



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 6144



Offered by:

SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.

REP. BLUMENTHAL, 147th Dist.

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SEN. GASTON, 23rd Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 459

File No. 500

Cal. No. 312

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE CIRCULATION OF
PRIMARY AND NOMINATING PETITIONS AND DISTRIBUTION OF
ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 9-404b of the general statutes is
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
5 *1, 2027*):

6 (d) Each circulator of a primary petition page shall be an enrolled
7 party member of a municipality in this state. Each petition page shall
8 contain a statement signed by the registrar of the municipality in which
9 the circulator is an enrolled party member attesting that the circulator is
10 an enrolled party member in the municipality. Unless such a statement
11 by the registrar of voters appears on each page so submitted, the

12 Secretary shall reject the page. Each separate page of the petition shall
13 contain a statement as to the authenticity of the signatures on the page
14 and the number of such signatures, and shall be signed under the
15 penalties of false statement by the person who circulated the page,
16 setting forth the circulator's address and the town in which the
17 circulator is an enrolled party member and attesting that each person
18 whose name appears on the page signed the petition in person in the
19 presence of the circulator, that the circulator either knows each such
20 signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified himself or herself to the
21 circulator and that the spaces for candidates supported, offices sought
22 and the political party involved were filled in prior to the obtaining of
23 the signatures. Each separate page of the petition shall also be
24 acknowledged before an appropriate person as provided in section 1-
25 29. The Secretary shall reject any page of a petition filed with the
26 Secretary which does not contain such a statement by the circulator as
27 to the authenticity of the signatures on the page, or upon which the
28 statement of the circulator is incomplete in any respect, or which does
29 not contain the certification required under this section by the registrar
30 of the town in which the circulator is an enrolled party member. No
31 person who has been convicted of a crime under this title shall circulate
32 any page of a primary petition for a period of four years after such
33 conviction, and the Secretary shall reject for filing any such page that
34 was circulated in violation of such prohibition. For the purpose of
35 complying with such rejection requirement, the Secretary shall order the
36 performance of a nation-wide criminal background check on each
37 circulator of one or more primary petition pages. Any individual
38 proposed as a candidate in any primary petition may serve as a
39 circulator of the pages of the petition, provided the individual's service
40 as circulator does not violate any provision of this section.

41 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 9-410 of the general statutes is
42 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
43 *1, 2027*):

44 (c) Each circulator of a primary petition page shall be an enrolled

45 party member of a municipality in this state who is entitled to vote. Each
46 petition page shall contain a statement signed by the registrar of the
47 municipality in which such circulator is an enrolled party member
48 attesting that the circulator is an enrolled party member in such
49 municipality. Unless such a statement by the registrar appears on each
50 page so submitted, the registrar shall reject such page. No candidate for
51 the nomination of a party for a municipal office or the position of town
52 committee member shall circulate any petition for another candidate or
53 another group of candidates contained in one primary petition for the
54 nomination of such party for the same office or position, and any
55 petition page circulated in violation of this provision shall be rejected by
56 the registrar. No person shall circulate petitions for more than the
57 maximum number of candidates to be nominated by a party for the
58 same office or position, and any petition page circulated in violation of
59 this provision shall be rejected by the registrar. Each separate sheet of
60 such petition shall contain a statement as to the authenticity of the
61 signatures thereon and the number of such signatures, and shall be
62 signed under the penalties of false statement by the person who
63 circulated the same, setting forth such circulator's address and the town
64 in which such circulator is an enrolled party member and attesting that
65 each person whose name appears on such sheet signed the same in
66 person in the presence of such circulator, that the circulator either knows
67 each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified the signer to
68 the circulator and that the spaces for candidates supported, offices or
69 positions sought and the political party involved were filled in prior to
70 the obtaining of the signatures. Each separate sheet of such petition shall
71 also be acknowledged before an appropriate person as provided in
72 section 1-29. Any sheet of a petition filed with the registrar which does
73 not contain such a statement by the circulator as to the authenticity of
74 the signatures thereon, or upon which the statement of the circulator is
75 incomplete in any respect, or which does not contain the certification
76 hereinbefore required by the registrar of the town in which the
77 circulator is an enrolled party member, shall be rejected by the registrar.
78 No person who has been convicted of a crime under this title shall
79 circulate any page of a primary petition for a period of four years after

80 such conviction, and the registrar shall reject for filing any such page
81 that was circulated in violation of such prohibition. For the purpose of
82 complying with such rejection requirement, the registrar shall order the
83 performance of a nation-wide criminal background check on each
84 circulator of one or more primary petition pages. Any individual
85 proposed as a candidate in any primary petition may serve as a
86 circulator of the pages of such petition, provided such individual's
87 service as circulator does not violate any provision of this section.

88 Sec. 3. Section 9-453e of the general statutes is repealed and the
89 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

90 (a) Each circulator of a nominating petition page shall be a United
91 States citizen, at least eighteen years of age and a resident of a town in
92 this state and shall not be on parole for conviction of a felony. Any
93 individual proposed as a candidate in any nominating petition may
94 serve as circulator of the pages of such nominating petition.

95 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
96 no person who has been convicted of a crime under this title shall
97 circulate any page of a nominating petition for a period of four years
98 after such conviction. The appropriate town clerk or the Secretary of the
99 State, as applicable under section 9-453i, shall reject for filing any such
100 page that was circulated in violation of such prohibition. For the
101 purpose of complying with such rejection requirement, the appropriate
102 town clerk or the Secretary, as applicable, shall order the performance
103 of a nation-wide criminal background check on each circulator of one or
104 more nominating petition pages.

105 Sec. 4. Section 9-453j of the general statutes is repealed and the
106 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

107 Each page of a nominating petition submitted to the town clerk or the
108 Secretary of the State and filed with the Secretary of the State under the
109 provisions of sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or section 9-216 shall
110 contain a statement as to the residency in this state and eligibility of the

111 circulator and authenticity of the signatures thereon, signed under
112 penalties of false statement, by the person who circulated the same. Such
113 statement shall set forth (1) such circulator's residence address,
114 including the town in this state in which such circulator is a resident, (2)
115 the circulator's date of birth and that the circulator is at least eighteen
116 years of age, (3) that the circulator is a United States citizen and [not]
117 neither (A) on parole for conviction of a felony, nor (B) within the period
118 that is four years after conviction of a crime under this title, and (4) that
119 each person whose name appears on such page signed the same in
120 person in the presence of such circulator and that either the circulator
121 knows each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified
122 himself to the circulator. Any false statement committed with respect to
123 such statement shall be deemed to have been committed in the town in
124 which the petition was circulated."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-404b(d)
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-410(c)
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-453e
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-453j