



# **SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION**

2015 Municipal Election

## **VOTE BY MAIL ELECTION to ENHANCE TURNOUT and INCREASE CONVENIENCE FOR VOTERS**

As citizens, our greatest duty is to participate in the selection of those to whom we delegate the power to govern. Therefore, it is disappointing that many choose not to exercise their right to vote. In Salt Lake City, voter participation dropped to an average of 20 percent in 2009, 23 percent in 2011, and 19 percent in 2013.

In an effort to increase voter participation, Salt Lake City will conduct a "Vote by Mail" Municipal Election for 2015.

There are many distinct advantages to voting by mail and very few disadvantages. Vote by Mail gives every registered voter the opportunity to vote regardless of work schedule, transportation, or health issues. It enables all citizens to carefully study the issues and vote in an informed way in the comfort and privacy of their home, and at a time convenient for them. It allows voters to discuss issues and become educated before they cast their vote. Voting by Mail results in lower costs to the City, and improved voter participation.

Voting by mail is already popular among voters. In Salt Lake City, as of 4/2/2015 there were 36,948 registered voters signed up for permanent Vote by Mail. This represents 47 percent of registered Voters!

Some have expressed concern about voter fraud being more prevalent in a Vote by Mail process. From 2000-2011, 51 cases of Utah voter fraud were alleged, none involving mail-in ballots. Every effort has been made to diminish the risk of voter fraud. Each ballot envelope contains an affidavit that must be signed by the voter. The signature on the envelope affidavit is compared to the signature on the voter's registration form. If the signatures do not match, the voter is notified. If you forget to sign the affidavit on your ballot envelope, you will be contacted and provided the opportunity to sign the affidavit. The voter's affidavit and signature are not visible until the folded portion of the envelope is opened by Salt Lake County. Envelopes are placed flat, signature side down, as ballots are removed one at a time. Ballots are separated from the envelopes, removing any voter identification from the ballot so the voter of that ballot is no longer identifiable.

Ballots will be mailed to voters 28 days before the election (45 days before the election for those voters who are overseas and in the Military). Ballots will be mailed out weekly leading up to the election to accommodate those who newly register or have changed addresses. Ballots will even be mailed daily the week before the election in an effort to service all voters desiring to participate. Ballots come in a postage paid reply envelope; State law requires that ballots returned by mail be postmarked the Monday before Election Day. There will also be ballot drop box locations at the Salt Lake County Government Center and the Salt Lake City & County Building. For those voters who need assistance or who did not receive a ballot, they may vote at one of the 4 designated Vote Centers in the City on Election Day.

The Salt Lake City Recorder's Office mission is to conduct fair, open, and honest elections. We maintain integrity in elections, thereby protecting and instilling public confidence in the democratic process. We are dedicated to providing professional service and accurate information. We provide the people of Salt Lake City the opportunity to exercise their right to vote, and through education and outreach, we encourage participation in the electoral process.

LOCATION: 451 SOUTH STATE STREET, ROOM 415, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84111

MAILING ADDRESS: PO BOX 145515, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84114-5515

TELEPHONE: 801-535-7671 FAX: 801-535-7681