

BETTER  
BOUNDARIES

# Agenda

1. Redistricting and Better Boundaries
2. How to collect signatures
3. Packet check out





# What is Better Boundaries?

Non-partisan coalition of people committed to improving our redistricting system through a citizen ballot initiative

**Voters should choose  
their politicians;  
politicians shouldn't  
choose their voters.**

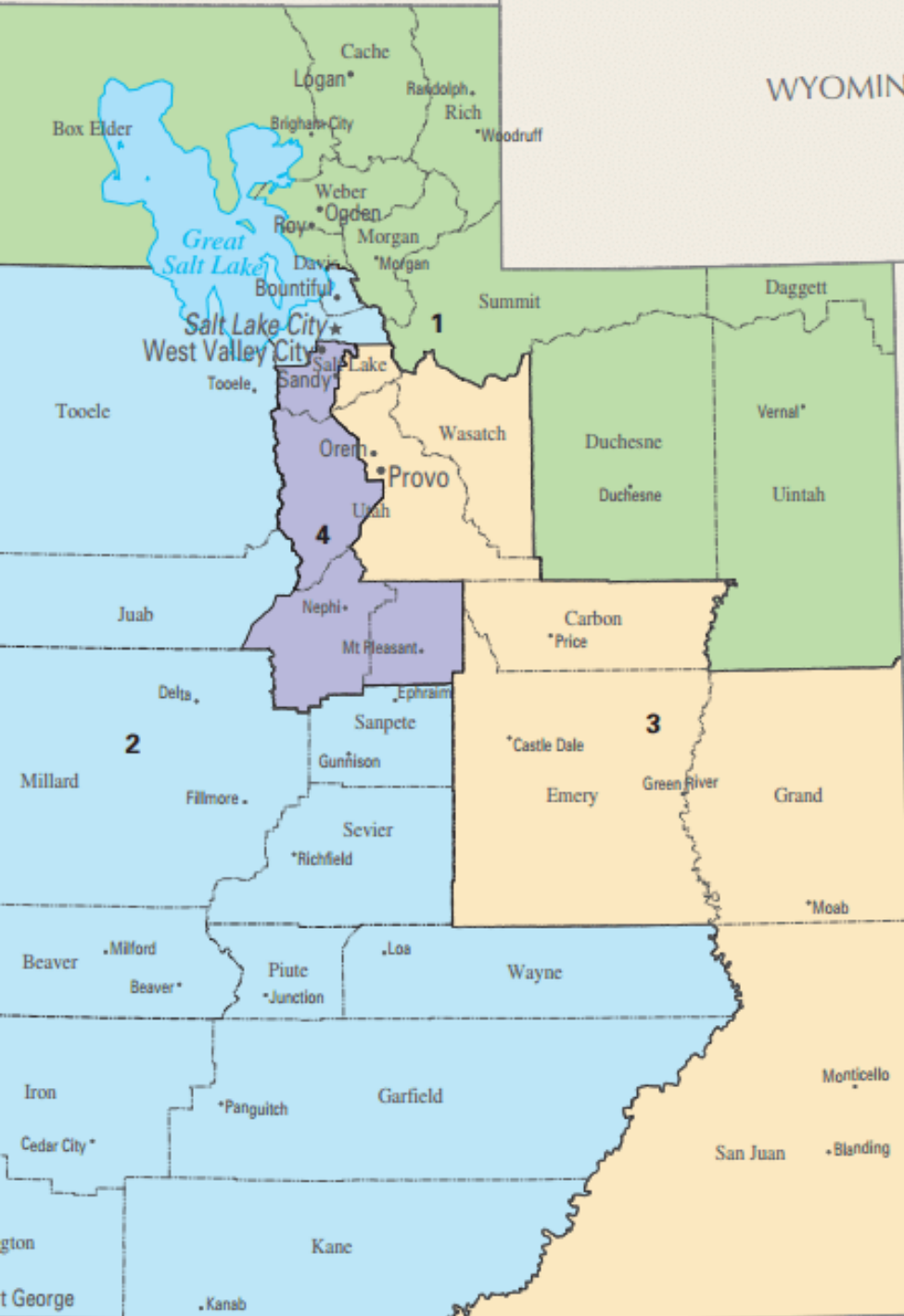
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# Redistricting

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- Conducted every ten years following the official census.
- Purpose: To redraw political boundaries to align with population shifts.
- Ensure that the “principle of one person one vote” is honored.



# Gerrymandering in Utah

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- Gerrymandering occurs when politicians manipulate the process for their own personal gain.
- Since 2011, 59 out of 271 (or roughly 22%) of state legislative races have gone uncontested.
- **15** cities are split into two or more congressional districts, resulting in a dilution of the voting power of those communities.
- The best way to stop gerrymandering is to reduce the ability to do so.



# Key Aspects of Initiative

## Commission

- Group of citizens – selected by the Governor & maj & min leadership.
- Super majority to pass a map.
- No lobbyists, candidates etc.
- Commission recommends map. Legislature has an up/down vote & must publicly defend.

## The “Rules”

- City & county boundaries intact, contiguity, communities of interest, etc.
- Prohibition against using partisan political data or incumbent addresses.

## Talking points

- Commission will help ensure that lawmakers are accountable to their constituents & will lead to better representation for **all Utahns**.
- Better Boundaries is a non-partisan coalition made up of people of all political persuasions - who see rational districts as important to Utah's future.
- Just signing the petition does not mean you are voting for it - this just helps get this issue on the ballot so people can vote on it in 2018.



# Requirements for Ballot Access

01

113,143 valid signatures.

02

10% of most recent presidential vote statewide (by senate district)

03

Obtained by April 15, 2018.

# Collecting Signatures

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# Rules

## Who can collect signatures?

- 18 years old
- Utah resident

## Who can sign the initiative?

- 18 years old
- Registered Utah Voter

## What makes a signature valid?

- The name, address and signature exactly match the voter registration
- Age/birthday is a back-up for verification if there is a problem with the address

# Legal Reminders

- You may NOT bribe or promise anything of value to someone for the purpose of them signing the petition (this includes joking).
- You may NOT tamper with the petition.
- You may NOT forge a signature.

A signer may not sign for another person.

Only one person can collect signatures in a packet and must sign the affidavit that you have **witnessed** each signature.

**Legal Penalties for these types of infractions include misdemeanors and felonies (with possible fines and jail time).**

# Reminders

Write legibly

Address must match voter registration address.  
Check [vote.utah.gov](http://vote.utah.gov)

Fill out every column completely. Even though age/birthday is optional, it's very important for verification

- City and zip code
- 'First Line Rule'

Don't let people use ditto (""") marks



# Reminders

Don't write in your packet. You can't sign your own packet.

Don't be afraid to correct someone, have them sign on a new line.

If the packet is coming apart or damaged, let us know and get a new packet. Do not continue to gather signatures in a damaged packet.

If you have a packet that is NOT Salt Lake County, signers must be from that county. (Questions at packet checkout)

# Important Information

## Contact information

Jackie: 801-413-4832 or [jackie@betterboundaries.org](mailto:jackie@betterboundaries.org)

## Packet drop off (Mail slot)

1435 S State Street, Salt Lake City Utah

# **Packet checkout**