

CITY OF OREM
VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET



2022 GENERAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Prepared by:
JoD'Ann Bates, MMC
City Recorder

**CITY OF OREM
CITY RECORDER
56 North State Street
Orem, UT 84057**

October 2022

City of Orem Resident:

On November 8, 2022, City of Orem voters will have the opportunity to vote on a ballot proposition. This pamphlet contains arguments “For” and “Against” the proposition.

The proposition will appear on the General Election ballot, which will be conducted as Vote by Mail by the Utah County Election Office. On Election Day the Vote Centers will be open from 7:00 am – 8:00 pm, for voters who did not receive a ballot, misplaced their ballot, need the amenities of the electronic voting machines, or want to vote in person. Voters may vote at any one of the Vote Centers within Utah County.

The pamphlet also contains information regarding registering to vote, Vote By Mail procedures, along with dates and times for In-Office, Early Voting, and Election Day Vote Centers.

Please take the opportunity to study this pamphlet, so that when you cast your vote you will be able to make a sound, intelligent and informed choice on your decision.

Sincerely,



JoD'Ann Bates, MMC
City Recorder

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THE CITY OF OREM

I, JoD’Ann Bates, City Recorder of the City of Orem, Utah, do hereby certify that the foregoing measure contained in this pamphlet will be submitted to the voters of the City of Orem at the election to be held throughout the City of Orem on November 8, 2022, and the foregoing pamphlet is complete and correct according to law.

In testimony whereof, I have set my hand, and affixed the Seal of the City of Orem, this 28thth day of September 2022.

JoD'Ann Bates



BALLOT TITLE
CITY OF OREM, UTAH
November 8, 2022

PROPOSITION #2

On August 2, 2022, the Orem City Council passed Resolution No. R-2022-0013 requesting the Initiation of the Process to create a new school district with boundaries contiguous with the boundaries of the City of Orem and requesting that a measure to create said new school district be placed on the November 8, 2022 ballot for voter approval.

Shall a new Orem school district be created with boundaries contiguous with (the same as) the boundaries of the city of Orem?

YES

NO

THE OFFICIAL TEXT OF RESOLUTION R-2022-0013

**A RESOLUTION OF THE OREM CITY COUNCIL REQUESTING THE
INITIATION OF THE PROCESS TO CREATE A NEW SCHOOL DISTRICT
WITH BOUNDARIES CONTIGUOUS WITH THE BOUNDARIES OF THE
CITY OF OREM AND REQUESTING THAT A MEASURE TO CREATE
SAID NEW SCHOOL DISTRICT BE PLACED ON THE NOVEMBER 8,
2022 BALLOT FOR VOTER APPROVAL**

WHEREAS the City of Orem, Utah, is a city with a population of at least 50,000; and

WHEREAS the City of Orem is currently a part of the Alpine School District; and

WHEREAS pursuant to Utah Code Section 53G-3-301(1), a new school district may be created from one or more existing school districts; and

WHEREAS pursuant to Utah Code Section 53G-3-301(2)(c), the process to create a new school district may be initiated at the request of a city within the boundaries of an existing school district; and

WHEREAS on July 12, 2022, a comprehensive feasibility study required under Utah Code Section 53G-3-302(1) was completed and presented to the City Council of the City of Orem; and

WHEREAS the feasibility study determined that the creation of a new school district with boundaries contiguous with the boundaries of the City of Orem is feasible; and

WHEREAS the boundaries of the proposed new school district would be contiguous with (the same as) the boundaries of the City of Orem; and

WHEREAS the student population of the proposed new Orem school district would be more than 3,000 students and the student population of the existing Alpine School District would be more than 3,000 students after the creation of the proposed new Orem school district; and

WHEREAS the Orem City Council, having complied with the requirements of Utah law, and having considered the feasibility study, now desires to request the initiation of the process to create a new school district with boundaries contiguous with the boundaries of the City of Orem and to request that a measure to create said new school district be placed on the November 8, 2022 ballot for voter approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OREM, UTAH, as follows:

1. That the City Council of the City of Orem hereby requests, pursuant to Utah Code Sections 53G-3-301 and 53G-3-302, the initiation of the process to create a new school district with boundaries contiguous with (the same as) the boundaries of the City of Orem and that a measure to create said new school district be placed on the November 8, 2022, ballot for voter approval by the legal voters residing within the proposed new school district boundaries in accordance with Utah Code Section 53G-3-301(9)(a).

2. That this Resolution requesting the initiation of the process to create a new school district be filed with the Utah County Clerk in accordance with Utah Code Section 53G-3-301((3)(b).

