



Salt Lake City

Vote by Mail Q & A

Q: Why has Salt Lake City been conducting elections by mail?

A: Salt Lake City held its first Vote by Mail Election in 2015, resulting in the highest voter participation in Salt Lake City history. Conducting an election by mail ensures that registered voters are aware of the election and have an opportunity to participate. Salt Lake City encourages voter participation, a Vote by Mail election is one way to increase voter turnout. Salt Lake County has reported that electronic voting machines are starting to fail and are beyond their functional use; this could lead to longer lines at polling locations and voter frustration. In an effort to protect the citizens' constitutional right to vote, the Vote by Mail system is being chosen across the state.

Q: What are the benefits of casting a ballot by mail?

A: Voting by mail serves residents who are temporarily out of the State or Country, are homebound, or have trouble getting to the polls due to work schedules, childcare, or long commutes. It also allows residents to study the ballot at their leisure and avoid a long line during Election Day.

Q: What is the difference between an absentee ballot and a Vote by Mail Ballot?

A: Nothing, they are the same.

Q: How do I know if I am registered to vote?

A: If you are not sure if you are currently registered to vote, please call the Salt Lake County Election Division at (385) 468-8683 or visit [check your registration status](#) on the Salt Lake County Website.

Q: Who will receive a ballot in the mail?

A: A ballot will be mailed to every active voter. An active voter is a voter that has voted at least once in the past four years. If you have not voted in the past four years, you are considered an inactive voter and will receive a postcard in the mail verifying your address. Once address verification has been received, you will be mailed a ballot. Please call the Salt Lake County Election Division at (385) 468-8683 to update your address via telephone. You will be asked to provide proper identifying information.

Q: What if my address has changed since the last Election Cycle?

A: For voters that are believed to have moved, a postcard will be mailed to confirm their address. Upon receiving an updated address, a ballot will be mailed. Ballots will not be forwarded. If the county receives a ballot back with a forwarding address within Salt Lake County, they will spoil the returned ballot, update the address and send a new ballot for the new precinct. You can also call the Salt Lake County Election Division at (385) 468-8683 and update your address via telephone by providing proper identifying information. All mailings, along with the official ballot, will have an official "Election Mail" Logo:



Q: How do I return my ballot?

A: Your ballot will include a postage paid return envelope. All ballots returned through the mail must be postmarked no later than the day before Election Day.

Q: Will there be ballot drop-box locations?

A: Yes. There will be ballot drop-box locations at The Salt Lake County Government Center, 2001 South State Street, Suite S1-200; The Salt Lake City Main Library, 210 East 400 South (near the book drop-boxes; The River's Bend Senior Center, 1300 West 300 North; and at designated Vote Centers (locations to be determined).

Q: What if I change my mind and decide to vote at a Vote Center on Election Day?

A: That's fine. Ideally, you need to bring in your unused ballot and surrender it to a poll worker. If you lose your ballot or forget to bring it with you, you will still be able to vote provisionally. Once the election staff determines that your paper ballot was not cast, your provisional ballot will be counted.

Q: Can I still vote on Election Day if I haven't registered to vote by the deadlines?

A: Yes! You can still vote on Election Day if you have not registered to vote prior to any of the deadlines. You will need to go to a Vote Center, present proof of residency and ID, you will then be issued a provisional ballot. *Note: This change in the voter registration requirement is because Salt Lake City is participating in a pilot project for Election Day Voter Registration, which was passed by the Legislature in 2014.*

Q: How can I know that my ballot is really secret? Isn't there a possibility that someone from the Elections Office could look and see how I voted?

A: Every paper ballot is treated with great care. Once the voted ballot arrives at Salt Lake County it is stored in a locked location. At no time is the ballot handled by a single person, there is always a second set of eyes to ensure proper processing. Ballots remain in the envelope through this entire process, not visible to the elections staff. Ballot extraction is done by machine, once the ballot has been removed from the envelope there is no way of knowing who the ballot came from.