

Orem City Council votes to allow residents to decide whether to form school district

**** Press Release ****

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The Orem City Council voted tonight to let residents decide whether the city should form its own school district and split from the largest district in the state.

Orem leaders commissioned a Comprehensive Feasibility Study in February 2022, and the results of that study were presented to the Council on July 12. Tonight's 4-3 vote comes after three public meetings where the public received answers to questions about whether a new school district would be feasible.

"With my vote I'm going to vote for the people of Orem, and most importantly allow them the freedom to decide what's best for their children and grandchildren," Mayor David Young said.

The issue will now be on the November ballot.

"The future of our schools is too important to be decided by seven members of the City Council," Council Member LaNae Millet said.

The issue of splitting Alpine School District has been considered for nearly two decades. Utah County Commissioners declined to put a potential new district for Lehi, Saratoga Springs and Eagle Mountain on the ballot in 2004. Then in 2006 Orem residents filed a petition to the Orem City Council requesting to split from the Alpine School District. After a feasibility study, the Orem City Council voted against putting the issue on the ballot.

Fast forward to 2022, when the Orem City Council commissioned a Comprehensive Feasibility Study to determine if Orem should create its own school district. The study is available at <https://orem.org/schooldistrictstudy/>.