

**Mountain Region Public Hearing Meeting Notes**  
**November 10, 2025**  
**Alpine City Hall**

Rob Axson, sponsor, began the meeting at 6pm. He pointed out the fiscal notice posted at the door and that copies were available for those in attendance. He shared that the analysis concluded the State of Utah would save \$1 million every ten years if the initiative is successful.

Mr. Axson stated that he and other individuals had filed a direct initiative in support of representative government and the proper role of the Legislature. He said that 7 meetings are required by law in 7 different regions as described in state code. He further detailed that state law does not allow for each county on the Wasatch Front to host a meeting, but that the sponsors hosted more meetings than required by law.

Mr. Axson then called for a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. A volunteer in the audience gave the prayer followed by the group reciting the pledge.

At 6:06 pm Rob read the following:

*“On Friday, Oct 24 a group of Utahns filed what is known as a direct initiative with the Lt. Governor’s Office. The proposal is a repeal of what is commonly referred to as Prop 4, specifically titled the Independent Redistricting Commission and Standards Act.*

*Public notice for this meeting was provided on Friday, October 31 and provided to the Utah Elections Office, all members of the Utah Legislature, every County Commissioner and County Council member in Utah and each county clerk. It was also posted on the Utah legal notices website for at least three days.*

*In order to propose a law via initiative, 7 public hearings must be held in seven regions across the state. 7 meetings are being conducted tonight to meet this requirement.*

*Prior to holding hearings, the Legislature is required to provide a fiscal analysis of the proposal. That has been completed, is posted at the door and copies are available here for anyone that would like to review it further.*

*The fiscal analysis found that this initiative will lead to approximately \$1 million in SAVINGS to the state of Utah every 10 years.*

*The meeting will last just over one hour, with one full hour of public comment. An audio recording will be made and shared with the Elections Office following this meeting.*

*The purpose of today's hearing is not to debate or answer questions, but to use the allotted time to hear the thoughts and opinions from the people of Utah in this region. After the completion of public hearings, signature gathering for this initiative may begin.*

*The total number of signatures required for an initiative is more than 140,000 signatures, which is 8 percent of the total number of registered Utah voters as of January 1, 2025. Certain thresholds are required to be reached in 26 of 29 Utah Senate Districts. If that is achieved by Feb. 15, the public would vote on the proposal during the 2026 general election.*

*If you would like to speak today, please form a line near the podium, state your name and where you are from and complete the sign in sheet. We will allow 2 minutes per comment. If you would like to wait in line again and time is available, you may speak for another two minutes. Following 60 minutes of public comment, we will end the meeting.*

A member of the audience asked a question about signature gathering. Mr. Axson clarified that signature gathering for the initiative will move forward, but that signatures for a referendum will not proceed.

Another member of the audience asked how much signature gathering costs. Mr. Axson said paid signature gathering and volunteer signature gathering would be pursued.

Prior to beginning public comment, Mr. Axson shared that he supports the initiative because he cares about constitutionality and representative government. He said that the sponsors are bringing forward this initiative to seek a consistent foundation where our Constitution is respected.

At 6:14, public comment began.

Bill McGee, Citizen, Alpine, expressed his opposition to the initiative, believing that it is a power grab to disenfranchise voters. He said this has already been decided in 2018.

Steve Baxter, Citizen, Springville, said that members of his precinct want to keep Proposition 4. He believes the Utah Republican Party is losing support from people that the party needs.

Martha Millet, Citizen, Salt Lake City, said the people have already spoken and she doesn't understand why the Legislature doesn't "do their job."

Michael Smart, Citizen, American Fork, agreed with Steve's comment and said he is opposed to the initiative on principle and utilitarian perspective. He believes voters should be persuaded rather than rewriting the rules to win.

Laurie Rawson, Citizen, Highland, also spoke in opposition to the initiative. She said that people did not feel that representatives were representing when they passed Prop 4. She then quoted from the League of Women Voters with their position on gerrymandering. She believes the standard should be the same regardless of who has power.

Marvin Payne, Citizen, Alpine, said that for every 9 Republican voters in Utah, there are 6 non-Republican voters. He believes that means at least one representative in Congress should be a Democrat.

John Kennedy, Citizen, Alpine said he is strongly in favor of the initiative. He quoted a poll from the Hinckley Institute in October, 2025 that found less than 50 percent of Utahns are supportive of the Independent Redistricting Commission. He shared that \$2.8 million was spent in 2018 in favor of Prop 4 compared to \$0 in opposition, and it passed by only 7,000 votes.

Greg Ketch, Citizen, Alpine, said the Utah Constitution allows us the representation that we have, and initiatives bring outside money into the state to circumvent that process. He believes that "super-laws" passed by special interests take away from representative government.

Brady Banks, Citizen, Pleasant Grove, believes people should have better ideas to win votes instead of trying to win elections that they don't deserve to win. He believes the Legislature won't take no for an answer, and that while elections have consequences, so do court decisions.

John Johannesmeyer, Citizen, Pleasant Grove, said that it is gerrymandering when outside groups seek to destroy what we stand for. He believes we live in a republic and we can vote representatives out.

Carolyn Collette, Citizen, Springville, shared her opposition. She does not believe that Prop 4 is unconstitutional. She further expressed that we do not live in a constitutional republic but a democratic republic.

Josh Millburn, Citizen, Spanish Fork, believes that repealing Prop 4 would mean leaders pick voters, and wondered if the disenfranchised voters get to pay less in taxes because they have less representation.

Brian Barrett, Citizen, Highland, concurred with a previous comment that we live in a representative government and meant to choose our representatives, not the other way around. He strongly supports Proposition 4 and is completely opposed to the initiative.

