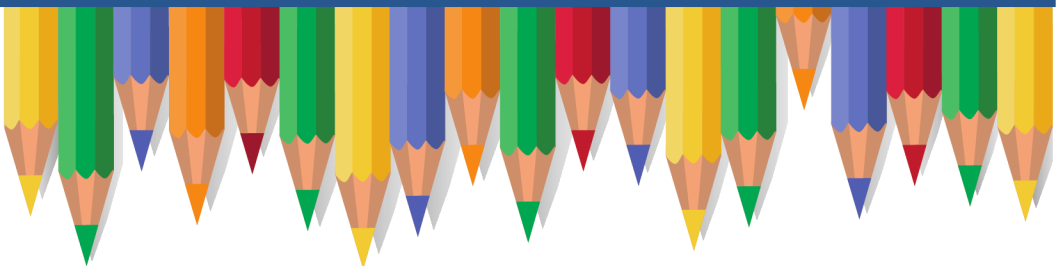


# Voter Information Pamphlet

General Election  
November 5, 2024

## Proposition #14



# Creation of a New School District



SARATOGA  
SPRINGS

*Life's just better here*



Est. 1852

Fairfield Town  
Utah County, Utah



19 **EAGLE** 96  
MOUNTAIN  
UTAH

# Proposition #14

## CREATION OF A NEW SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION

NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Shall a new school district be created from portions of the existing Alpine School District that would include the entire boundaries of the cities of Cedar Fort, Eagle Mountain, Fairfield, and Saratoga Springs, and certain portions of unincorporated Utah County that are currently in the west portion of Alpine School District?

YES

NO

THE ARGUMENTS FOR OR AGAINST A BALLOT PROPOSITION ARE THE OPINIONS OF THE AUTHORS.

## ARGUMENT FOR PROPOSITION 14

Proposition 14 offers residents of Saratoga Springs, Eagle Mountain, Cedar Fort, and Fairfield the opportunity to create a new school district, which provides the following benefits:

1. **Local Control and Fair Representation** - The schools in our four communities are overcrowded and underfunded. With only 2 (of 7) board members representing us, the Alpine School District is dominated by board members representing the long-established and well-served communities on the east side. A new district guarantees better representation, allowing local leaders to make choices that directly benefit our students. Vote YES to ensure that decisions about our schools are made by representatives of our four communities.

2. **Keep Taxes Local and Retaining Surplus Funds** - Vote YES to keep our tax dollars in our schools instead of subsidizing eastside schools. - The fiscal future of a westside school district is bright. A LRB Public Finance study shows that population growth and property tax valuation growth for westside cities outpaces the rest of Alpine School District. This means that economic growth will support our current and future needs. Alpine School District's own study, by MGT Consulting, shows that a westside school district would begin with a \$27 million annual surplus. Forming our own district ensures these funds stay in our communities, enhancing our schools, programs, teachers, and infrastructure.

3. **Retain Title I Funds** - Currently, all Title I money, which supports schools with students from low income households, serves schools in Orem, Pleasant Grove, and American Fork. Vote YES to ensure that all Title I funds available to westside schools stay here, providing essential resources to support our students and our schools.

4. **Address Overcrowded Schools and Build Needed Facilities** - Westside cities' rapid population growth, combined with board decisions that favor keeping less populated schools open on the east side, has led to overcrowded and underserved westside schools. Vote YES to prioritize and build the schools we need, ensuring our students have access to modern, well-equipped facilities, more education programs, and quality teachers.

5. **Smaller Administration, Tailored Solutions, and Quality Education** - We must manage our rapid growth, improve educational outcomes, and ensure that our schools meet the unique needs of our communities. We must hire and retain the best teachers. Vote YES for a new, smaller, more focused district that can address our local issues and the specific challenges we face in our westside communities. Vote YES for a school district that attracts and supports great teachers.

**Summary** - Proposition 14 is unanimously supported by all city council members, mayors, state senators and representatives, and the two school board members who represent communities in the proposed new school district.

