designated in the call issued
13 by the county committee of the political party in the county, which
14 call ~~shall~~**must** be issued not ~~less~~**fewer** than ~~45~~**15** days ~~before the~~
15 ~~August primaries.~~**after the call to convention issued by the state**
16 **central committee of the political party for the county committee.**
17 The number of delegates to the state convention ~~to which~~**that** the
18 political party in the county is entitled ~~shall~~**to must** be chosen
19 at the county convention.

20 (3) In all counties having or ~~which~~**that** may ~~hereafter~~ have 2
21 or more congressional districts or parts of congressional districts
22 within the boundaries of the county, the congressional districts or
23 a part of a congressional district within the counties ~~shall~~**must**
24 each be considered a county within the provisions of this section
25 for the holding of the county conventions provided for in this
26 section, and ~~shall~~**must** be in place of the county convention. The
27 nominee for ~~congress~~**Congress** of the congressional district in the
28 preceding primary election, the county chairperson, and the county
29 secretary of the several political parties shall constitute a

1 committee in each congressional district to name the temporary
2 chairperson of the first district convention held under this act.
3 Thereafter, the district chairperson shall act as temporary
4 chairperson. The convention ~~shall~~**must** organize the same as county
5 conventions and ~~shall~~**must** elect delegates to the state convention.
6 The chairperson and secretary of the convention shall certify to
7 the state central committee the names and addresses of the
8 delegates elected, and, when certified, those delegates shall
9 become the delegates from the district to the state convention.

10 Sec. 598. (1) The state central committee of each political
11 party shall, at least ~~60~~**150** days before the ~~August primary,~~
12 **general November election**, forward by mail **or email** to the
13 chairperson of each county committee of the political party a copy
14 of the call for the fall state convention of the political party,
15 showing the number of delegates ~~to which~~**that** each county is
16 entitled **to** in the state convention of the political party. The
17 state central committee shall apportion the delegates to the
18 several counties in proportion to the number of votes cast for the
19 candidate of the **political** party for secretary of state in each
20 county, respectively, at the last preceding November general
21 election.

22 (2) In addition to the number of delegates allocated to each
23 county under subsection (1), the state central committees shall
24 allocate an additional number of delegates equal to the number of
25 incumbent legislators nominated by their **political** party and
26 residing in the county.

27 Sec. 611. (1) In the year 1956, and each fourth year after
28 1956, delegates of each political party who were elected to the
29 last prior fall county convention shall reconvene in a county

1 convention. The county conventions, when ~~so~~ convened, ~~shall~~**must**
 2 elect delegates to a state convention. The number of delegates
 3 elected ~~shall~~**must** be the same as the number elected to the last
 4 prior spring state convention. The county conventions ~~shall~~**must** be
 5 held at least 90 days ~~prior to~~**before** the time set for the holding
 6 of the national convention of its political party. All county
 7 conventions ~~shall~~**must** be held on the same day and time. The time
 8 and place ~~shall~~**must** be fixed by the state central committee. A
 9 state convention composed of delegates elected by the respective
 10 county conventions ~~shall~~**must** be held in the year 1956, and each
 11 fourth year after 1956, at least 60 days before the holding of the
 12 national convention of its political party.

13 (2) As used in this section:

14 (a) "Delegates of each political party who were elected to the
 15 last prior fall county convention" means precinct delegates elected
 16 at the last prior ~~August~~ primary election, ~~persons~~**individuals**
 17 nominated as candidates for county offices and state legislative
 18 offices who are delegates at large to county conventions under
 19 section 599(5), and delegates elected under section 622 or 624d to
 20 fill a precinct delegate vacancy for the balance of an unexpired
 21 term.

22 (b) ~~"Persons"~~**Individuals** nominated as candidates for county
 23 offices and state legislative offices who are delegates at large to
 24 county conventions under section 599(5)" means incumbent county
 25 officials, incumbent state legislators, and unsuccessful candidates
 26 for county offices and state legislative offices who are candidates
 27 at the last prior regular or special election held for the
 28 respective office.

29 (3) Delegates to a state convention ~~shall~~ include only those

1 delegates elected at a county convention.

2 Sec. 623a. (1) On or before ~~April~~**February** 1 in even numbered
3 years, the chairperson of the county committee or district
4 committee of a congressional district or a part of a congressional
5 district considered a county under section 592 of each political
6 party shall forward by mail or otherwise deliver to the board of
7 election commissioners in that county a certificate showing the
8 number of delegates to the county convention to which each precinct
9 of the county is entitled. The chairperson of the state central
10 committee of a political party shall notify the chairperson of the
11 county committee or district committee of a congressional district
12 or a part of a congressional district considered a county under
13 section 592 of that political party no later than ~~March~~**January** 1
14 in even numbered years that the certificate required by this
15 subsection is to be delivered to the board of election
16 commissioners on or before ~~April~~**February** 1 of that year.

