

From: Sherrie Swensen
To: mithomas@utah.gov; [Justin Lee \(justinlee@utah.gov\)](mailto:JustinLee@utah.gov)
Cc: [Rozan Mitchell](#); [Pam Tueller](#); [Loretta Garcia](#); [Mark Pemberton](#); [Charlotte Kuhn](#); [Jenn Brereton](#); [Rashelle Hobbs](#)
Subject: FW: Salt Lake Conservation District
Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 12:55:24 PM
Attachments: [CDandElectionInformation2008.pdf](#)

Hi Mark,

Here is the information provided by Adam Miller.

Thanks,

Sherrie

From: Adam Miller
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 11:53 AM
To: Sherrie Swensen <[SSwensen@slco.org](mailto:sswensen@slco.org)>
Subject: Salt Lake Conservation District

Sherrie:

I found some information about the Salt Lake Conservation District. It is a limited purpose local entity created under chapter 17D-3 of the state code. It share a lot of the same characteristics as a local district. But they have their own election process that is run by the Dept. of Agriculture and Food.

As I glance over [chapter 17-3, part 3](#), I notice there are a lot of rules governing their elections. They're not totally consistent with the procedures we are used to in Title 20A. For instance, to vote in a conservation district election, a person must: a) be a registered voter residing in the district; OR b) own or operate private agricultural land in the district and request a ballot. See UTAH CODE ANN. § 17D-3-306 (2017).

So, if I live in Ohio and am registered to vote there, BUT I own a farm in Salt Lake County, then I can request a ballot and vote in the Salt Lake Conservation District's election.

That's just one example I quickly came across. Let me know if you'd like me to take a closer examination.

There is a [website](#) hosted by the State Dept. of Agriculture and Food. Attached is a .pdf from the site that gives a summary overview, including information about how they are currently running their elections.

Adam Miller
Deputy District Attorney

Conservation District and Election Information

A Utah conservation district (CD) is a subdivision of the state classified as a unique Limited Purpose Local Government Entity. Its purpose is to enhance and protect land, water and related natural resources mainly on Utah's private lands. A five-member board of elected citizens who are called CD Supervisors governs a CD. At least three of the five Supervisors must be private agricultural land operators. This board gives local direction, priority, and support to governmental (district, county, state, or federal) land, water and air conservation programs. CD board decisions are made in advertised meetings that are open to the public.

There are 38 Utah conservation districts covering all the land in the state except the Navajo Indian Reservation which has its own district managed from Arizona. See the accompanying Utah CD map for the names and locations of these districts. CDs are supported by and accountable to the Utah Conservation Commission (UCC) and Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF).

Conservation district Supervisors serve four year terms of office that start March 15 the year elected. Biennial elections are conducted for each CD by mail for three positions one year and for two positions two years later. Candidates for CD elections are chosen locally within the district by two methods: a nominating committee; or, by a citizen petition. The four member nominating committee includes a representative from the CD Board, the County Commission or Council, the USDA Farm Service Agency County Committee, and the County Agricultural Extension Agent or office manager. See the accompanying petition form for the upcoming election. Each candidate should have an understanding of the duties of the position and must submit a signed "Commitment To Serve" form, see this form and a CD Supervisor position description on this Website.

Conservation district elections are directed by the Utah Conservation Commission and carried out by the UDAF. Ballots are mailed to principal agricultural land managers listed with the UCC. Principal agricultural land managers are defined as person(s) who makes the final decisions on a farm or ranch operating unit. A farm/ranch unit is defined using criteria of the US Ag Census or Utah Green Belt law. A principal agricultural land manager may vote in any district in which he/she operates land.

Other Utah agricultural land owners not on the UCC voter list, including those who live in another state, may vote in a CD election by submitting a Ballot Request Form. Non Utah agricultural land managers may also vote as long as they are a resident of the CD and a registered voter. One may also register online to receive a ballot through this Website. A person must vote in one of two consecutive CD elections to remain on the UCC voter mailing list. Email or call the Commission Office for additional details on CDs or Supervisor elections.