

# State of Utah

Office of the Lieutenant Governor



Spencer J. Cox  
Lieutenant Governor

## **For Immediate Release**

August 11, 2017

### **Contact**

Mark Thomas  
Utah Director of Elections  
801.673.8587  
[mjthomas@utah.gov](mailto:mjthomas@utah.gov)

## **STATE ELECTIONS OFFICE PROVIDES CLARIFICATION FOR UTAH AND WASATCH COUNTY VOTERS**

SALT LAKE CITY (Aug. 11, 2017) – Utah municipal and special primary elections will be held on Tues., August 15, 2017. While Utah and Wasatch counties have experienced certain setbacks related to by-mail balloting, the Utah Elections Office has worked closely with both counties to identify the issues at hand and to develop timely solutions. Attached are responses to frequently asked questions, which aim to clarify specific solutions for each county.

As always, citizens are encouraged to visit [vote.utah.gov](http://vote.utah.gov) to track by-mail ballots, find Election Day polling places, view candidate profiles and more.

###

## **FAQS: UTAH COUNTY MAIL BALLOTS**

### **Q1: What happened in Utah County?**

Approximately 68,000 unaffiliated voters in Utah County received a ballot that contained the Republican Third Congressional District contest.

### **Q2: How will this affect the Third Congressional District Primary Election?**

The Utah County Clerk has worked with the Lt. Governor's Office to ensure there will be no effect on the voting results. Unaffiliated voters are not permitted to participate in the Republican Primary Election unless they affiliate with the Republican Party at an Election Day polling location. If an unaffiliated voter does not do this, the Utah County Clerk's Office will ensure that the voter's vote in the Republican Primary Election is not tabulated.

Voters affiliated with a political party were unaffected.

### **Q3. Will this affect Municipal Primary Elections?**

No. Unaffiliated voters received the correct municipal contests on their ballots, and their votes for municipal contests will be tabulated accordingly.

### **Q4: How can voters find their Election Day polling location?**

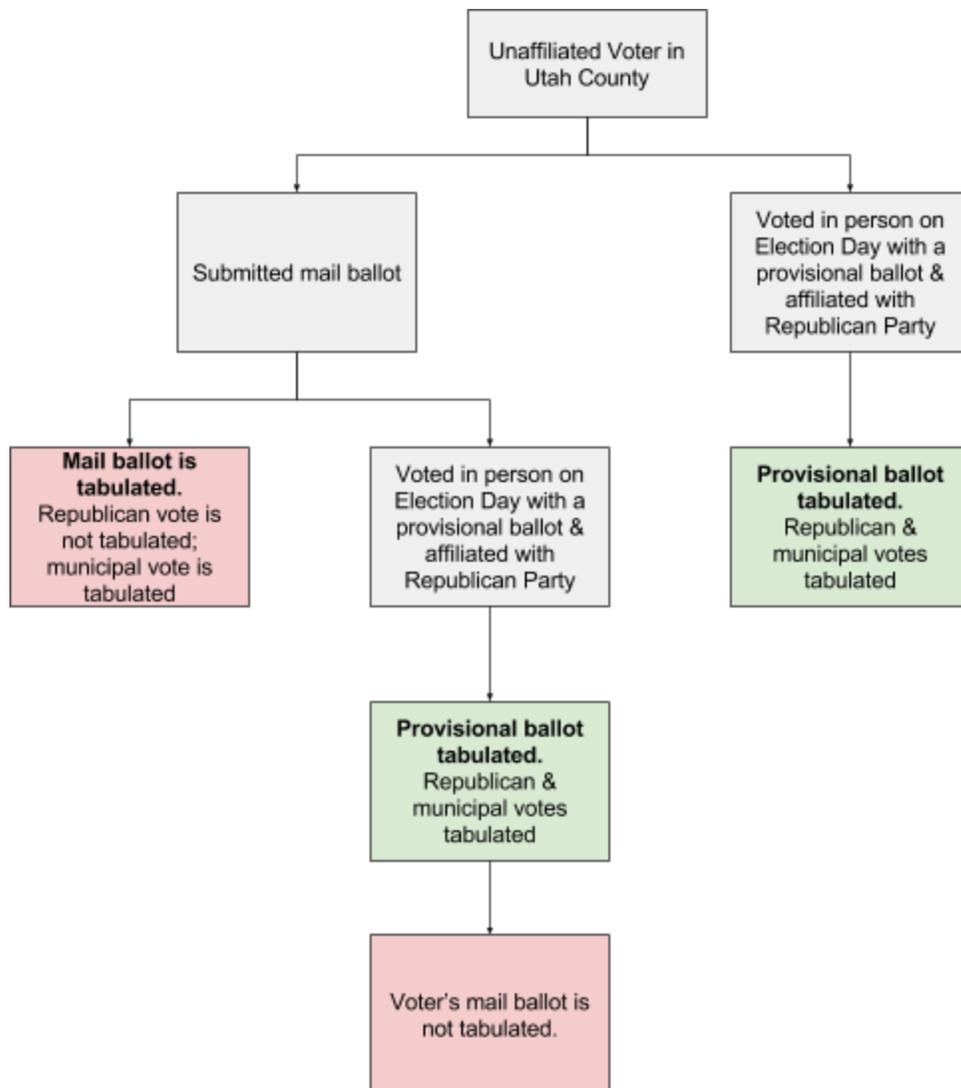
Voters can find their nearest polling location by entering their address at [vote.utah.gov](https://vote.utah.gov).