17 (2) If the chairperson fails to forward the certificate
18 required by subsection (1) by the day specified, the board of
19 election commissioners shall immediately determine the number of
20 delegates to the county convention that each precinct should elect
21 for ~~the implementation of~~**implementing** this act.

22 (3) The allotment of delegates to all precincts in ~~the~~**this**
23 state ~~shall~~**must** be made to ~~insure,~~**ensure**, as near as is
24 practicable, equal apportionment based ~~upon~~**on** the total vote cast
25 for the candidate of each political party for either ~~president~~
26 **President** of the United States or secretary of state at the last
27 general November election when elections for those offices were
28 held, whichever is later. However, each precinct ~~shall~~**must** have at
29 least 1 delegate.

1 (4) The apportionment ~~shall~~**must** be based on the precincts as
 2 ~~they~~**the precincts** exist 180 days before the ~~August~~**May** primary
 3 election in even numbered years.

4 (5) As many delegates in each precinct as a political party is
 5 entitled to according to the certificate authorized by the
 6 chairperson of the county committee or the board of election
 7 commissioners ~~shall~~**must** be elected at the ~~August~~**May** primary in
 8 even numbered years by direct vote of the registered electors of
 9 each political party in the county.

10 Sec. 641. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an
 11 election held under this act ~~shall~~**must** be held on 1 of the
 12 following regular election dates:

13 **(a) The February regular election date, which is the fourth**
 14 **Tuesday in February.**

15 **(b)** ~~(a)~~The May regular election date, which is the first
 16 Tuesday after the first Monday in May.

17 ~~(b) The August regular election date, which is the first~~
 18 ~~Tuesday after the first Monday in August.~~

19 **(c)** ~~(e)~~The November regular election date, which is the first
 20 Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

21 ~~(d) In each presidential election year when a statewide~~
 22 ~~presidential primary election is held, the date of the statewide~~
 23 ~~presidential primary election as provided in section 613a.~~

24 (2) If an elective office is listed by name in section 643,
 25 requiring the election for that office to be held at the general
 26 election, and if candidates for the office are nominated at a
 27 primary election, the primary election ~~shall~~**must** be held on the
 28 ~~August~~**May** regular election date.

29 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and

1 subsection (4), a special election ~~shall~~**must** be held on a regular
2 election date. A special election called by the governor under
3 section 145, 178, 632, 633, or 634 to fill a vacancy or called by
4 the legislature to submit a proposed constitutional amendment as
5 authorized in section 1 of article XII of the state constitution of
6 1963 may, but is not required to be, held on a regular election
7 date.

8 (4) A school district may call a special election to submit a
9 ballot question to borrow money, increase a millage, or establish a
10 bond if an initiative petition is filed with the county clerk. The
11 petition ~~shall~~**must** be signed by a number of qualified and
12 registered electors of the district equal to not less than 10% of
13 the electors voting in the last gubernatorial election in that
14 district or 3,000 signatures, whichever number is lesser. Section
15 488 applies to a petition to call a special election for a school
16 district under this section. In addition to the requirements set
17 forth in section 488, the proposed date of the special election
18 ~~shall~~**must** appear beneath the petition heading, and the petition
19 ~~shall~~**must** clearly state the amount of the millage increase or the
20 amount of the loan or bond sought and the purpose for the millage
21 increase or the purpose for the loan or bond. The petition ~~shall~~
22 **must** be filed with the county clerk by 4 p.m. of the twelfth
23 Tuesday before the proposed date of the special election. The
24 petition signatures ~~shall~~**must** be obtained within 60 days before
25 the filing of the petition. Any signatures obtained more than 60
26 days before the filing of the petition are not valid. If the
27 special election called by the school district is not scheduled to
28 be held on a regular election date as provided in subsection (1),
29 the special election ~~shall~~**must** be held on a Tuesday. A special

1 election called by a school district under this subsection ~~shall~~
2 **must** not be held within 30 days before or 35 days after a regular
3 election date as provided in subsection (1). A school district may
4 only call 1 special election ~~pursuant to~~ **under** this subsection in
5 each calendar year.

6 (5) The secretary of state shall direct and supervise the
7 consolidation of all elections held under this act.

