

WENDY DOWNS
CITY RECORDERKURT BRADBURN
MAYORMATTHEW HUISH
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER

MEMORANDUM

To: City Council
From: Wendy Downs, City Recorder
Date: 10/9/20

Re: Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

Sandy City contracts with Sherrie Swensen and Salt Lake County Elections to manage our municipal elections. We have had nothing but great experiences with them throughout the many years. My main concern with RCV is the possibility of not being able to contract with Salt Lake County. I spoke with Sherrie Swensen regarding the equipment needed for Ranked Choice Voting. Currently, the equipment they have could not accommodate Ranked Choice Voting.

She informed me that the County will be getting new voting equipment at the beginning of the year, if their budget is approved. The new equipment would be able to accommodate RCV ballot layout and tabulation but they would not be able to test the functionality of the equipment until it is received. Because of this, Sherrie Swenson said she could not commit to offering RCV as contract option yet. She is not certain when they would be able to make that decision, or how long it would take for their IT manager to thoroughly review and test the equipment.

For the 2019 municipal election, two cities used ranked choice voting, Payson and Vineyard, both in Utah County. Pam Spencer, Vineyard City Recorder, and Kim Holindrake, Payson City Recorder, had positive experiences with the RCV process.

- Both contracted with Utah County
- Both worked closely with the Lt. Governor's office and Utah Ranked Choice Voting with positive experiences
- Lt. Governor's office hired a marketing firm to create mailers, flyers, videos, signage, and a website to help get RCV information to residents
- Both had booths in their city's celebrations to get more information to residents and answer questions
- Payson saved money by not having to hold a primary election
- RCV created a later declaration date, creating a shorter election cycle.
- Both held trainings on how RCV worked for staff and residents and received positive feedback
- It created a slight increase in work and time for the Recorders – preparing for elections and holding trainings and demonstrations

I hope this helps when it comes time to explore the RCV process further.