Vote YES for more local control, fairer representation, and better educational facilities, opportunities, and outcomes for our children. A vote for Proposition 14 keeps our local, state, and federal tax dollars in our communities, ensures our schools are managed efficiently, and gives our students the resources, teachers, and support they need.

Signed,

Chris Carn, Saratoga Springs Resident

191 E Cameron Dr, Saratoga Springs, UT, 84045

Jared Gray, Eagle Mountain Resident

8775 North Cedar Pass Rd, Eagle Mountain, UT 84005

Hollie McKinney, Fairfield Resident

99 N 430 E, Fairfield, UT, 84013

Wyatt Cook, Cedar Fort Resident

195 S 100 W, Cedar Fort, UT 84013

Julie King, Saratoga Springs Resident

1864 N Peppermint Place, Saratoga Springs, UT 84045

## ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 14

We urge you to vote NO on Proposition 14, which proposes the creation of a new school district encompassing these cities. Here are key reasons to reject this proposal:

**Financial Implications** – If Proposition 14 passes, the establishment of a new district would increase taxes. If the new district passes a bond of \$277 million dollars (enough money to build currently needed schools plus a transportation center), each household can expect an annual property tax increase of at least \$300 on a home of \$500,000. Given our communities' rapid growth and need for additional district buildings,

even more financial resources would likely be required. The new district would incur costs for replicating administrative positions, including a new superintendent, district office, and department staff, which are currently shared among 14 communities, keeping our taxes lower.

**Impact on Educational Programs** – Alpine District’s size allows for a wide range of programs and opportunities not always feasible in a smaller district. This includes Career and Technical Education, Special Education, Dual Language Immersion (DLI), Advanced Learning Lab (ALL), and unique facilities such as Polaris, Dan Peterson Schools, Clear Creek Camp, and the Christa McAuliffe Space Center. Replicating these programs would be financially prohibitive and could diminish the educational opportunities available to our students. Even with funding sources, the time required to provide comparable opportunities would be significant. Of 581 local educators who were surveyed, 71% predicted a split would result in worse academic outcomes and educational programs for students.

**Potential Loss of Educators** – The survey also revealed that 80% of local educators oppose the creation of a new district (only 4% supported the current proposal of 3 districts). If a split occurs, many educators may seek opportunities elsewhere, affecting the stability and quality of our teaching staff. This has happened in other district splits, and it is likely to happen here.

**Unnecessary Division** – Advocates for the new district argue it would offer greater local control and representation. Expanding the size of our current board is an easier solution.

Regardless, most residents are more concerned with their children’s educational success and the impact on their finances than they are with school board meetings and district policy. Creating a new district would not necessarily address class/school size issues, attract additional quality educators, or alter state-mandated standards. Instead, it would likely lead to reduced educational opportunities and increased costs. Some are concerned that the legislature will mandate a split if we do not act independently. This is not accurate. Maintaining our current unified district demonstrates our collective preference and would discourage the legislature from putting this to a vote again, particularly given the associated tax increases. We acknowledge a future district split might be necessary. However, the current timing and configuration is not ideal. Paying more for less is unwise. Sharing the costs of our school needs with the whole district and waiting until our community growth is more stable will save taxpayers money.

Sincerely,

Erin Whitaker, Resident of Saratoga Springs  
1367 S Parkside Circle, Saratoga Springs, UT, 84045

Mark Whitaker, Resident of Saratoga Springs  
1367 S Parkside Circle, Saratoga Springs, UT, 84045

Michelle Price, Resident of Saratoga Springs  
516 W Ranger Run, Saratoga Springs, UT, 84045

Jarom Becar, Resident of Eagle Mountain  
6291 N Fiona St, Eagle Mountain, UT 84005

Nate Crandall, Resident of Saratoga Springs  
1532 N June St, Saratoga Springs, UT 84045

## REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT FOR PROPOSITION 14

1. The primary argument for splitting is better representation. However, increasing the current school board from 7 to 9 members would achieve this without the high costs of splitting. Having more school board members will not improve student achievement.
2. The west side of the district holds only 19% of the tax base, but 88% of the net growth! We benefit immensely from shared taxes across the district. Relying on our smaller tax base is problematic. Taxes will either increase to meet demands, or they will remain the same and educational services will suffer. The projected surplus will not even cover the cost of a single elementary school, let alone all the other costs with starting a new district and meeting school construction needs.
3. Title 1, a federal program for low-income schools, provides limited funding and comes with restrictions. It is not a reliable long-term solution, and increasing local taxes to chase federal dollars is not worth it.
4. Alpine District has invested heavily in the west, building 20 schools in 20 years (even during economic downturns and when bonds have not passed).
5. Alpine currently has one of the lowest “per student administrative costs” of any district along the Wasatch Front. We also already have more educational programs than almost every district in the state. There is no academic or financial benefit to splitting. Informed citizens will have the final say regarding their children and their money. Vote NO on Proposition 14.

Sincerely,

Erin Whitaker, Resident of Saratoga Springs  
Mark Whitaker, Resident of Saratoga Springs  
Michelle Price, Resident of Saratoga Springs  
Jarom Becar, Resident of Eagle Mountain  
Nate Crandall, Resident of Saratoga Springs

# REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 14

I urge you to vote **YES** on Proposition 14, which offers greater local control and better educational outcomes for our rapidly growing communities. We should not let unfounded fear tactics dictate our future.

**Financial Considerations:** Both Alpine School District and West Interlocal Cities conducted feasibility studies, and both confirmed the West's strong financial future due to growth in student enrollment and property taxes. These studies also recommended a tax increase, which Alpine passed in 2024. With the new district starting in 2027, the growth and tax base make it financially viable and strong. The West understands our capital needs and is the only area of the current district to pass the 2022 bond. Unfortunately, due to the lack of support in the east, our building needs have not moved forward.

**Educational Programs:** The new district will be the 10th largest in Utah, capable of offering diverse programs. By building on existing resources and focusing on Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Special Education, we can better meet the needs of our students. The current district's size has caused strain, and this split will allow for more effective, localized resource management.

**Educator Stability:** While some fear educator loss, history shows that strong, well-funded districts attract and retain talent. Local control will foster a positive environment that benefits both educators and students. Voting YES on Proposition 14 secures a brighter future for our children and community. Let's base our decision on facts, not fear.

Signed,

Chris Carn, Saratoga Springs Resident

Jared Gray, Eagle Mountain Resident

Hollie McKinney, Fairfield Resident

Wyatt Cook, Cedar Fort Resident

Julie King, Saratoga Springs Resident

# VOTER INFORMATION

## Register to Vote

Residents who are not registered to vote may register in one of the following ways:

1. Online voter registration is available at [vote.utah.gov](https://vote.utah.gov)
2. Register in person at the Utah County Clerk's Office, located at 100 East Center Street, Suite 3100, Provo, UT

For more information about voter registration, or to track your ballot, visit [Vote.Utah.gov](https://Vote.Utah.gov)

## Vote by Mail

Ballots will be mailed to registered voters starting on October 15, 2024. To vote simply complete the ballot, sign the affidavit on the envelope, and drop the envelope in the mail or at any ballot drop box located in Utah County

For more information on voting locations and times, visit the Utah County Elections division at [vote.utahcounty.gov](https://vote.utahcounty.gov), call (801) 851-8128, or email [elections@utahcounty.gov](mailto:elections@utahcounty.gov)

## For additional information:

Statewide Electronic Voter Information Website

[vote.utah.gov](https://vote.utah.gov)

Utah County Elections

[Vote.utahcounty.gov](https://Vote.utahcounty.gov)

A voter may call to request delivery of a voter information pamphlet by mail, by calling the Utah County Election division at 801-851-8128



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