3. That the following City Councilmembers are hereby designated as sponsors of this request in accordance with Utah Code Section 53G-3-301(3)(b)(iv):

David A. Young, 173 Countryside Lane, Orem Utah, 84058 - 801-600-0429

LaNae Millett, 288 West 1500 North, Orem Utah, 84057 - 801-836-8733

Terry Peterson, 1125 Lynnwood Dr., Orem Utah, 84097 - 801-916-0812

Dave Spencer, 899 North 550 East, Orem Utah 84097 - 801-319-0217

4. That David A. Young, 173 Countryside Lane, Orem Utah, 84058 - 801-600-0429 is hereby designated as the contact sponsor of this request pursuant to Utah Code Section 53G-

3-301(3)(b)(iv).

5. That the Mayor and City Manager are hereby authorized to sign and file such other documents as may be necessary or helpful to meet all legal requirements related to this request or to carry out the intent and will of the City Council as manifested by this Resolution.

6. That the City Manager and other appropriate City staff members are hereby authorized and directed to take such other actions required by Utah law, including the sending of required notices to the residents of Orem, to ensure that a measure to create a new school district as described in this Resolution is placed on the November 8, 2022, ballot for voter approval.

7. That the ballot question to be placed on the ballot be as follows:

Shall a new Orem school district be created with boundaries contiguous with (the same as) the boundaries of the City of Orem?

8. If any part of this Resolution is found to be illegal or invalid, such finding shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Resolution.

9. If this Resolution is found to be in conflict with any other resolution or policy of the City of Orem, the provisions of this Resolution shall control and supersede any other such conflicting provisions.

10. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 2nd day of August, 2022.

COUNCILMEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
David A. Young	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeff Lambson	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Debby Lauret	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Macdonald	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
LaNae Millett	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Terry Peterson	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
David Spencer	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**THE ARGUMENTS FOR OR AGAINST THE PROPOSED MEASURE
ARE THE OPINIONS OF THE AUTHORS:**

ARGUMENT “FOR” PROPOSITION #2:

Creating a new school district is a decision that takes time and thorough study.

And that’s exactly what has happened here in Orem. As a member of the school district board said, splitting from Alpine School District is “inevitable,” and several studies have deemed the split feasible as far back as 2004.

Now it’s up to voters to decide whether the inevitable is now.

We believe we can’t wait any longer. We care about and want the very best for our students, teachers, and taxpayers.

Test scores are dropping. Our schools continue to age and are not seismically safe, and Orem is sending tens of millions of taxpayer dollars out of our city’s borders to build amazing schools in other cities while ours need replacement.

Orem is paying an unfair share of Alpine School District’s budget while getting little in return. While Orem currently makes up 17% of the students in the Alpine School District, it contributes to 21.7% of the district’s budget.

From 2002 to 2021, Orem taxpayers contributed \$765 million to Alpine School District in property taxes, with \$428 million allocated to the general fund to pay for school operations, and \$337 million used to build new schools and pay off bond debt. Orem schools only received \$163 million in bond allocations for capital improvements.

In the last 20 years, approximately \$175 million of Orem taxes subsidized the building of schools outside of Orem. It's time that Orem students and teachers get the benefit of the tax dollars provided by Orem residents, instead of building new schools in other cities.

Alpine has been gambling with the lives of Orem's children. They continue to build new schools in other cities while ignoring the seismic issues in Orem.

The district has known about these significant safety issues since a 2006 ASD seismic study, yet never publicly disclosed these issues to the residents. Some improvements have been made since then, but Orem has the largest amount (40%, 12 schools) of the seismically challenged schools district-wide, with no public plans to address these issues.

As Alpine continues to grow, test scores are declining. Class size has a direct impact on learning, and teachers are juggling more than 30 students per classroom in Alpine School District, compared to 17 per classroom nationally. Studies show teachers and students excel in smaller classroom sizes.

If Orem creates a new school district, local representatives will be able to decide if the new district should have smaller class sizes, safer schools, higher teacher salaries and, enhanced specialty programs. These decisions will have a positive impact on overall student performance and graduation rates. National research finds that smaller districts are more effective, and several cities in Utah including Provo have proved to better serve the needs of students in their own communities.

Orem students can no longer afford to wait for smaller class sizes, seismically safe schools, and better local representation. Bigger isn't better. The time to split is now.

Vote yes on Proposition 2.