8 (6) This section ~~shall be known and may be cited~~ **referred to**
9 as the "Hammerstrom election consolidation law".

10 Sec. 642a. (1) After December 31, 2004, a city council that
11 adopted a resolution so that its regular election is held on the
12 May regular election date may change its regular election to the
13 odd year general election by adopting a resolution in compliance
14 with section 642. If a city council adopts the resolution in
15 compliance with section 642 to hold its regular election at the odd
16 year general election, after December 31 of the year in which the
17 resolution is adopted, the city's regular election is at the odd
18 year general election.

19 (2) After December 31, 2004, a city council that holds its
20 regular election for city offices annually or in the even year on
21 the November regular election date may change its regular election
22 schedule to the odd year general election and the odd year primary
23 election by adopting a resolution in compliance with section 642.
24 If a city council adopts the resolution in compliance with section
25 642, the city's regular election is at the odd year general
26 election and its primary is at the odd year primary election.

27 (3) After December 31, 2010, a city that adopted a resolution
28 so that its regular election primary is held at the September
29 election shall hold its regular election primary at the odd year

1 primary election.

2 (4) After December 31, 2011, a city that holds its regular
3 election for city offices annually or in the odd year on the
4 November regular election date may change its regular election
5 schedule to the even year general election and the even year
6 primary election by adopting a resolution in compliance with
7 section 642. If a city council adopts the resolution in compliance
8 with section 642, after December 31 of the year in which the
9 resolution is adopted, the city's regular election is at the even
10 year general election and its primary is at the even year primary
11 election.

12 (5) After December 31, 2012, a village that adopted a
13 resolution so that its regular election is held at the September
14 election shall hold its regular election at the general November
15 election.

16 **(6) After December 31, 2026, a city that holds its regular**
17 **election primary for a city office annually or in the even year on**
18 **the August regular primary election date shall hold its regular**
19 **election primary on the May regular primary election date.**

20 Sec. 686a. (1) If a political party entitled to a position on
21 the ballot failed to have at least 1 candidate who polled at least
22 5% of the total vote cast for all candidates for secretary of state
23 at the last preceding election at which a secretary of state was
24 elected, candidates for that political party ~~shall~~**must** be
25 nominated as provided in section 532. County caucuses and state
26 conventions for ~~such~~**these** political parties ~~shall~~**must** be held not
27 later than the ~~August~~**May** primary.

28 (2) County caucuses may nominate candidates for the office of
29 ~~representative~~**Representative** in ~~congress~~**Congress**, state senator,

1 and state representative if the offices represent districts
 2 contained wholly within the county, and for all county and township
 3 offices. Not more than 1 business day after the conclusion of the
 4 caucus, the names and mailing addresses of all candidates ~~se~~
 5 nominated and the offices for which ~~they~~**the candidates** were
 6 nominated ~~shall~~**must** be certified by the chairperson and secretary
 7 of the caucus to the county clerk. The certification ~~shall~~**must** be
 8 accompanied by an affidavit of identity for each candidate named in
 9 the certificate as provided in section 558 and a separate written
 10 certificate of acceptance of nomination signed by each candidate
 11 named on the certificate. The form of the certificate of acceptance
 12 ~~shall~~**must** be prescribed by the secretary of state. If a candidate
 13 is ~~se~~certified with the accompanying affidavit of identity and
 14 certificate of acceptance, the name of the candidate ~~shall~~**must** be
 15 printed on the ballot for that election. Candidates nominated and
 16 certified ~~shall~~**are** not ~~be~~permitted to withdraw.

17 (3) The county caucus may also select the number of delegates
 18 to the state convention to which the county is entitled and shall
 19 select its own officers and name its own county committee.

20 (4) The state convention ~~shall~~**must** be held at the time and
 21 place indicated in the call. The convention ~~shall~~**must** consist of
 22 delegates selected by the county caucuses. The convention may fill
 23 vacancies in a delegation from qualified electors of that county
 24 present at the convention. The convention may nominate candidates
 25 for all state offices. District candidates may be nominated at
 26 district caucuses held in conjunction with the state convention
 27 attended by qualified delegates of the district. If delegates of a
 28 district are not present, a district caucus ~~shall~~**must** not be held
 29 for that district and candidates ~~shall~~**must** not be nominated for

1 that district. Not more than 1 business day after the conclusion of
 2 the convention, the names and mailing addresses of the candidates
 3 nominated for state or district offices ~~shall~~**must** be certified by
 4 the chairperson and secretary of the state convention to the
 5 secretary of state. The certification ~~shall~~**must** be accompanied by
 6 an affidavit of identity for each candidate named in the
 7 certificate as provided in section 558 and a separate written
 8 certificate of acceptance of nomination signed by each candidate
 9 named on the certificate. The form of the certificate of acceptance
 10 ~~shall~~**must** be prescribed by the secretary of state. The names of
 11 candidates ~~so~~certified with accompanying affidavit of identity and
 12 certificate of acceptance ~~shall~~**must** be printed on the ballot for
 13 the forthcoming election. Candidates ~~so~~nominated and certified
 14 ~~shall~~**are** not ~~be~~permitted to withdraw.

