

**First Regular Session
Seventy-Seventh General Assembly
STATE OF SAN ANDREAS**

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. 26-0728.02 Asa Miller x2741

HOUSE BILL 26-023

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Castillo

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Sarah Gomes, Mabrey, Medrano

House Committees

Elections, Campaigns, and Ethics

Senate Committees

Not assigned

A BILL FOR AN ACT

**CONCERNING PETITION SIGNATURE THRESHOLDS FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION
BALLOT.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <https://saleg.uscgov.com>)

This bill establishes uniform statewide petition signature requirements for candidates seeking placement on primary election ballots and refers the measure to the voters for approval at the November 2026 general election as Proposition A.

The bill sets fixed signature thresholds based on the scope of the office sought. Candidates for school board, city council, and mayor must submit at least 500 valid

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Underlining denotes SENATE amendment.

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.

Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

signatures. Candidates for the State House of Representatives must submit 1,000 signatures. Candidates for county commissioner and other county offices must submit 1,300 signatures. Candidates for the State Senate must submit 1,500 signatures. Candidates for statewide executive branch offices, including Governor and other constitutional officers, must submit 3,000 valid signatures.

All signatures must be obtained from eligible electors residing within the jurisdiction of the office sought. The Secretary of State and relevant election officials are responsible for verification and certification of submitted petitions.

The purpose of the Act is to create clear, consistent, and proportionate ballot access standards designed to ensure candidates demonstrate a measurable level of public support prior to appearing on primary election ballots.

The Act is referred to the people and will take effect only if approved by a majority of voters at the November 2026 general election. If approved, it will take effect upon the Governor’s official declaration of the vote.

1 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San***
2 ***Andreas:***
3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.** This act shall be known and cited
4 as the “Primary Ballot Petition Signature Threshold Act.”
5 **SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.** (a) The
6 General Assembly finds and declares that: (I) Ballot access
7 requirements should ensure that candidates demonstrate a
8 meaningful level of public support prior to appearing on a primary
9 election ballot; (II) Signature thresholds should be clear, uniform,
10 and proportionate to the scope of the office sought; (III)
11 Reasonable petition requirements promote orderly elections while
12 preserving open access to candidacy; (IV) It is the intent of the
13 General Assembly to establish fixed statewide petition signature
14 thresholds for placement on primary election ballots for specified
15 public offices. (b) The General Assembly further finds that

1 signature requirements should not unduly burden ballot access or
2 disadvantage candidates with limited financial resources.

3 **SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.** For purposes of this Act, unless the
4 context otherwise requires: (a) “Primary election” means an
5 election conducted for the purpose of nominating candidates of a
6 political party for public office. (b) “Petition candidate” means a
7 candidate seeking placement on the primary ballot through the
8 submission of voter signatures. (c) “Eligible elector” means a
9 registered voter qualified to vote in the relevant jurisdiction and
10 party primary. (d) “Valid signature” means a signature that has
11 been verified by the appropriate election official as belonging to
12 an eligible elector and complying with all statutory petition
13 requirements. **SECTION 4. PETITION SIGNATURE**
14 **REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIMARY BALLOT ACCESS.** (a) A
15 petition candidate seeking placement on a primary election ballot
16 shall submit valid signatures from eligible electors in the
17 following amounts: (I) School Board, City Council, or Mayor:
18 Not fewer than five hundred (500) valid signatures, or one percent
19 of the eligible electors within the jurisdiction, whichever is less.
20 (II) State House of Representatives: Not fewer than one thousand
21 (1,000) valid signatures, or one percent of the registered electors
22 within the district, whichever is less. (III) County Commissioner
23 or County Office: Not fewer than one thousand three hundred
24 (1,300) valid signatures, or one percent of the registered electors
25 within the jurisdiction, whichever is less. (IV) State Senate: Not
26 fewer than one thousand five hundred (1,500) valid signatures, or
27 one percent of the registered electors within the district,
28 whichever is less. (V) State Executive Branch Offices, including
29 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney
30 General, and State Treasurer: Not fewer than three thousand
31 (3,000) valid signatures, or one-half of one percent of registered
32 electors statewide, whichever is less. (b) All signatures must be
33 obtained from eligible electors residing within the jurisdiction of

1 the office sought. (c) The Secretary of State shall verify signatures
2 in accordance with existing election procedures. (d) The General
3 Assembly shall adjust signature thresholds every four years based
4 on updated voter registration data, consistent with the
5 percentage-based limits established in this section. **SECTION 5.**
6 **VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION.** (a) Petition signatures
7 shall be submitted not later than seventy days before the
8 scheduled primary election. (b) The Secretary of State or
9 appropriate county election official shall review and certify
10 whether the required number of valid signatures has been
11 submitted. (c) Candidates failing to meet the required threshold
12 shall not be placed on the primary ballot. (d) A candidate shall be
13 provided a cure period of not less than five business days to
14 submit additional signatures if the initial submission is determined
15 to be insufficient. **SECTION 6. UNIFORM APPLICATION.** The
16 signature thresholds established in this Act shall apply uniformly
17 across all political parties and petition candidates unless otherwise
18 required by federal law, and shall be administered in a manner
19 that ensures equal access to the ballot. **SECTION 7.**
20 **PARTY-AFFILIATED SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS.** (a)
21 Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, a petition
22 candidate seeking placement on a political party's primary
23 election ballot shall obtain petition signatures only from eligible
24 electors who are registered members of the same political party as
25 the candidate at the time the signature is collected, provided that
26 unaffiliated electors may sign petitions for any party primary
27 candidate if permitted under state election law. (b) Election
28 officials shall verify that each petition signature corresponds to a
29 registered elector affiliated with the political party for which the
30 candidate seeks nomination. Signatures from electors not
31 affiliated with that political party shall be deemed invalid. (c)
32 **Minor Party Exception.** (I) If, within the jurisdiction of the office
33 sought, the total number of registered electors affiliated with a

1 political party is less than three times the required petition
2 signature threshold established in Section 4 of this Act, the
3 candidate may obtain signatures from: Registered electors
4 affiliated with the candidate’s political party; and Unaffiliated
5 registered electors residing within the jurisdiction. (II) In no event
6 shall a candidate rely exclusively on signatures from a different
7 political party. (d) The Secretary of State shall publish annually
8 the number of registered electors affiliated with each political
9 party by jurisdiction to determine eligibility for the minor party
10 exception. (e) Nothing in this section shall apply to independent
11 or unaffiliated candidates where separate statutory provisions
12 govern ballot access. (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed
13 to prohibit a political party from adopting less restrictive signature
14 requirements for candidates seeking placement on its primary
15 ballot, consistent with state law. **SECTION 8. REFERENDUM.**
16 Pursuant to Section 4 of Article VII of the Constitution of the
17 State of San Andreas, this Act shall be submitted to the registered
18 electors of the State of San Andreas for their approval or rejection
19 at the general election to be held in November 2026. The ballot
20 title shall be designated as “PROPOSITION A”, and the measure
21 shall take effect only if approved by a majority of the votes cast
22 thereon. If approved, this Act shall take effect upon the official
23 declaration of the vote by the Governor. If approved, this Act shall
24 apply to all primary elections occurring on or after January 1,
25 2027.