

5 Voting Concerns in Utah

After a review of Utah's voting methodologies, it appears that there are concerns in Utah when it comes to elections. Select elected officials have come up with—what they think—are great ideas like ranked choice voting and precinct elimination, and are proposing to deconstruct our sacred vote by centralizing power and putting it in the hands of Big Tech, who are proposing a system that panders to a pure democracy, leads to a national popular vote (and the elimination of the electoral college), removes voting oversight from local communities and defies the principles of the consent of the governed. Here are 5 voting concerns that define the problem:

— 1: Tech Isn't Always the Answer —

This year the education system gave us a broad, systematic lesson in technology. This lesson is so big that it transfers into voting. The lesson is that tech is NOT always the solution. With distance learning used across the state, and some districts serving students in-person and some at-home, tech was supposed to be the equal playing ground for all students, but it was not. Tech has a long, erroneous reputation of being the answer to all educational needs, but in-person learning proved to be far superior to attending virtual school through a computer or Chromebook. When it comes to voting, tech does not help, and currently offers more problems than solutions. In-person voting, whenever possible, is superior to mail-in voting.

— 2: Verification Over Convenience —

Utah citizens want to be able to verify their vote was counted: they don't want to be told by a computer auditing company, or their county clerk. Tech brings convenience, but so do

Zoom calls—which are no replacement for interacting with real people. Paper can't be hacked by computer algorithms when humans are counting them. Utahns want their vote PRIVATE and they want it SECURE. If this takes time and money, then it is the best use of tax-payers' time and money.

— 3: The Vote is Sacred —

In a free, civilized society the vote is sacred. It is the way we peacefully change our government and give consent. The sacred vote requires due diligence on the part of both participants. The citizens and the state have voting obligations. The citizens' obligation is to provide ID and research candidates and the state will ensure that each citizen's vote is counted equally and that they communicate all voting information in a timely manner.

— 4: Centralization of Power —

Having the counties run all elections moves the power of the sacred vote up the power chain into a more centralized location. Decentralized power is always the best way to ensure freedom. Once the counties have all the voting administration, it would only take one act of legislation to consolidate the voting administration at the state level and even further removed from the people.

— 5: Cities Are Closest to the People and Should Guard Elections —

Cities lose more and more power to the counties and the state every year. The one thing that cities do that affect everyone of their residents is voting and they should retain that power and ensure that it is protected. There are certain powers that the county and the state should never usurp from the cities and voting is number one.

Start with your mayor and city council. Send emails. Talk about election integrity, traditional voting methods (no ranked choice voting), and precincts.