15 Sec. 737a. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,
 16 the board of election inspectors shall not count a write-in vote
 17 for ~~a person~~**an individual** unless that ~~person~~**individual** has filed
 18 a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate as provided in
 19 this section. The write-in candidate shall file the declaration of
 20 intent to be a write-in candidate with the filing official for that
 21 elective office on or before 4 p.m. on the second Friday
 22 immediately before the election. The secretary of state,
 23 immediately after the 4 p.m. filing deadline under this subsection,
 24 shall prepare and have delivered a list of all ~~persons~~**individuals**
 25 who have filed a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate
 26 under this subsection, if any, to the appropriate county clerks. A
 27 filing official other than the secretary of state who receives a
 28 declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate or list of ~~persons~~
 29 **individuals** who filed a declaration of intent from another filing

1 official under this subsection shall prepare and have delivered a
2 list of all ~~persons~~**individuals** who have filed a declaration of
3 intent to be a write-in candidate to the board of election
4 inspectors in the appropriate precincts before the close of the
5 polls on election day.

6 (2) If a candidate whose name is printed on the official
7 ballot for the election dies or is otherwise disqualified after 4
8 p.m. on the second Friday immediately before the election, the
9 requirement of filing a declaration of intent to be a write-in
10 candidate under subsection (1) does not apply to a write-in
11 candidate. If a death or disqualification has occurred as described
12 in this subsection, the board of election inspectors shall count
13 all write-in votes for write-in candidates for the office sought by
14 the deceased or disqualified candidate.

15 (3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to a write-in
16 candidate for precinct delegate. The board of election inspectors
17 shall not count a write-in vote for a write-in candidate for
18 precinct delegate unless that candidate has filed a declaration of
19 intent to be a write-in candidate as provided in this subsection. A
20 write-in candidate for precinct delegate shall file a declaration
21 of intent to be a write-in candidate with the county clerk of the
22 county in which that precinct is located on or before 4 p.m. on the
23 Friday immediately before the election or with the board of
24 election inspectors in the appropriate precinct before the close of
25 the polls on election day. A county clerk who receives a
26 declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate from a write-in
27 candidate for precinct delegate under this subsection shall prepare
28 and have delivered a list of all ~~persons~~**individuals** who have filed
29 a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate to the city and

1 township clerks for the appropriate precincts before election day.
2 A city or township clerk shall deliver a list of all ~~persons~~
3 **individuals** who have filed a declaration of intent to be a write-in
4 candidate for precinct delegate to the board of election inspectors
5 in the appropriate precincts before the close of the polls on
6 election day.

7 (4) The secretary of state shall prescribe forms for the
8 declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate. Clerks shall
9 maintain a supply of declaration of intent to be a write-in
10 candidate forms in the clerk's office and make the forms available
11 in the polling places during the ~~August~~**May** primary for this
12 purpose. The declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate form
13 must include all of the following information:

14 (a) The name of the ~~person~~**individual** intending to be a write-
15 in candidate.

16 (b) The elective office that the ~~person~~**individual** seeks as a
17 write-in candidate.

18 (c) The residence address of the ~~person~~**individual** seeking
19 elective office as a write-in candidate.

20 (d) Other information the secretary of state considers
21 appropriate.

22 Sec. 766. (1) On receipt of any envelope containing the marked
23 ballot of an absent voter, the city or township clerk shall
24 determine whether the ballot is approved for tabulation by
25 verifying both of the following:

26 (a) The elector is a registered elector and has not voted in
27 person in that election.

28 (b) Using the procedures required under section 766a, the
29 signature on the absent voter ballot return envelope agrees

1 sufficiently with the elector's signature on file.

2 (2) Subject to section ~~510(8)~~, **510(7)**, if the city or township
3 clerk verifies the information in subsection (1)(a) and (b), the
4 clerk shall approve the absent voter ballot for tabulation and
5 record in the qualified voter file that the absent voter ballot has
6 been approved for tabulation. Subject to subsection (3), if the
7 city or township clerk is not able to verify the information in
8 subsection (1)(a) and (b), the clerk must reject the absent voter
9 ballot return envelope.

