



SECURING UTAH'S ELECTIONS



VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration is the gateway through which citizens pass in order to participate in elections. Utah uses a statewide voter registration database that is maintained by the Lt. Governor. Voter rolls are rigorously maintained throughout the year to ensure that the list is accurate and up to date.



VOTING EQUIPMENT, BALLOT SCANNERS, AND TABULATION

Utah uses equipment that is certified by the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC). Equipment that is used to scan ballots or tabulate votes has never been connected to the Internet and never will be. Any updates that are made to this equipment must be certified by the EAC and manually updated on the equipment.



BALLOT PROCESSING

Ballots received by the County Clerks are carefully accounted for and processed. A direct chain of custody is maintained throughout the process and ballots are never handled by any one individual.



VOTER RESPONSIBILITY

Elections in Utah are transparent and secure. You can participate in elections by registering to vote and then keeping your registration up to date. Reach out to your County Clerk to learn more about how to be involved and have confidence that your ballot is counted correctly.



UTAH ELECTIONS RISK VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM

EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

During registration, voters must provide a driver's license or the last four numbers of their social security number. Clerks verify these numbers with the driver's license database. Voters must have a valid Utah driver's license in order to register online. The voter registration system searches statewide to identify possible duplicates. This search is performed weekly and before ballots are mailed.

EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

County Clerks staff verify the age of each voter at the time of registration. Voters under 18 can pre-register to vote, but they are not mailed a ballot nor allowed to vote until then.

Before voters are registered, County Clerks validate the driver's license number or the last four of the social security number. Voters also sign an affidavit certifying their age and citizenship. There are severe penalties for non-citizens who try to vote or register to vote, including permanent inability to gain citizenship.

EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

Voter records are automatically updated when a voter obtains or renews their driver's license or when they change their driver's license address. Election offices use the National Change of Address database to identify voters who have moved. They inactivate voters who have not updated their address or who had mail returned as undeliverable. Inactive voters are notified that they must verify or update their address before receiving a ballot. Ballots are mailed only to active voters.



EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

The Office of Vital Records and Statistics sends counties a weekly update and deceased are removed from the rolls. If a ballot was mailed out before the voter passed away, that ballot is deactivated so that it cannot be voted.

EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

Clerks validate every voter's address through a mapping service and assign a voting precinct. Entire precincts can be plotted out on a map to identify outliers or voters who are in the wrong precinct.

SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS: The Lt. Governor should create an audit policy and regularly audit random voter registration records each month according to the established policy. The Lt. Governor will then provide a report to the clerk of any exceptions or corrections.

The clerk should amend the state audit report for the canvass to include a statement certifying the voter rolls were properly maintained according to the law, administrative rules, and county procedures since the last election.



UTAH ELECTIONS RISK

BALLOT SECURITY AND PROCESSING

EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

Every by-mail ballot Envelope is assigned a unique control number (barcode) that is associated with a voter. When a by-mail ballot Envelope is received, the scanner reads that barcode and matches it to the assigned voter to verify that they have not already voted.

EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

Ballots are addressed to a specific voter and contain an affidavit that, unless it is signed, the vote will not count.

Signature training is required for each election worker and developed in conjunction with handwriting experts and law enforcement. The signature on each envelope is reviewed up to three times and matched against known signatures from the voter. Each voter record contains up to five signatures.

If a signature is challenged (signature doesn't match, unsigned, etc.), the voter will be sent notification and an affidavit for correction. The affidavit requires a driver's license number or the last four digits of the social security number and a signature for the ballot to be counted.

Before certifying the election, Clerks conduct a public audit of a random sample of one percent of all signatures.

EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

Ballot processing occurs in a public area under the care of at least two trained election workers that have sworn an oath.

SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS: Counties must create documented policies demonstrating strong controls to govern ballot processing, including protecting a voter's right to a secret ballot, ensuring that voters can cast only one ballot, and ensuring integrity of the ballot chain of custody throughout each step of ballot processing.



EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

Ballot secrecy is a Utah Constitutional right. Ballots remain sealed in their envelope until elections office staff review the signature and remove all personally-identifiable information. After this process, the individual ballot cannot be traced back to the voter, thus protecting a voter's right to a secret ballot.

EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

Envelopes contain an intelligent scannable mail barcode that allows for tracking.

Voters can sign up for informed delivery, which sends an email each morning with scanned images of their mail. Voters may return their ballot by mail or at a secure ballot dropbox. Voters can check the status of their ballot at any time by going to vote.utah.gov.

EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

Ballots received in the elections office are logged in and assigned to batches. The ballots are accounted for and reconciled throughout the process to ensure that no ballots are removed or added at any time. A video of the process can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/utvbm>



UTAH ELECTIONS RISK

VOTING EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS

EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

Before any vote tabulation, each piece of election equipment is thoroughly tested internally and in a publicly noticed Logic and Accuracy Test.

A test deck, or pre-voted set of test ballots, is created with marks for each candidate. The equipment processes and tabulates these test ballots. County Clerks then compare the predetermined results with the tabulated results to ensure perfect accuracy.

EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

County Clerk process the ballots using a minimum of two trained election workers who have sworn an oath to process the ballots with integrity. Ballot processing is always done within view of the public, with strict controls and audits throughout the process. Results are never compiled or viewed until after the polls close on election night.

SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS: County Clerks notify the Lieutenant Governor of the public demonstration and post-election audit. The Lieutenant Governor shall attend without notice a number of these events to provide an independent review of the processes.



EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

Equipment that counts votes is NEVER connected to the Internet.

County Clerks detect and prevent unauthorized access of scanners used at polling places with multiple digital and physical security layers, including tamper-evident election seals and human observation.

Only trained and authorized personnel have physical access to voting equipment.

EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

Before the certification of an election, in a public meeting, clerk staff conduct an audit of a random sample of all ballots cast. During the audit, they manually review and compare the audited ballots to the system-tabulated record to ensure the accuracy of the equipment. The audit results are public records reported to the Board of Canvassers and the Lieutenant Governor.



UTAH ELECTIONS RISK VOTER RESPONSIBILITY

EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

Update your voter registration every time you move or get a new post office box.

Check your registration status about two months before each election by visiting www.vote.utah.gov.

EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

Before any votes are counted, each piece of election equipment is tested internally and in a public "logic and accuracy" test. A logic and accuracy test verifies that the equipment is configured to accurately count each ballot. Candidates and political parties may certify individuals to act as poll watchers to observe ballot processing and tabulation.

After each election a public audit is conducted on a sample of all ballots cast. The ballots are selected at random by the Lt. Governor's Office and are manually reviewed to ensure the equipment counted the votes correctly.

EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

Go to the source. Go to your County Clerk's website and www.vote.utah.gov for information. Only verified social media accounts should be trusted to provide accurate information. If you are in doubt, contact your county clerk directly.



EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

Ballots are mailed to each active voter and should arrive about two weeks before each election. If you have not received a ballot, contact your elections office to check the status of your ballot and let you know if there is a problem.

EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

Carefully mark your ballot: Follow the instructions on your ballot and carefully fill in each oval with black pen.

Sign your envelope: Verify that the envelope you are signing has your name on it because each envelope is unique for each voter. Take the time to sign your name carefully because your signature is used to verify that you cast your own ballot.

Pay attention to deadlines: Make sure you return your ballot on time.

EXISTING SAFEGUARDS

You can check the status of your ballot at www.vote.utah.gov. Starting in 2022 you can sign up to receive text, email, and phone call notifications of when your ballot is mailed, received, and counted.

SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS: Contact your elections office to take a tour and learn how elections are run in your county. Get to know your county clerk and the team that administers your elections.