

# BOARD OF DAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

## Board of Davis County Commissioners - Regular Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 27, 2026

The Board of Davis County Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting at 10:00 AM on January 27, 2026, in room 303 of the Davis County Administration Building, 61 South Main Street, Farmington, Utah. Required legal notice of this meeting was given.

All documents from this meeting are on file in the Davis County Clerk's Office. The agenda for this meeting is incorporated into the minutes as item headers.

Following the approved Davis County policy, artificial intelligence (AI) was utilized in the preliminary creation of these minutes. The final minutes were edited and completed by Davis County Clerk's Office staff.

### PRESENT

Davis County Commission Chair John Crofts  
Davis County Commission Vice Chair Bob Stevenson  
Davis County Commissioner Lorene Kamalu  
Clerk Brian McKenzie

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### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting convened at 10:00 AM, and Jen Garner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Nate Affleck**, of Syracuse, shared concerns regarding the 2024 election cycle and signature verification processes. He stated that 60 candidates submitted signature petitions to appear on the primary ballot, and 359,128 signatures were verified by county clerks across the state. Nate claimed that Diedre Henderson, Lieutenant Governor (Lt. Gov.) of Utah, entered into a contract with Brian McKenzie, Davis County's Clerk, for \$119,218.00 to process the packets for all federal, state, and multi-county candidates. Nate said that 86% of all signatures were processed by Clerk McKenzie, which Nate viewed as a dangerous consolidation of power. He cited three audits conducted on the Davis County Clerk's Office, claiming that the audits found that Utah's "illegitimate" Governor Spencer Cox did not meet the legal threshold for the Grand Old Party's (GOP) second primary ballot. He noted the last audit cost taxpayers \$344,597.00, and said the taxpayers cannot afford for Clerk McKenzie to process 86% of the signatures.

Nate alleged that on May 22, 2025, Clerk McKenzie lied to a government operations committee, claiming that his office verified the "flagged packets" sent to Lt. Gov. Henderson, whereas Nate asserted that Lt. Gov. Henderson verified her own flagged packets. Nate claimed Clerk McKenzie and his staff verified Governor Cox's signatures by March 19, 2025, but none had completed certification requirements until two days later. He stated that he has "every single receipt of the statements above" and offered to email them to those interested. Nate concluded by accusing Davis County of "darkness," "corruption," and "cover-ups," saying he is tired of it.

**Jennifer Garner**, of Layton City, thanked the Commissioners for their work but raised concerns about fiscal decisions and political rhetoric. She sympathized with the difficulty of saying no to funding requests but noted that COVID funding and extra property taxes made it hard to keep taxes low. She criticized the use of the term "extremist" during the campaign season. Citing an Obama-era executive order regarding federal seizure of resources, she argued that Utahns are culturally taught to be prepared (including keeping long-term food storage) and should not be labeled extremists for doing so. Jennifer expressed concern over the signature audits, saying it sends a message that the Commissioners don't care about fraud. She contended that accepting a 96% accuracy rate implies a 4% error rate, thereby casting doubt on the integrity of any election decided by a margin of less than 4%.

**Clerk McKenzie** requested the Commission Chair that he be given a chance to speak, which Commissioner Crofts allowed. Clerk McKenzie read the following statement:

"As we begin a new campaign season and anticipate many candidates utilizing the signature gathering process, I wanted to formally address the findings and recommendations presented in the various audits regarding the signature verification process for petitions. (Office of the Legislative Auditor General 2024-16, Office of the State Auditor September 3, 2024, and Office of the State Auditor June 18, 2025) While I am pleased that each audit found the work conducted by my office was completed with a high level of accuracy, I also recognize and acknowledge the challenges and errors identified during these audits. I view these reports not as a critique, but as a valuable tool for continuous improvement.

The integrity of our electoral process is paramount, and my office is deeply committed to ensuring that every aspect of petition signature verification is handled with the utmost accuracy, transparency, and security. Since the release of these audit reports, we have taken decisive and comprehensive action to address every single recommendation made.

