

POLITICAL PARTY PUBLIC MEETING FACILITIES

AMENDMENTS

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Brady Brammer

Senate Sponsor: Jacob L. Anderegg

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends the use of public meeting buildings by political parties to include public institutions of higher education.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ amends the use of public meeting buildings by political parties to include public institutions of higher education.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

20A-8-101, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2012, Chapter 292

20A-8-404, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 255

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **20A-8-101** is amended to read:

20A-8-101. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Continuing political party" means an organization of voters that:

30 (a) participated in the last regular general election; and

31 (b) in at least one of the last two regular general elections, polled a total vote for any of
32 its candidates for any office equal to 2% or more of the total votes cast for all candidates for the
33 United States House of Representatives in the same regular general election.

34 (2) "County political party" means, for each registered political party, all of the persons
35 within a single county who, under definitions established by the county political party, are
36 members of the registered political party.

37 (3) "Newly registered political party" means a statewide organization of voters that has
38 complied with the petition and organizing procedures of this chapter to become a registered
39 political party.

40 (4) "Public institution of higher education" means the same as that term is defined in
41 Section 53B-16-301.

42 [~~4~~] (5) "Registered political party" means an organization of voters that:

43 (a) (i) participated in the last regular general election; and

44 (ii) in at least one of the last two regular general elections, polled a total vote for any of
45 its candidates for any office equal to 2% or more of the total votes cast for all candidates for the
46 United States House of Representatives in the same regular general election; or

47 (b) has complied with the petition and organizing procedures of this chapter.

48 [~~5~~] (6) "State political party" means, for each registered political party, all of the
49 persons in Utah who, under definitions established by the state political party, are members of
50 the registered political party.

51 Section 2. Section **20A-8-404** is amended to read:

52 **20A-8-404. Use of public meeting buildings by political parties.**

53 (1) The legislative body of a county, municipality, [~~or~~] school district, or public
54 institution of higher education shall make all meeting facilities in buildings under its control
55 available to registered political parties, without discrimination, to be used for political party
56 activities if:

57 (a) the political party requests the use of the meeting facility before 5 p.m. no later than

58 30 calendar days before the day on which the use by the political party will take place; and

59 (b) the meeting facility is not already scheduled for another purpose at the time of the
60 proposed use.

61 (2) Subject to the requirements of Subsection (3), when a legislative body makes a
62 meeting facility available under Subsection (1), it may establish terms and conditions for use of
63 that meeting facility.

64 (3) The charge imposed for the use of a meeting facility described in Subsection (1) by
65 a registered political party may not exceed the actual cost of:

66 (a) custodial services for cleaning the meeting facility after the use by the political
67 party; and

68 (b) any service requested by the political party and provided by the meeting facility.

69 (4) An entity described in Subsection (1) shall, to the extent possible, avoid scheduling
70 an event in a government building for the same evening as an announced party caucus meeting.

71 (5) This section does not apply to a publicly owned or operated convention center,
72 sports arena, or other facility at which conventions, conferences, and other gatherings are held
73 and whose primary business or function is to host such conventions, conferences, and other
74 gatherings.