

Sent: 2/12/2019 12:00:00 AM
From: Daniel McCay <McCay
To: "Josh Daniels"
Cc:
Bcc:
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Utah Co Elections

I'm working with the fiscal analysts. Apparently I was late in my request so I have to get special permission. I'll let you know what I find out.

From: Josh Daniels <JoshD@utahcounty.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 12:44 AM
To: Daniel McCay <DMcCay@le.utah.gov>
Subject: RFA: Utah Co Elections

Sen. McCay,

Here is a summary of the basic points we hope to make tomorrow (or whenever the committee hears this request):

Opening/Intro:

- Former Utah Co Commissioner, and former LG, and current Governor Gary Herbert was so disappointed at issues in Utah Co that he said our elections office was the "epicenter of dysfunction." He was not wrong. He knows our county well and knows elections well and his criticism is well-taken and accurate. We are committed to making significant changes; but, it will require a serious investment of resources to appropriately secure and protect the fundamental right of voters in our county.
- We are ashamed and embarrassed at the level of service in the last election that we provided and are committed to providing a complete 180 degree turnaround.

Operational/equipment challenges led to unreasonably long wait times:

- Nearly 200 voters checked in after midnight at various polling locations
- At 11 of our voting locations, votes were cast at or after 11pm (3 hours after polls closed)
- The last voter in the county checked in at 1:17am and likely didn't finish casting their ballot until well after 1:30am. That is 5.5 hrs AFTER polls closed at 8pm. (that means a voter could have nearly watched the movie *Titanic* TWICE in the time after polls closed before casting their ballot!-- they could watch a re-enactment of the greatest maritime disaster in history twice while experiencing first hand the greatest election disaster in Utah for themselves!)
- Lines throughout the day were consistently long, in excess of an hour.

Challenges due in part to growth:

- This is due in part to our high rate of growth.
- The last major investment in equipment was in 2005 when the state appropriated \$3,486,601 to replace the punchcard system with touchscreen voting machines. Those machines are now obsolete and the county is at a crossroads in moving to a new a system.
- On a per voter basis and after adjusting for inflation, in 2019 dollars an equivalent investment today would be \$6,108,228.16, we are asking for only half of that amount.
- Our needs cover advanced ballot scanning equipment and mail envelope and signature verification systems that ensure individuals have a private ballot in the vote-by-mail environment. The biggest concern we hear from people is related to their concerns with confidential votes in this environment. The right equipment can increase voter confidence. In addition to all the pieces required to conduct vote-by-mail, we still need to ensure that we serve the handicapped according to federal requirements. This dual system requires a significant investment in equipment to avoid the problems we experienced in 2018.
- Now is the time to ensure we are prepared for growth. According to Census data and research by the Kem C. Gardner institute on demographics and growth in Utah, Utah County's growth will outpace Salt Lake County until the populations of the two counties will converge in size.
- Utah Co is now nearly twice the size of the next largest county (Davis) and is more than half the size of Salt Lake County.
- In each of the last 5 years, the total population increase in Utah Co has been greater than the total population increase in Salt Lake County and more than double the annual population increase of the third highest county, Davis.
- 1 in 4 new jobs created in the state are in Utah Co.
- With election day voter registration laws now in effect, the thousands of new move-ins to our state, who are increasingly choosing to live in Utah Co, are coming to the polls to both register and vote on the same day. This burdens our vote centers more than previously expected and requires us to be prepared to serve people both on election day and through the mail-in ballot process.

Closing:

- Despite these challenges and the fact that many, many voters reported leaving the polls opting out of voting due to long lines, there is reason to be heartened. Despite our failure, our citizens stood up to cover what little slack they could. Many have reported acts of kindness and civic encouragement where people brought food, pizza, water, and candy for their neighbors waiting in long lines and people allowing mothers and handicapped individuals to cut in at the front of long lines. Patience among voters was admirable.
- However, many voters with parenting responsibilities were likely disenfranchised by this operational failure on our part. As we commemorate the 149th anniversary of Women's suffrage THIS VERY WEEK (Valentine's Day), let us do what is necessary to ensure that the promises made of suffrage a century and half ago are still meaningful to Utahn's today.

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X-Priority : Normal
TO : "Josh Daniels"
From : "Daniel McCay"
CKX-Bounce-Address : McCay
Subject : RE: Utah Co Elections

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TO: Josh Daniels <JoshD@utahcounty.gov>
From: "Daniel McCay" <McCay>
CKX-Bounce-Address: McCay
Subject: RE: Utah Co Elections