These improvements are firmly rooted in the new requirements established by SB 164 (2025) and the recently updated administrative rules from the Lieutenant Governor's Office (R623-4, R623-11). The new law, administrative rules and our own internal policies focus on three primary areas for improvement:

1. **Transparency:** While watchers may have been permitted to observe some of the verification process previously this is now clearly established in statute, similar to the protocols established for poll watchers on Election Day. In addition, candidates, their representatives, political party chairs and vice chairs may now view complete, unredacted signature packets relevant to their race or party, respectively. Voters can now easily view a record indicating which petitions they have been given credit for signing. An electronic listing or report of signers is also available upon request by the general public. These efforts ensure all interested parties now have access to view the process, check the work, and verify participation.
2. **Audits and Quality Control:** We have instituted a new pre-certification internal audit structure to ensure consistent quality. Regular audits of all signature packets will be conducted before any candidate is officially certified as having met the required threshold. This new audit procedure will allow for the immediate identification of potential problems with verifiers, enabling timely additional training or necessary reassignments. Additionally, signature verification may now continue up to 110% of the threshold ensuring that additional signatures will be verified to compensate for any remaining error rate.
3. **Chain of Custody and Documentation:** To strengthen the security and reliability of the process, we have implemented stricter controls with new robust chain of custody procedures to meticulously track and secure petition packets throughout the entire verification process. This process includes new documentation required of the candidate, enhanced logs during the verification process and final logs documenting the completion of the process.

My office is unwavering in its commitment to providing the very best service and upholding the highest standards of election administration. I am confident that the statutory changes, administrative rule updates, and enhanced internal controls we have implemented have thoroughly addressed the legislative auditors' concerns. I welcome additional opportunities for Auditors to review the process during and following the 2026 petition cycle.

As we approach a new election year, the citizens of Utah, candidates, and members of the Utah Legislature can have full confidence in the quality, accuracy, and integrity of the petition verification work my staff and I will perform going forward. I stand ready to answer any further questions and provide additional details regarding our implemented improvements."

**Commissioner Crofts** noted that Clerk McKenzie exceeded the three minutes allotted to those making public comments, but shared his appreciation for those who spoke today.

## RECOGNITION, PRESENTATION, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 1 **#2026-103. Presentation of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to Davis County for Properties Owned by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources** - *recommended by John Crofts, Davis County Commission Chair, Commissioners' Office*

Commissioner Crofts invited Blair Stringham from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) to present a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) check in the amount of \$490.30. Blair acknowledged the amount is small but highlighted the value of DWR properties like Farmington Bay, which serves thousands of recreational users. He emphasized the DWR's desire to partner with the County for anything wildlife-related. He explained that since most of DWR's funding comes from license and permit sales from hunters and anglers, the properties are managed to provide great outdoor experiences for wildlife and recreationists. Blair handed the check with an attached cover letter to Clerk McKenzie.

Commissioner Kamalu called the land a "treasure," and thanked Blair for helping the County "keep it great." Commissioner Crofts thanked the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the support provided to the County.

## MEETING MINUTES

- 2 **#2026-115. Approval of the Regular Commission Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2026** - *recommended by John Crofts, Davis County Commission Chair, Commissioners' Office*

### VOTING:

**Motion to Approve Item 2:** John Crofts. Second: Lorene Kamalu. All present voted aye.

## BUSINESS/ACTION

## COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 3 **#2026-113. Approval of a Sponsorship Agreement with Sports Events & Tourism Association (ETA) for the Sports ETA Symposium** - *recommended by Kent Andersen, Director, Community & Economic Development - Tourism*

### Financial Information:

- Type: Payable
- Amount: \$16,000.00

### Terms:

- Beginning Date: 01/27/2026
- Ending Date: 07/01/2026

The Symposium will be held in Las Vegas on April 20–23 of this year, serving as preparation for the event coming to Salt Lake City the following year. It functions as "speed dating" for exploring event and tourism opportunities. Director Kent Andersen clarified that the dates provided cover the budget period, while the event itself is only those three days in April.

### VOTING:

**Motion to Approve Item 3:** Bob Stevenson. Second: Lorene Kamalu. All present voted aye.

## CONTROLLER'S OFFICE

- 4 **#2026-92. Approval of the 2026 Cooperative Agreement for Utah State University Extension Services - recommended by Scott Parke, County Controller, Controller's Office**

**Financial Information:**

- Type: Payable
- Amount: \$287,524.00

**Terms:**

- Beginning Date: 01/01/2026
- Ending Date: 12/31/2026

This contract supports 4-H, family consumer science, water quality, and horticulture programs, in addition to the operation and maintenance of the USU extension services. Controller Parke noted the cost remained the same as the prior year, despite usual inflation adjustments. Commissioner Crofts asked if the County is obligated to support these services, and Controller Parke answered that while the County has a long-term agreement in place, it could be adjusted if needed. Commissioner Crofts said that he has received both positive and negative feedback regarding the cooperative agreement.

