

House Government Operations Committee
2/25/2026

Bill: 2nd substitute SB 139 – Notary Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Musselman

Floor Sponsor: Representative Sawyer

UASD Position: Track

This Bill amends provisions of the Notaries Public Reform Act.

Discussion: The sponsor explained that the Bill amends the Notaries Public Reform Act to require notaries to maintain a journal of notarial acts and to provide satisfactory evidence of identity, including specified forms of identification. Law firms and title companies are exempt from certain journal requirements due to existing extensive recordkeeping obligations. The Bill requires presentation of unexpired identification and authorizes alternative forms of identity verification.

Representative Burton questioned why the Bill is needed. The sponsor explained it serves as a log of notary assignments. Representative Cutler questioned the electronic journaling requirements and the storing of records. Abbie Montgomery, representing the Lieutenant Governor's Office, clarified that recordings are kept separately from the journals.

Yeas: 10

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: 2nd substitute SB 139 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 1st substitute HB 558 – Elections Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Wilcox

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Oppose

This Bill requires the posting of certain information relating to a candidate for public office.

Discussion: The sponsor, speaking to the 1st substitute, explained that the Bill standardizes transparency across election filings. It removes judicial retention elections from the disclosure requirements and expands political party disclosure to include nonpartisan elections. The information would be published on the public notice website.

Representative Hayes expressed concern that requiring candidates to disclose their political party would politicize municipal elections. The sponsor explained that the Bill allows voters to have more information by knowing the political affiliation of each candidate. Representative Stoddard expressed concern about candidates being designated strictly by party affiliation rather than by

their policies. The sponsor emphasized his hope that citizens would pay closer attention to municipal races and have a higher voter turnout if a candidate for a nonpartisan office is required to disclose their party affiliation.

Representative MacPherson questioned how the disclosure would affect ongoing races and whether it would change the current level of partisanship in elections. The sponsor explained that the disclosure would help voters understand more about each candidate. Representative Cutler stated that legislative priorities on a local level should focus on policy rather than party affiliation. The sponsor explained that the Bill would not automatically list a party next to a candidate's name. Representative Fiebia questioned whether other states had adopted partisan disclosures in similar races and whether listing party affiliation increases voter turnout.

The Chairman of the Utah Republican Party and a member of the public spoke in support of the Bill. Mormon Women for Ethical Government, the Utah League of Cities and Towns, and the League of Women Voters spoke in opposition to the Bill.

The Committee adopted the 1st substitute. Representative Stoddard moved to hold the Bill in Committee. Representative MacPherson moved to pass the Bill out of Committee. Representative Fiebia spoke in support of the Bill. Representative Maloy spoke against the Bill. Representative Welton spoke against the Bill, citing George Washington's warning against partisan politics, and stated that party affiliation may be appropriate at the state and federal levels but not at the local level. Representative MacPherson withdrew his motion, and the Bill was held in the Committee.

Yeas: 7
Nays: 3
N/V: 2

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 558 failed to pass out of the Committee.
