

WEBER COUNTY CLERK/AUDITOR – ELECTIONS OFFICE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2016 PRIMARY ELECTION INFORMATION

The 2016 elections will be conducted by mail. The first election this year will be the Primary Election on June 28th. Primary Elections are a process through which the voters of political parties decide who will represent them on the ballot in November. As such, political parties, not the county, set the rules for which registered voters can participate in their primary elections.

The following races will appear on primary ballots:

<u>Democratic</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Nonpartisan</u>
US Senate State School Board #4*	Governor Weber County Commission State School Board #4*	State School Board #4*

**This race is nonpartisan, but will appear on all ballot formats within district #4*

Primary Election Rules

Here is a list of the rules that each party has:

Democratic – Open Primary – Members of any party may request a Democratic ballot. There is no requirement to join the Democratic Party to vote in a Democratic Primary. Registered Democrats will receive a Democratic ballot in the mail, their ballot will include State School Board District #4 if applicable. All other registered voters may request to receive a Democratic ballot.

Republican – Closed Primary – Only registered Republicans may vote in the Republican Primary Election. Unaffiliated voters may join the Republican Party prior to the election and receive a ballot. Voters affiliated with other parties **may not** switch parties after May 31st and be allowed to vote a Republican ballot. Registered Republicans will receive a Republican ballot in the mail, their ballot will include State School Board District #4 if applicable.

Non-partisan – All registered voters that live in State School Board District 4 will receive the nonpartisan race on their ballot with that race regardless of their party affiliation.

Unaffiliated Voters – A letter has been sent explaining the primary process and informing them of their ballot options for the Primary Election. Voters residing within State School Board District #4 are being asked to return the bottom portion of the letter by May 16th. This will allow us time to process their request and get their desired format sent out in the first mailing. If a Republican ballot is requested, this form will change their party affiliation to Republican. Unaffiliated voters outside of district 4 that do not return this form will not receive a ballot for the Primary but will receive one in November.

Voters may only vote one ballot style in the Primary Election

Important Deadlines

May 16 – first extract sent to printer for initial round of ballots to be printed/mailed.

May 31 – Last day to register by mail.

May 31 – Last day voters can change their party affiliation and be eligible to vote in a closed primary. For example: A Libertarian switching to a Republican. Unaffiliated can still change their affiliation.

June 7 – First group of ballots mailed.

June 21 – Last day to register in person or online to vote. Last day an unaffiliated voter may affiliate with the Republican Party and receive a by mail ballot.

June 23 – Last day by mail ballots will be sent out.

June 27 – Deadline for by mail ballots to be post marked.

June 28th – Primary Election Day, polls open at 7am and close at 8pm.

By mail elections

This year both elections run by Weber County will be by mail. Last year 14 out of the 15 cities, and the Weber County Commission voted in favor of by mail elections. We will carry that mandate forward. This year 70 percent of the state will be voting by mail. A by mail election means that all active voters will be mailed a ballot about three weeks prior to Election Day. Our goal is to provide a smooth transition for voters and balance the convenience of by mail voting with the various needs of our residents.

3 ways to return a ballot:

- 1) Mail in a ballot with a First-class or forever stamp affixed to it. Must be post marked June 27th or sooner.
- 2) Drop ballot in a secure drop box available at each city office, the Weber Center, Ogden Valley Branch Library, and the Pleasant Valley Branch Library during business hours up through Election Day, June 28th. Additionally, 7 permanent outdoor drop boxes will be available 24 hours a day up through Election Day at the city offices in Huntsville, Plain City, Ogden, Riverdale, Roy, Uintah, and West Haven.
- 3) County wide voting assistance centers will be available on Election Day for voters to drop off their ballot, receive assistance, get a new ballot if they did not receive a ballot, or for voters who choose to vote in the traditional manner. These nine locations are: Roy, West Haven, Marriott-Slaterville, North Ogden, Ogden ATC, Weber Center, Dee Events Center, Pleasant Valley Branch Library, and Ogden Valley Branch Library. All voting assistance centers will have ADA accessible equipment.

Steps voters can take to make sure a vote counts

- 1) Update their voter registration (www.voter.utah.gov)
- 2) Sign the affidavit on the envelope
- 3) Attach a stamp – unless placing in a secure drop box
- 4) Enclose only 1 ballot per envelope
- 5) Post mark the ballot before Election Day (June 27th or before)

Since these are by mail elections there will be no early voting, ballots may be dropped off any time up through Election Day or mailed by June 27th.

Additional Resources:

www.WeberElections.com Election and voting information including drop box locations and hours

www.vote.utah.gov Check registration status, view sample ballot, election information

www.voter.utah.gov Update voter registration, update party affiliation, request a specific ballot format

Common Questions:

How do I register to vote? If you have a valid Utah driver's license you can go to www.voter.utah.gov and register online. If not, send a paper form in to the Weber County Clerk/Auditor's Office (www.WeberElections.com).

How do I get a ballot for a party other than the one I am registered with? You can update your registration, affiliate with a political party, or choose what party's ballot you want (Primary Election only) online by going to www.voter.utah.gov or you can fill out a paper registration form with that info and send it to the Weber County Clerk/Auditor's Office (www.WeberElections.com) by May 31st.

Can anyone sign and send in my ballot? No. Weber County Elections and the State of Utah have developed stringent guidelines to verify the signatures on each ballot envelope received. Every ballot envelope must be signed by the voter it was sent to. Every signature is verified to ensure it matches the signature of the voter. Envelopes that are not signed, or those signed by the wrong person cannot be counted. Every effort will be made to contact the voter if this occurs.

How do I know that my Vote by Mail ballot was received and counted?

Once the ballots are mailed out, approximately three weeks prior to Election Day, any voter may log onto <http://www.vote.utah.gov> to track the status of their ballot. Voters can also call the Election Office at (801) 399-8034.

Do I need to request an absentee ballot? For most people the answer is no. If you wish to receive your ballot at an address other than your standard mailing address, then you will need to submit an absentee ballot request notifying us of the address where your ballot should be mailed.

Why isn't there Early Voting this year? This year's elections are being conducted mainly by mail. Since the ballots are mailed out nearly a month prior to Election Day; there is in effect a month of early voting.

What ID do I need to bring with me if I vote on Election Day? In-person voters will need to present ID just like they would for any election. A list of acceptable ID can be found at <http://vote.utah.gov/vote/menu/requirements.html>

If you'd like more information visit us online at www.WeberElections.com or contact the Clerk/Auditor's office at (801) 399-8032, 2380 Washington Blvd. Ste 320, Ogden, UT 84401