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 would 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 believe their districts play to their advantage, or they could not win. As a result, districts are designed in such a way as to ensure their own re-election. If this initiative does nothing else, it would do one thing: With this Utah initiative, voters choose their representatives, not the other way around. 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. Without their influence, the Commissioners draw proposed districts for Utah's congressional, legislative, and State school board districts. They submit these electoral maps to the Legislature as required by the Utah Constitution. The Legislature can enact or reject the Commissioners' proposed maps. If it rejects them, it must explain why to the citizens. The Commissioners are elected by the people. The Commissioners are elected by the people. The Commissioners' maps are reviewed by the Legislature. If the Legislature does not approve the Commissioners' maps, the Commissioners adopt new maps. This ensures a level playing field for all political parties. The Governor and Legislative leaders appoint the Commissioners, at least four 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. Without their influence, the Commissioners draw proposed districts for Utah’s congressional, legislative, and State school board districts. They submit these electoral maps to the Legislature as required by the Utah Constitution. The Legislature can enact or reject the Commissioners' proposed maps. If it rejects them, it must explain why to the citizens. The Commissioners are elected by the people. The Commissioners are elected by the people. The Commissioners' maps are reviewed by the Legislature. If the Legislature does not approve the Commissioners' maps, the Commissioners adopt new maps. This ensures a level playing field for all political parties.

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. The Constitution is informed 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 Constitution is informed 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 decades, redistricting has become a curse rather than a blessing. The Governor's Office of Management and Budget projects that the process of redistricting will cost 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.

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.

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.
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?

OFFICIAL INSERT - INFORMATION FOR PROPOSITION 4

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 redraws 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
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