SPONSORS "FOR"

David A. Young, Orem Mayor
Terry Peterson, Orem City Council
LaNae Millett, Orem City Council
Dave Spencer, Orem City Council



ARGUMENT "AGAINST" PROPOSITION #2:

Orem students, teachers, and residents are far better served staying in Alpine School District. The idea to create an Orem-only district has been studied previously and deemed too expensive, with too many disadvantages. Contrary to the claims of the flawed DEC feasibility study, that continues to be true in these economically uncertain times.

Because of low enrollments and a high-needs demographic, the daily operations cost of Orem schools is very high. As part of Alpine School District, these costs are shared across many cities. An Orem-only district

would have a smaller tax base, meaning we would have the same needs, but less money to address them. Because Alpine currently subsidizes Orem schools with \$21 million annually, Orem taxes would need to increase by at least 50% to fund our schools at the current level. This does not include startup costs, inflation adjustments, or expenses of higher teacher salaries, smaller classes, and better buildings.

An Orem-only district will needlessly disrupt our students, displace teachers, and greatly reduce programs. Complicated boundaries with neighboring cities will disrupt families and schools. For example, Aspen, Orem Junior, Mountain View High, and Timpanogos High serve hundreds of students from Vineyard and Lindon. Boundary changes and enrollment adjustments at one school would create a domino effect on neighboring schools.

Orem teachers are among the most experienced district-wide. Ninety percent of teachers oppose an Orem-only district and 84% say they would try to leave Orem schools to stay with Alpine. Additionally, over 90% of surveyed PTA members oppose Proposition 2.

It takes years to build programs for special needs, gifted, career and technical education, dual language immersion, and English language learners. All of these would be disrupted and possibly removed. Orem would no longer have access to Polaris, ATEC, and Dan Peterson schools, or the unique programs at Clear Creek Camp and the Christa McAuliffe Space Center, nor is funding for replacing them accounted for in the feasibility study.

Alpine has aggressively invested in new buildings and improvements for Orem schools, with recent rebuilds of Cascade Elementary, Centennial Elementary, and Orem High. Only two seismically-unfit schools remain, but additional needs will gradually arise, leaving Orem to shoulder the costs alone.

Some approach this decision as an experiment. Unfortunately, if Orem votes to become a single-city district, the process would likely be irreversible. Like other single-city districts, Orem City would find itself trying to handle huge problems—alone. There is no guarantee of other cities joining Orem in the future. No other Utah city has ever chosen to break off to become a single-city district. And, despite attempts to do so, no single-city district in Utah has ever succeeded in joining with a neighboring district.

We are not opposed to a future, multi-city district split that is conducted in a rational, fiscally responsible way with Alpine School District. But an Orem-only district is the wrong answer. It's too expensive, too risky, and involves too many unknowns. It jeopardizes the education of our children.

Vote NO on Proposition 2.

SPONSORS “AGAINST”

Cissy Rasmussen, Founder of Stronger Together

Aerwyn Whitlock, Founder of Stronger Together

Dom "Mr. Rep" Replogle, Orem Teacher

Tom Macdonald, Orem City Council

Val Hale, former Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Economic Development, President of Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce, UVU Vice President and BYU Athletic Director.

**THE REBUTTALS FOR OR AGAINST THE PROPOSED MEASURE
ARE THE OPINIONS OF THE AUTHORS:**

REBUTTAL FOR PROPOSITION #2:

Misinformation and pure nonsense are running rampant in the Orem/Alpine School District split issue.

The bottom line is taxes DO NOT need to go up in a new Orem school district. In fact, the district would have a \$10,000,000 annual surplus because of Alpine's recent tax increase.

Orem schools aren't seismically safe, and Alpine still isn't doing anything about it. This year's \$595 million bond does nothing to address the three Orem schools FEMA listed as having "significant seismic issues" in 2006. Sharon Elementary, Windsor Elementary and Orem Junior High are ticking time bombs, and Alpine School District is gambling with student's lives.

The studies show that over the past 20 years Orem taxpayers have paid \$174 million dollars MORE into Alpine School District, than they have received back. These funds should have been used to build and repair our children's schools.

Now Alpine wants to double our debt with a \$595 million bond this November. If this passes, Orem taxpayers will be on the hook to pay an additional \$120 million dollars while receiving back only \$20 million dollars.

Lindon and Vineyard have the same problem. Now, thanks to new legislation, they can join us in creating a smaller district and better education for students.

Nothing will change from how Orem has been treated in the past. It is only projected to get worse.

Accurate information can be found at www.oremsfuture.com and www.oremcity schooldistrict.com.

It is time for Orem to create its own school district.

