



Dear Fellow Utahan,

The direct primary approach as proposed by the count my vote initiative is not in the best interest of citizens in Utah or to the State of Utah as a whole for several reasons. We all want to see more voter participation but this has troublesome elements for the entire State but particularly for the rural counties of the State and if implemented would render rural Utah voters irrelevant.

The wake of unintended consequences of this proposed fundamental transformation in Utah politics is not a rosy picture. I strongly encourage my fellow citizens NOT to sign the petition by "Count My Vote". This initiative will consolidate political power into the hands of few and will be detrimental to Utah. It will close and lock the door to average citizens having access to our representatives and will hand the keys to lobbyists, political consultants, expensive media and well funded special interests. It will undercut citizen's voice in Utah politics and channel Washington politics into Utah for the benefit of a few.

**THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE MYTHS PROMOTED BY "COUNT MY VOTE"**

**1. THE CAUCUS CONVENTION METHOD IS ANTIQUATED AND SHOULD BE REPLACED.**

It is ingenious not antiquated as declared by the Count My Vote coalition. The process retains political power in the hands of citizens. It does have room to utilize technological advancements to increase ease of access to all voters and to be clear currently all voters have the right to participate. With that said, improvements have been made and are welcome but not at the price of undermining the integrity of the process.

**2. LOW VOTER PARTICIPATION IS THE RESULT OF THE CURRENT NOMINATING PROCESS AND THE DIRECT PRIMARY WILL IMPROVE IT.**

The argument by Count my Vote to give Utah a California like approach to nominations through direct primaries, in the name of lack of voter turnout is preposterous. This argument holds no muster. To begin with for the past several caucus conventions attendance has skyrocketed. This is a great direction. And simply put Utah's nominating system is designed to keep our voice heard and make our voice count!

**3. VOTERS BALLOTS DO NOT COUNT.**

The entire context of this initiative is misleading. The campaign is designed to lead you to believe that your vote doesn't count. On the contrary, the fact is no legal voter is restricted in Utah. The current nominating process actually empowers citizens throughout the State to self organize and maintain influence in Utah politics without exorbitant spending.

This is the best managed state for many reasons. One of them is the fact elected representatives are accountable to citizens and delegates are charged to keep that accountability. Direct primaries will eliminate face to face encounters of candidates with delegates and rely on expensive methods to campaign.

Delegates are elected by their neighbors to serve as a hiring panel in order to narrow the field of candidates at a convention where a nominee is selected or suggested nominees move to a primary for the respective party. The interviewing of candidates is a vital service delegates perform at no cost for the benefit of the State and must not be lost to a radical knee jerk reaction by a dissatisfied, well funded vocal political movement. As a citizen I would much rather trust a delegation of citizens whose general interest in nominating, at least in Utah, is a love of freedom, limited government, fiscal responsibility and the protection of their individual rights. Contrast this to leaving it to a direct primary where the first step in nominating often commences behind closed doors by special interests willing to spend whatever it takes to get their candidate through.

I have visited with both sides of the issues and respect many on both sides. However, this is so fundamental to whom the candidates are ultimately accountable to that I felt compelled to speak up. Thank you for taking time to read through this and remember that currently your vote does count in the outcome of Utah elections.