County Classifications

Research Overview

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH AND GENERAL COUNSEL

Political Subdivisions Interim Committee

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Classification System

Population-based policy issues

- Composition of the economy

- Revenue generated by a population's tax base

- Local government services and regulations

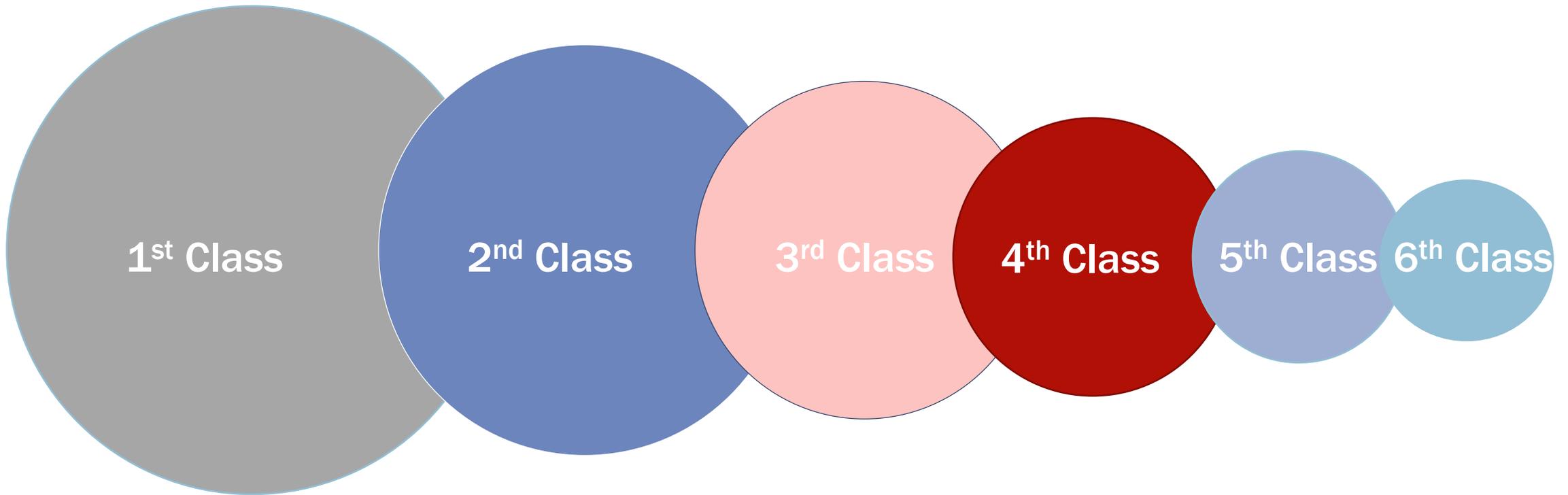# Classification System

Largest → Smallest

1st Class 2nd Class 3rd Class 4th Class 5th Class 6th Class

Changes Likely Coming

County	2016	Class		County	2018	Class		County	2021	Class
Current Classifications				**Most Recent Census Estimates**				**Kem C. Gardner Projections**		
Salt Lake County	1,121,354	1		Salt Lake County	1,152,633	1		Salt Lake County	1,198,374	1
Utah County	592,299	2		Utah County	622,213	2		Utah County	697,248	2
Davis County	342,281	2		Davis County	351,713	2		Davis County	369,757	2
Weber County	247,560	2		Weber County	256,359	2		Weber County	271,129	2
Washington County	160,245	2		Washington County	171,700	2		Washington County	193,437	2
Cache County	**122,753**	**3**	→	**Cache County**	**127,068**	**2**		Cache County	136,132	2
Tooele County	64,833	3		Tooele County	69,907	3		Tooele County	76,418	3
Box Elder County	53,139	3		Box Elder County	54,950	3		Box Elder County	58,292	3
Iron County	49,937	3		Iron County	52,775	3		Iron County	56,119	3
Summit County	40,307	3		Summit County	41,933	3		Summit County	43,553	3
Uintah County	36,373	3		Uintah County	35,438	3		Uintah County	40,320	3
Wasatch County	**30,528**	**4**	→	**Wasatch County**	**33,240**	**3**		Wasatch County	37,061	3
Sanpete County	29,409	4		**Sanpete County**	**30,623**	**4**	→	**Sanpete County**	**31,781**	**3**
Sevier County	21,267	4		Sevier County	21,539	4		Sevier County	23,430	4
Carbon County	20,399	4		Carbon County	20,269	4		Carbon County	23,162	4
Duchesne County	20,337	4		Duchesne County	19,964	4		Duchesne County	23,044	4
San Juan County	16,895	4		San Juan County	15,449	4		San Juan County	17,305	4
Millard County	12,694	4		Millard County	13,006	4		Juab County	13,978	4
Morgan County	11,437	4		Morgan County	12,045	4		Millard County	13,914	4
Juab County	11,010	4		Juab County	11,555	4		Morgan County	13,906	4
Emery County	10,216	5		**Emery County**	**10,014**	**5**	→	**Emery County**	**11,206**	**4**
Grand County	9,579	5		Grand County	9,764	5		Grand County	10,697	5
Kane County	7,334	5		Kane County	7,709	5		Kane County	8,291	5
Beaver County	6,463	5		Beaver County	6,580	5		Beaver County	7,152	5
Garfield County	4,986	5		Garfield County	5,080	5		Garfield County	5,593	5
Wayne County	2,702	6		Wayne County	2,690	6		Wayne County	2,861	6
Rich County	2,319	6		Rich County	2,464	6		Rich County	2,472	6
Piute County	1,466	6		Piute County	1,445	6		Piute County	1,657	6
Daggett County	1,095	6		Daggett County	980	6		Daggett County	1,179	6

Differences Among Classes

- 1st class counties have more unique provisions than any other county classification

- 3rd class counties share some provisions with 1st and 2nd class counties, but share more with $4^{th} - 6^{th}$

General Trends in Statute

- **Regulate processes or establish standards**

- **Authorize, prioritize, or target the distribution of certain public funds**

- **Ensure diverse representation on governing boards, or public outreach**

Policy Considerations

- Adjust population thresholds for all current classifications

- Create new classifications

- Broaden thresholds to generally distinguish between rural/non-rural or large/medium/small counties

Questions?

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