

**OFFICIAL BALLOT – PROPOSITION 4**

Shall a law be enacted to:

- create a seven-member commission to recommend redistricting plans to the Legislature that divide the state into Congressional, legislative, and state school board districts;
- provide for appointments to that commission: one by the Governor, three by legislative majority party leaders, and three by legislative minority party leaders;
- provide qualifications for commission members, including limitations on their political activity;
- require the Legislature to enact or reject a commission-recommended plan; and
- establish requirements for redistricting plans and authorize lawsuits to block implementation of a redistricting plan enacted by the Legislature those requirements?

**Initial Fiscal Impact Estimate:**

The Governor's Office of Management and Budget estimates that the law proposed by this initiative would result in a total fiscal expense of approximately \$1 million. In addition, the cost of posting information regarding the initiative in Utah's statewide newspapers and for printing the additional pages in the voter information packet is estimated at \$30,000 in one-time funds.

○ FOR

○ AGAINST

**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR VOTE "YES" ON PROPOSITION 4**

Voters should choose their representatives, not vice versa. Yet under current law, Utah politicians can choose their voters. Legislators draw their own legislative districts with minimal transparency, oversight, or checks on inherent conflicts of interest. As a result, politicians wield unbridled power to design districts to ensure their own re-election. This is called "gerrymandering." Gerrymandering is not new. But in recent years it has gotten out of control. Sophisticated computer modeling allows incumbents to craft districts with a precision the framers of the Utah Constitution could not have foreseen. Incumbents of both parties do this, with the result that Utah is divided into districts that empower politicians, not voters. For example, Holladay City is splintered into four State House districts, two State Senate districts and two Congressional districts. Who benefits from this? Holladay voters don't, but politicians do. Incumbents in safe districts are less responsive to voters and more responsive to special interests. In short, gerrymandering makes representative democracy less representative. To be fair, we can't expect legislators to fix the system. It benefits them. We the People must fix it. Proposition 4 returns power to the voters and puts people first in our political system. It does this by enacting the Utah Independent Redistricting Commission and Standards Act. The Act addresses the problem of gerrymandering in two ways. First, it creates a seven-member Independent Redistricting Commission. The Governor and Legislative leaders appoint the Commissioners, at least two of whom must be politically unaffiliated. To promote impartiality, lobbyists, current and recently retired elected officials, political party leaders, and government appointees may not serve as Commissioners. With citizen input, the Commission draws proposed district boundaries for Utah's congressional, legislative, and State school board districts. It then submits these electoral maps to the Legislature as required by the Utah Constitution. The Legislature can enact or reject the Commission's proposed maps. If it rejects them, it must explain why to the citizens. Second, the Act requires that, in drawing districts, the Commission and the Legislature abide by common-sense redistricting standards to the greatest extent practicable. These standards include:

- Adhering to the U.S. and Utah Constitutions and other applicable law
- Preserving equal populations among districts
- Keeping municipalities and counties together
- Creating districts that are compact and contiguous
- Respecting traditional neighborhoods and communities of interest
- Following geographic features and natural barriers Most importantly, the Act forbids drawing districts to unduly favor or disfavor any incumbent, candidate, or political party. And it allows Utah voters to challenge a map enacted by the Legislature that violates these standards. By placing common-sense limits on politicians' power to design their districts, Proposition 4 will ensure that our representative government serves people, not politicians. It will make the redistricting process more transparent, increase voter participation, and make the politicians we elect more responsive and accountable to the people who elect them. In short, it will ensure that Utah voters have a government of the People, by the People, and for the People.

Utahans for Responsive Government/Better Boundaries  
 2630 East Stringham Avenue Apt 310A  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84109 Jeff Wright (R) Co-Chair, Better Boundaries 2743 Meadowcreek Park City, UT 84060 Ralph Becker (D) Co-Chair, Better Boundaries 5 South 500 West #102 Salt Lake City, UT 84102

**REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR PROPOSITION NUMBER 4**

Utah Voter Information Pamphlet 78 This is precisely what is happening in and around Salt Lake City. Due to their significantly slower population growth rates, district boundaries around Salt Lake City must expand to gain population while the surrounding districts shrink to average out. Despite being their last strong-hold in the state, it is inevitable that these current growth patterns will continue to water-down Democrat representation. Faced with this fact, proponents of Proposition 4 are desperately trying to maintain and even increase their representation by creating an overwhelmingly Democrat district insulated from the rest of the state. Appropriately named by its Salt Lake City Democrat supporters, the "Better Boundaries Initiative," begs the question: better boundaries for whom? Themselves. Conclusion Make no mistake about it, the backers of this initiative are not seeking to create a transparent, fair, and constitutionally sound redistricting process – we already have that. They are seeking to unconstitutionally pack what is now a competitive congressional district with Democrat voters to create a single, safe, and solidly Democrat congressional district for themselves. Do not be fooled.

Vote against Proposition 4.  
 Senator Ralph Okerlund Utah State Senate 248 S 500 W Monroe, UT 84754

**FISCAL IMPACT ESTIMATE** The Governor's Office of Management and Budget estimates that the law proposed by this initiative would result in a total fiscal expense of approximately \$1 million. In addition, the cost of posting information regarding the initiative in Utah's statewide newspapers and for printing the additional pages in the voter information packet is estimated at \$30,000 in one-time funds.

**ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 4**

Proposition 4 is a cleverly disguised partisan plan to stifle the voice of the people of Utah as represented by the Legislature and unconstitutionally create an overwhelmingly Democrat congressional district around Salt Lake City. Violates the Constitution Inspired by the framers of our United States Constitution, the founders of Utah divided governmental power into three separate branches of government – the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial. The founders thought it was important to grant the legislature the exclusive authority over the redistricting process. Proposition 4 blatantly violates the Utah Constitution by creating a redistricting commission and granting that commission and the Utah Supreme Court a role in the redistricting process. If we, as citizens of Utah, wish to grant this legislative authority to other branches of government, we must do it through a constitutional amendment not an initiative petition. The Perfect Legal Storm Over the past few redistricting cycles there have been hundreds of redistricting lawsuits in at least 40 states. In that time, not a single successful case has been brought against Utah due to our transparent, fair, and strictly constitutional redistricting process. Proposition 4 deliberately imposes vague and conflicting redistricting requirements, it leaves multiple key terms undefined, and it grants any person or business with a Utah address the right to legally challenge redistricting plans. These provisions reveal the obvious underlying goal of this initiative is to create a perfect legal storm for lengthy lawsuits that result in the courts unconstitutionally redrawing district boundaries. Better Boundaries for Whom? District boundaries are redrawn by the legislature every ten years following the census to ensure that every district is represented by the same number of people. Because Utah's population is growing – the growth in each district must be averaged out. This means slower growing districts must have boundaries that expand, while the surrounding faster growing districts must have boundaries that shrink.

**REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST**

Utah voters should not be surprised that the statement against Proposition 4 comes from a politician. Politicians are the only folks that benefit from gerrymandering. The current system presents a clear conflict of interest. The opposition statement is also misleading; let's focus on the facts. First, Proposition 4 is a bi-partisan effort, led by members of both major parties. Over 190,000 Utahns from all across the State signed the petition, and polling shows that a majority of Utahns support it. Second, Utahns overwhelmingly support Proposition 4 because it creates a transparent process. It favors no party or outcome. It merely creates sensible rules so that no one can rig the system. Third, the State Constitution does not say our Legislature has "exclusive" authority to draw electoral maps. Proposition 4 is carefully designed to operate within the framework established by the Utah and U.S. Constitutions. Fourth, the speculation that this Proposition will encourage litigation is misleading. Proposition 4 enacts common-sense redistricting standards. A map that respects those standards is unlikely to provoke baseless litigation, especially since the initiative also contains provisions to discourage frivolous lawsuits. The fight against gerrymandering is about patriotism, not party. Ronald Reagan called gerrymandering an "un-American practice" contrary to "American values of fair play and decency." That's why 18 other states have adopted some form of an independent redistricting commission. We need to end gerrymandering here in Utah once and for all. Don't be distracted by misleading statements and scare tactics. Vote for Proposition 4. Jeff Wright and Ralph Becker Co-Chairs, Better Boundaries

Item	Amount	Notes/Comments/Details
Budget	1,000,000.00	
Expenses	480,475.00	
Income	519,525.00	
Net	519,525.00	
Capital Amount	0.00	
Capital Amount	0.00	
Estimate 30 units and applicable software	15,000.00	* 15 attendees per meeting; 500 pages per meeting
ARC Cost Proj/City Sale	15,000.00	
Total Expenditures	495,475.00	
Personal Forecast	150,000.00	
Total Expenditures	775,475.00	
Total Expenditures	775,475.00	



# Proposed Law

## OFFICIAL BALLOT – PROPOSITION 4

### Voter Instructions:

Refer to the ballot insert included with your by mail ballot for more information on the proposition(s).

**Shall a law be enacted to create a seven-member commission to recommend redistricting plans to the Legislature that divides the state into districts for elections?**

FOR

AGAINST

## OFFICIAL INSERT - INFORMATION FOR PROPOSITION 4

**Shall a law be enacted to create a seven-member commission to recommend redistricting plans to the Legislature that divides the state into districts for elections?**

### IMPARTIAL SUMMARY

Utah is divided into different types of districts for electing offices. Federal law requires that each person’s voting power be the same. Each type of district is required to have roughly equal population as each district of that type. Every 10 years, the federal government’s Census counts the population. Population shifts over time, resulting in unequal populations within districts. Following each census, the Legislature redefines the boundaries of those districts to redistribute population equally. Proposition 4 seeks to impose requirements on this redistricting process, creating standards and a commission to make recommendations to the Legislature.

### Initial Fiscal Impact Estimate:

The Governor's Office estimates that the enactment of this initiative would result in a total fiscal expense of approximately \$1 million. In addition, the cost of providing related information is estimated at \$30,000 in one-time funds.

To support this proposition, mark “For” to oppose, mark “Against” in the ovals on the ballot.

For more information about Proposition 4, including arguments for and against, visit [www.vote.utah.gov/prop4](http://www.vote.utah.gov/prop4)

# VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET - Additional Information about Proposition 4

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR VOTE “YES” ON PROPOSITION 4

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Item	Amount	Notes/Comments/Details
Budget	1,000,000.00	Forecast
1,000,000.00		Need to determine if forecast is accurate
400,000.00		
1,000,000.00		
300,000.00		Capitol Amount
600,000.00		Capitol Amount
1,000,000.00		15 attendees per meeting: 500 people x 20 meetings
1,000,000.00		Estimate 30 units and applicable software
1,000,000.00		AAC 001 Proj/City Sale
1,000,000.00		
1,000,000.00		
1,000,000.00		Personnel Forecast
1,000,000.00		
1,000,000.00		Total Expenditures
1,000,000.00		