10 (3) If a city or township clerk rejects an absent voter ballot
11 return envelope because the signature on the absent voter ballot
12 return envelope is missing or does not agree sufficiently with the
13 elector's signature on file, the elector must be permitted an
14 opportunity to cure the deficiency as provided under section 766a
15 until 5 p.m. on the third day following the election in order for
16 the absent voter ballot, if otherwise valid, to be accepted for
17 tabulation.

18 (4) If an absent voter ballot return envelope that is eligible
19 to be cured is not cured by the close of polls on election day,
20 that absent voter ballot return envelope must be retained at the
21 clerk's office, and must not be turned over to the board of
22 election inspectors or to an absent voter counting board. An absent
23 voter ballot return envelope that is cured after the close of the
24 polls on election day, but before 5 p.m. on the third day following
25 the election, must be accepted and the ballot tabulated if the
26 elector has not voted in person in that election. An absent voter
27 ballot return envelope that is not cured by 5 p.m. on the third day
28 following the election remains rejected.

29 (5) On receipt of a cure form, as provided under section 766a,

1 that resolves the signature deficiency on an elector's absent voter
2 ballot return envelope, the clerk shall approve the ballot for
3 tabulation.

4 (6) Not later than the sixth day after election day, each city
5 or township clerk shall deliver the absent voter ballot return
6 envelopes that have been cured under subsection (4) to the county
7 clerk in a ballot container. The absent voter ballots in these
8 cured absent voter ballot return envelopes ~~shall~~**must** be tabulated
9 by the county clerk in a meeting of the board of county canvassers.

10 Sec. 963. (1) ~~Within~~**Not later than** 35 days after the filing
11 of the recall petition, the filing official with whom the recall
12 petition is filed shall make an official declaration of the
13 sufficiency or insufficiency of the recall petition. If the recall
14 petition is determined to be insufficient, the filing official
15 shall notify the person or organization sponsoring the recall of
16 the insufficiency of the recall petition. It is not necessary to
17 give notification unless the person or organization sponsoring the
18 recall files with the filing official a written notice of
19 sponsorship and a mailing address.

20 (2) If a recall petition is filed under section 960,
21 immediately upon determining that the recall petition is
22 sufficient, but not later than 35 days after the date of filing of
23 the recall petition, the county clerk with whom the recall petition
24 is filed shall call the recall election and proceed under sections
25 971c to 975. The recall election ~~shall~~**must** be held not ~~less~~**fewer**
26 than 95 days after the date the recall petition is filed and ~~shall~~
27 **must** be held on the next May regular election date or the next
28 November regular election date, whichever occurs first.

29 (3) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4), if a

1 recall petition is filed under section 959, the filing official
2 with whom the recall petition is filed shall call the recall
3 primary election and proceed under sections 970b to 970g. The
4 recall primary election ~~shall~~**must** be held on the next regular
5 election date that is not ~~less~~**fewer** than 95 days after the date
6 the recall petition is filed.

7 (4) If a recall petition is filed under section 959 demanding
8 the recall of the governor, the filing official with whom the
9 recall petition is filed shall call a special recall election and
10 proceed under sections 975c to 975g. The special recall election
11 ~~shall~~**must** be held not ~~less~~**fewer** than 95 days after the date the
12 recall petition is filed and ~~shall~~**must** be held on the next May
13 regular election date or the next ~~August~~**November** regular election
14 date, whichever occurs first.

15 Sec. 970e. Subject to section 970b, the candidate of each
16 political party receiving the greatest number of votes cast for
17 candidates at the recall primary election as set forth in the
18 report of the board of state canvassers, based on the returns from
19 the various election precincts, ~~shall~~**must** be declared the nominee
20 of that political party at the recall general election to be held
21 on the next May regular election date or the next ~~August~~**November**
22 regular election date, whichever occurs first. In addition, except
23 as otherwise provided in this section, a candidate without a
24 political party affiliation may qualify for the recall general
25 election by filing a qualifying petition with the officer with whom
26 the recall petitions were filed that contains 10% of the number of
27 signatures required under section 544f ~~within~~**not later than** 10
28 days after the recall general election is scheduled. An individual
29 who was an unsuccessful candidate in the recall primary election

1 may not subsequently file a qualifying petition as a candidate
2 without a political party affiliation for the recall general
3 election.

4 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect January
5 1, 2027.