Sophie Christensen, Citizen, Orem, stated that the Utah Legislature is 80 percent Republican but 40 percent of Utahns voted 40 for Kamala Harris. She believes the judges acted correctly to defend fair maps and that part of the checks of balances requires judges to interpret the Constitution. She is against the measure.

Chad Smith, Citizen, Draper, considers himself moderate with friends on all political sides. His friends in other countries cannot believe elected officials draw their own maps. He says we have a constitutional republic "if we can keep it." He pleads for moderation and transparency

Kristen Chevrier, Representative, Highland, shared that only 4 counties voted in favor of Prop 4 and wondered if it reflects the voice of the people. She stated that the Legislature is not allowed to use partisan data to draw maps and that they did not. She said she is in favor of the initiative.

Kay Johansen, Citizen, Lehi, said her opinion is that the only purpose of gerrymandering is to disenfranchise people. She says that Utah has integrity and standards, and that she doesn't want to be like Texas or California. She shared that President Reagan called gerrymandering an American scandal.

Helen Moser, Citizen, Salt Lake County, stated that political insiders are seeking to undermine the people's voice. She asked people not to sign the initiative to protect fair maps.

Morgan Heath, Citizen, Pleasant Grove, is in favor of the initiative. He quoted the Utah Constitution that the Legislature is responsible for redistricting. He does not believe the judge followed the intent of Prop 4.

Cristy Henshaw, Sponsor, Highland, says that things shouldn't be broken that aren't fully understood. She does not want Utah to be the place for initiative wars like California.

She believes that the members of the Independent Redistricting Commission had strong political leanings and were not independent.

Amy Smart, Citizen, American Fork, appreciated the opportunity for the constitutional right to share her opinion. She is against the initiative and concerned that this issue has become a partisan issue. She said that the Constitution also includes the judicial branch. She has seen campaign signs for multiple candidates in a single Millcreek neighborhood and doesn't believe that is fair representation.

Carlton Bowen, Citizen, American Fork, believes that all districts can be competitive with the right candidate. He believes Prop 4 was unconstitutional and that redistricting belongs to the Legislature. He also believes that the independent commission is not independent. He believes rural Utah is currently under-represented.

John Kennedy, Citizen, Alpine, spoke again in opposition to Proposition 4. He shared that Action Now donated \$1.2 million in 2018 in support of Prop 4 and wondered where the money came from. He believes that people opposed to the initiative who believe in the voice of the people should sign the initiative to put it on the ballot.

Wendy Hart, Citizen, Highland, is concerned that the judiciary has elevated citizen initiatives above the Legislature. As someone from California, she does not want to see that in Utah. As a citizen, she asked how she could appoint or unappoint a member of the Independent Commission.

Hyrum Forstrum, Citizen, Orem, believes that gerrymandering is poison to democracy and that he is against overturning Prop 4.

Thomas Collette, Citizen, Springville, said that you can look at a map and tell whether someone had an agenda while drawing it. He believes Map C was drawn unfairly based on looking at it. He mentioned that all of the public hearings were held outside the highest population areas.

Chriista Baxter, Citizen, Midvale, shared that members of the Independent Redistricting Commission are appointed by the Governor, legislative leaders and minority party leaders. She is frustrated that the people spoke in 2018 and that we are still delaying.

Riley Barnes, Citizen, Salt Lake, said she is against Proposition 4. She believes the Independent Redistricting Commission is not truly independent and only creates the appearance of fairness. Elected lawmakers should be directly responsible and

accountable to voters if done poorly. She said the Commission costs money and slows the process down.

Russ Rampton, Citizen, Provo, said that redistricting is complex and no map will ever make anyone happy. He said that Salt Lake County is so big that it would be split, and that rural Utah is too small to not be included in an urban district. After sharing the Prop 4 standards, he stated that the 2021 map was gerrymandered. He believes the people should have a role in determining proper standards to draw maps.

Josh Millburn, Citizen, Spanish Fork, spoke again and said that polls don't win elections in reference to a previous comment that mentioned a poll. He took issue with people saying 'If you don't like your representative, vote them out' when it has been stacked against them.

At this point, Mr. Axson noted that 60 minutes of public comment had taken place and that anyone in line to speak would be permitted to do so.

Chrissy Hanniman, Citizen, Alpine, said that in her experience committees and commissions provide expertise to elected bodies without delegating authority away from elected leaders. She believes good results come when the right people are appointed.

Following Ms. Hanniman's comment, Mr. Axson thanked her and Alpine City for allowing us to conduct this meeting in their City and at City Hall, as not all cities were inclined to do so.

Kim Sorrell, Citizen, South Jordan, expressed her opposition but shared that she is grateful for the meeting and that it was being conducted respectfully. She maintains her belief that the people have already spoken on this topic and Prop 4 should remain in place.

Karen Shrowyer, Citizen, Sandy, said she is opposed to the initiative and believes the people have spoken already and that Prop 4 should be allowed to be implemented to show that it can work.

Marvin Payne, Citizen, Alpine, remains opposed to the initiative and reiterated his prior arguments regarding the number of registered voters in each Party. He did recognize that he had previously been unaware of the constitutional requirement for the maps to be drawn by the Legislature but maintains that non-Republicans deserve a seat.

Carolyn Collette, Citizen, Springville, spoke again and said that the Constitution is not being broken or ignored no matter what supporters of this initiative may be claiming.

Following the final comment, Mr. Axson thanked everyone for coming and encouraged them to remain engaged in this effort regardless of their viewpoint. He directed them to visit [UFRG.org](http://UFRG.org) for more information and told people to get home safely.

The meeting ended at approximately 7:35pm following nearly an hour and 20 minutes of public comment.

# # #