

**COUNTY RESPONSIBILITY FOR VOTING
PRECINCTS AND POLLING PLACES**

2003 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Ron Bigelow

This act modifies statutes governing common polling places by eliminating the requirement that voting precincts must be in the same legislative districts in order to be combined.

This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

AMENDS:

20A-5-303, as last amended by Chapter 225, Laws of Utah 2002

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **20A-5-303** is amended to read:

20A-5-303. Establishing, dividing, abolishing, and changing voting precincts -- Common polling places -- Combined voting precincts -- Counties.

(1) (a) The county legislative body may establish, divide, abolish, and change voting precincts.

(b) Within 30 days after the establishment, division, abolition, or change of a voting precinct under this section, the county legislative body shall file with the Automated Geographic Reference Center, created under Section 63A-6-202, a notice describing the action taken and specifying the resulting boundaries of each voting precinct affected by the action.

(2) (a) The county legislative body shall alter or divide voting precincts so that each voting precinct contains not more than 1,000 active voters.

(b) The county legislative body shall:

(i) identify those precincts that may reach 1,000 active voters or become too large to facilitate the election process; and

(ii) divide those precincts before February 1.

(3) The county legislative body may not:

(a) establish or abolish any voting precinct after February 1, of a regular general

election year; or

(b) alter or change the boundaries of any voting precinct after February 1, of a regular general election year.

(4) For the purpose of balloting on regular primary or regular general election day, the county legislative body may establish a common polling place for two or more whole voting precincts according to the following requirements:

(a) the total population of the voters authorized to vote at the common polling place may not exceed 3,000 active voters; and

~~[(b) the voting precincts voting at the common polling place shall all lie within the same legislative district; and]~~

~~[(c)]~~ (b) the voting precincts voting at, and the location of, the common polling place shall be designated at least 90 days before the election.

(5) In addition to the authorizations contained in Subsection (4), in regular primary elections only, the county legislative body may combine voting precincts and use one set of election judges for the combined precincts if the ballots for each of the combined precincts are identical.