### **Q5: Can unaffiliated voters in Utah County vote in the Republican Primary Election by submitting their mail ballot?**

No. If unaffiliated voters wish to vote in the Republican Primary Election, they must appear in person at the polls on Election Day and affiliate with the Republican Party. This requirement is established by [Utah Code Annotated §20A-2-107.5](#). If an unaffiliated voter uses their mail ballot to vote in the Republican Primary Election, the Utah County Clerk's Office will only tabulate results for the municipal races. The voter's Republican Primary vote will not be counted.

**Q6: What if an unaffiliated voter in Utah County already submitted their mail ballot but they want to vote in the Republican Primary Election?**

An unaffiliated voter can still vote in the Republican Primary Election by appearing at the polls on Election Day, affiliating with the Republican Party, and completing a provisional ballot. In order to prevent double voting, the Utah County Clerk's Office will first tabulate the Election Day provisional ballots, remove any mail ballots from unaffiliated voters who voted provisionally on Election Day, and then process the remainder of the mail ballots. Below is a chart that illustrates this process:



**Q7: What is a deadline to have my mail ballot postmarked?**

All ballots must be postmarked on the day prior to Election Day. This means a voter must postmark their ballot by Monday, August 14. Keep in mind, each post office may have a different postmark deadline. To ensure the ballot receives a postmark by August 14, a voter should give their ballot directly to a postal clerk in the post office.

If a voter wants to submit their ballot past the postmark deadline, the voter will need to drop it off at any polling location in the county or the county clerk's office on Election Day.

**Q8: Will Utah County's situation affect when election results are released?**

Utah County will take extra precautions to make sure each voter's choice is counted accurately. The County Clerk will process all ballots cast at polling places on Election Day before processing mail ballots from unaffiliated voters. This will ensure the correct vote is counted for any unaffiliated voter who comes to the polls on election day to affiliate and vote in the Republican Primary, even if that voter had already mailed in their ballot.

As always, each county clerk will release preliminary results on election night. Updates to election results will be provided on August 18, 22, and 25. You can view updates for the Third Congressional District contest at [electionresults.utah.gov](http://electionresults.utah.gov). For updates on municipal primary contests, please visit the Utah County Clerk's website at [utahcounty.gov](http://utahcounty.gov).

Counties and municipalities will canvass (finalize) the election results by August 29, 2017. The Lieutenant Governor will canvass the results of the Third Congressional District Republican Primary by August 31, 2017.

**Q9: Who can I contact if I have additional questions?**

Please contact the Utah County Clerk's office at 801-851-8128.

## **FAQS: WASATCH COUNTY MAIL BALLOTS**

### **Q1: What happened in Wasatch County?**

There were two issues:

1. Approximately 1,500 unaffiliated voters in the unincorporated areas of the county received a ballot that contained the Republican Third Congressional District contest. Unaffiliated voters are not permitted to participate in the Republican Primary Election unless they affiliate with the party at a polling location.
2. Approximately 1,300 voters who are affiliated with the Democratic Party or a third party and reside within Heber City, Midway, and Charleston had their municipal primary election ballots mailed to them later than others.

### **Q2: How can affected voters in Wasatch County vote?**

Regarding the first issue, the Wasatch County Clerk's Office has mailed a postcard to the affected unaffiliated voters living in the unincorporated area of the county and informed them that they would not be eligible to vote in the Republican Primary Election unless they affiliate at the polls on Election Day.

Regarding the second issue, the Wasatch County Clerk's Office quickly mailed the ballots to affected voters. All voters will have the option of mailing their ballot to the county clerk. All voters will also have the option to cast or drop off their ballot in-person by visiting the polling location in their respective municipality on Election Day:

- Wasatch County Building (25 North Main, Heber City)
- Midway Community Center (160 W. Main, Midway)
- Charleston Town Hall (3454 W. 3400 S., Charleston)
- Wallsburg Town Hall (70 W. Main Canyon Rd., Wallsburg)

Voters living in the unincorporated areas of the county should visit the county building.

**Q3: Can affected voters in Wasatch County participate in the Republican Primary Election?**

[Utah Code Annotated §20A-2-107\(2\)](#) requires voters who are affiliated with a political party other than the Republican Party (e.g., the Democratic Party) to change their party affiliation at least 30 days before the Primary Election in order to participate in the Republican Primary Election. Consequently, the affected voters are ineligible to vote in the Republican Primary Election, but they are eligible to vote in their municipal primary election.

Unaffiliated voters may participate in the Republican Primary Election by going to a polling location on Election Day and affiliating with the Republican Party.

**Q4: Will this affect Municipal Primary Elections?**

No. The county clerk has sent ballots to all voters, including those voters who did not initially receive a municipal ballot. Furthermore, additional polling places are being added to allow each voter to vote in-person in the municipal elections if they so choose.

**Q5: How will this affect the Third Congressional District Primary Election?**

Unaffiliated voters are not permitted to participate in the Republican Primary Election unless they affiliate with the Republican Party at an Election Day polling location. If an unaffiliated voter does not do this, the Wasatch County Clerk's Office will ensure that the voter's vote in the Republican Primary Election is not tabulated even if the voter marks a vote for that race.

**Q6: What is a deadline to have my mail ballot postmarked?**

All ballots must be postmarked on the day prior to Election Day. This means a voter must postmark their ballot by Monday, August 14. Keep in mind, each post office may have a different postmark deadline. To ensure the ballot receives a postmark by August 14, a voter should give their ballot directly to a postal clerk in the post office.

If a voter wants to submit their ballot past the postmark deadline, the voter will need to drop it off at any polling location in the county or the county clerk's office on Election Day.

**Q7: Who can I contact if I have additional questions?**

Please contact the Wasatch County Clerk's office at 435-657-3190.