Commissioner Kamalu encouraged people to watch the research regarding issues concerning air, water, and land. She mentioned that USU created an actual institute for air, water, and land. She said Davis County is fortunate enough to have a USU extension focused solely on the County.

**VOTING:**

**Motion to Approve Item 4:** Bob Stevenson. Second: Lorene Kamalu. Aye: Bob Stevenson, Lorene Kamalu. Abstain: John Crofts. Motion Passed.

## HEALTH

- 5 **#2026-110. Approval of Amendment #4 to Contract #2021-0603 with the Utah Department of Health & Human Services for Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention - recommended by Brian Hatch, Director, Health - Environmental**

**Financial Information:**

- Type: Receivable
- Amount: \$8,568.00

**Terms:**

- Beginning Date: 10/01/2025
- Ending Date: 09/29/2026

Director Hatch explained that the incoming funds support investigations and remediation when a child tests positive for lead poisoning.

**VOTING:**

**Motion to Approve Item 5:** John Crofts. Second: Lorene Kamalu. All present voted aye.

## CONSENT ITEMS

- 6 **#2026-87. Approval of a List of 24/7 SCRAM (Continuous Transdermal Alcohol Monitoring Program) Agreements with Davis County Sheriff's Office for December 2025 - recommended by Arnold Butcher, Chief Deputy, Sheriff's Office**

**Financial Information:**

- Type: Receivable
- Amount: See Additional Financial Information

**Terms:**

- Beginning Date: Upon Final Signature
- Ending Date: Until the Individual Is No Longer Under Court Order to Participate in the Program

- 7 **#2026-114. Approval of an Agreement with LivAssist, LLC, for In-Home Services for Elderly or Disabled Adults 18 Years or Older - recommended by Brian Hatch, Director, Health - Senior Services**

**Financial Information:**

- Type: Payable
- Amount: Varies, see Rate and Service Table

**Terms:**

- Beginning Date: 07/01/2025
- Ending Date: 06/30/2027

**VOTING:**

**Motion to Approve Items 6-7:** Bob Stevenson. Second: Lorene Kamalu. All present voted aye.

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**VOTING:**

**Motion to Recess to Board of Equalization:** Bob Stevenson. Second: Lorene Kamalu. All present voted aye.

**BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**

8 **#2026-4. Property Tax Register 01-27-2026** - recommended by Scott Parke, County Controller, Tax Administration

The Property Tax Register for 01/27/2026 was presented and contained the following: Controller's Adjustments consisting of Appeals reports and Corrections; Assessor's Adjustments consisting of Corrections. This record is maintained by the Davis County Controller as the Clerk of the Board of Equalization.

**VOTING:**

**Motion to Approve Item 8:** Lorene Kamalu. Second: Bob Stevenson. All present voted aye.

**VOTING:**

**Motion to Reconvene Commission Meeting:** Lorene Kamalu. Second: John Crofts. All present voted aye.

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**CLOSING REMARKS**

**Commissioner Kamalu** noted the start of the legislative session, highlighting its impact on stakeholders and residents. She emphasized the Commission's involvement through the Utah Association of Counties (UAC), on behalf of the government and the residents. She warned of "unfunded mandates" that impact local governments and stressed the importance of watching property tax legislation. She reminded the audience that in Utah, property tax is the specific revenue stream designated to fund local government services. She noted that colleagues are attending early morning meetings to participate in these discussions.

**Commissioner Crofts** concluded the meeting by thanking the community for their input and attendance, acknowledging the difficulty of attending meetings during work and school hours. He reiterated the Commission's desire to be available and responsive to the community. He specifically recognized the League of Women Voters for their faithful attendance at every meeting.

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**MEETING ADJOURNED**

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.

Minutes Prepared by:  
Solana Guest  
Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved on:  
02/10/2026



Brian McKenzie (Feb 11, 2026 17:17:47 MST)

Brian McKenzie  
Davis County Clerk



John Crofts (Feb 10, 2026 12:07:05 MST)

John V. Crofts  
Commission Chair