SPONSORS "FOR"

Mayor David A. Young

Terry Peterson, Orem City Council

LaNae Millett, Orem City Council

Dave Spencer, Orem City Council

REBUTTAL AGAINST PROPOSITION #2:

Most people have confidence in their schools and Alpine School District. They are confused by this sudden, unexpected plan to create an Orem-only district. There was very little public input and zero collaboration with anyone currently involved in schools. Proposition 2 was pushed by a few city council members (who don't have children in schools anymore).

We urge you to listen to our teachers. They know our children and the unique needs of Orem's classrooms. The majority of teachers, volunteers, and parents who are in our schools every day strongly oppose an Orem-only district. They understand the essential resources and programs that enrich Orem schools. They have benefitted from the rebuilds and updates of their school buildings. They know that leaving a strong, well-funded district would hurt our kids and teachers.

A plan may be called "feasible", but that does not make it sensible, beneficial, or affordable. We don't want the bare minimum of "technically possible". Our children deserve a school district that is thriving, stable, and fiscally responsible. As part of Alpine School District, Orem schools already meet these objectives.

Orem contributes to schools in other cities, just as those cities contribute to Orem. We are a stronger community together. Small school districts can make it work...but at what cost? Compare to Provo School District: They have fewer schools, far fewer programs, lower teacher compensation...and HIGHER property taxes. That is not what we want.

Why would we pay more to get less? Vote NO on Proposition 2.

<https://www.strongertogether.education>

SPONSORS "AGAINST"

Cissy Rasmussen, founder of Stronger Together

Aerwyn Whitlock, founder of Stronger Together

Dom "Mr. Rep" Replogle, Orem teacher

Tom Macdonald, Orem City Council Member

Val Hale, former Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Economic Development, President of Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce, UVU Vice President and BYU Athletic Director.



VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

There are several ways you can register to vote and you can select any one method that works for you.

- Online Registration: You can register to vote online simply by going to the Utah State Election webpage <https://secure.utah.gov/voterreg/index.html> and completing the online form. In order to register online, you must have a current

Utah Driver's License or ID card. If you are registering online, you must submit your registration no later than 5:00 pm at least 11 days prior to an election to be eligible to vote in that election.

- By-Mail Registration: You may use a by-mail voter registration form that can be found on the same webpage as above. If you are registering to vote using a by-mail voter registration form, you must mail your completed registration form to the address on the form at least 30 days before the election to be eligible to vote in that election.
- In-person Registration: You may register in person at the Utah County Election Division, 100 East Center, Room 3600, Provo, Utah. The office is open weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is closed on weekends and legal holidays. You must register in person no later than 5:00 pm at least 11 days prior to an election to be eligible to vote in that election.

VOTE BY MAIL, EARLY VOTING, ELECTION DAY VOTING

Vote By Mail

Utah County Elections are conducted as Vote By Mail, and the following applies:

- Ballots will be mailed to all active voters the week of October 17, 2022
- Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than **the day before Election day, Monday November 7th**
- Ballots may be dropped off anytime in the 2 Ballot Drop Boxes located on the north and south of the City Center located at 56 North State Street, Orem until close of elections being 8:00 pm on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.
- Ballots may also be returned on Election Day to Vote Centers and Drop Boxes
- You can track your returned ballot online to ensure that it was received at www.vote.utah.gov

Photo ID is required to vote In-Office, Early Voting, or at a Vote Center.

Early Voting

All eligible voters may vote early at the Utah County Elections Division Office. Early voting will take place between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm on the following dates:

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

Thursday, November 3, 2022

Friday, November 4, 2022 and

Monday November 7, 2022.

In order to be eligible to vote at an early vote location, voters must be registered to vote at least 11 days prior to Election Day and provide photo identification.

Election Day Voting

If you have not submitted your Vote-by-Mail Ballot, and need to vote on Election Day, you will need to go to an Election Day Vote Center.

ELECTION DAY VOTE CENTERS – 7 AM – 8 PM

- **Center Point Church – 1550 Sandhill Rd., Orem**
- American Fork Library – 64 South 100 East, American Fork
- Lehi Public Safety Building – 128 North 100 East, Lehi
- Utah County Health and Justice Building – 151 South University Ave., Room 1600, Provo
- Spanish Fork Senior Center – 167 West Center St., Spanish Fork
- Mount Saratoga State Center – 612 West Pony Express Parkway, Saratoga Springs

Election information can be found at the following links:

<https://vote.utah.gov/>

<https://www.utahcounty.gov/Dept/ClerkAud/Elections/index.html>



VOTE

