

Voter Information Pamphlet

Question on the Incorporation of Spring Lake Town

Proposition 9

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor received a Petition for Incorporation from the Spring Lake Incorporation sponsors. The petition was certified on July 15, 2024, by Deidre M. Henderson, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Utah. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor has directed the county legislative body to submit to the registered voters residing within the affected area at the next regular General Election, the question of whether the area described as Spring Lake should be incorporated as a town.

The Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, with in-person voting from 7:00am to 8:00pm at the following locations: American Fork Library, Highland City Offices, Lehi Public Safety Building, Orem CenterPoint Church, Orem St. Francis Church, Payson City Hall, Pleasant Grove City Hall, Provo Health and Justice Building, Provo Legacy Village, Santaquin City Hall, Saratoga Springs LDS Church (612 Pony Express Way), Spanish Fork Library, and Springville Civic Center.

By-mail ballots will be sent to every eligible voter on October 15, 2024. Ballots may be returned at any Utah County drop box (visit www.vote.utahcounty.gov for locations) or by US Postal Service (must be postmarked no later than November 4, 2024).

PROPOSITION 9

Shall a new municipality be created from the area known as Spring Lake and congruent portions of unincorporated Utah County?

YES

NO

*****The arguments for or against a ballot proposition are the opinions of the authors*****

Argument For Proposition 9

Spring Lake is a beautiful community that holds a special place in the hearts of many individuals, including current and former residents. Those who choose to live in Spring Lake enjoy its quiet beauty and open spaces. Spring Lake provides our children room to explore and be adventurous. It provides families with a sense of home and belonging. Its peaceful, small-town environment is what has drawn many of its residents to the area and why many of us choose to live here. While continued growth in the area is desirable and likely inevitable, the residents who call Spring Lake home will be best able to guide the future of our community by incorporating Spring Lake and retaining decision making abilities at the local level. Without incorporating the area, Spring Lake will continue to be annexed into neighboring cities and the decisions related to growth, taxes, and community governance will be left to others.

If we incorporate, residents and landowners of Spring Lake can work together to develop a general plan for the town that would guide our shared future based on our shared vision. It would give us the opportunity to support the need for growth while retaining what we love about Spring Lake. It would give us the direct voice necessary to determine what our community will look like for current and future generations. Without incorporating, the Spring Lake community will ultimately be swallowed up and will cease to be the town we all know and love.

The feasibility study performed by the state's hired experts demonstrates that no tax increases would be needed to provide the residents of Spring Lake with the same level of services they receive today. Existing tax revenues that are currently received by the County to support the residents of Spring Lake would instead be received by the town to support itself. In fact, the study projected the town's revenues to exceed expenses by 13% over the next 5 years. Like many other small towns in Utah, we can make it work. As with all municipalities, both large and small, electing fiscally responsible representatives and living within our means will always be crucial to the town's success.

The decision to come together as residents of Spring Lake and create our own town is not an easy one and will require courage. It will require faith in ourselves and in each other. It will require hard work and commitment. It will require each of us to engage in the process of formally establishing and maintaining the town we all deeply love so that current and future residents of Spring Lake can continue to enjoy our little gem. Ignoring the changes we face and hoping for the best will only guarantee that others will decide our future for us. To quote William Arthur Ward, "*The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.*" Let's adjust our sails and create our future together!

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Argument Against Proposition 9

No arguments AGAINST proposition 9 were submitted.

Fiscal Impact Statement Summary: (a full copy of the feasibility study can be found at vote.utahcounty.gov)

TAX IMPACT ON STUDY AREA (SPRING LAKE)

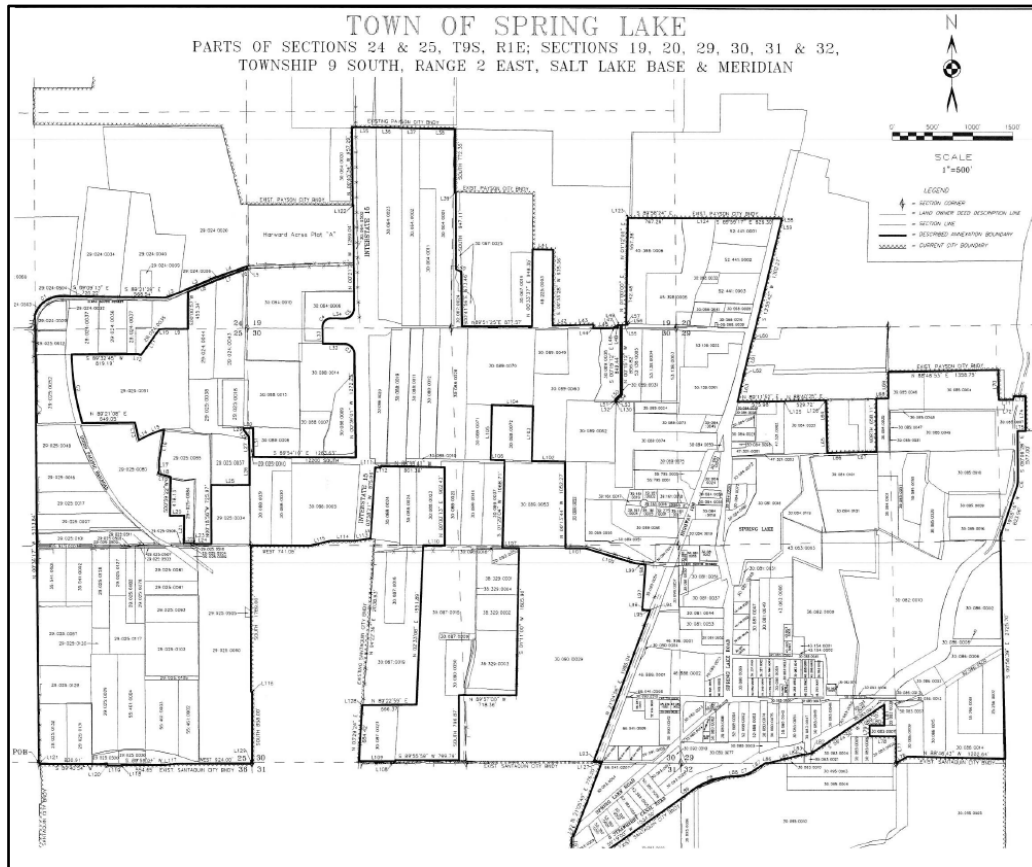
- Section 8 on pages 30 - 32 outlines the projected fiscal and tax impact resulting from the potential incorporation of Spring Lake, including the tax impact on the study area (i.e., Spring Lake). The Feasibility Study addresses the following two scenarios that consultants considered when projecting the tax impact on Spring Lake:
 - **SCENARIO 1 – GOVERNMENT OFFICE:** This scenario includes the applicable incorporation costs as outlined in UCA 10-2a-220. In addition, expenditures include an expense of \$300,000 for a government office that is amortized over a period of 20 years. (Note from JK: Consideration of the additional expenditures for a governmental office is not a requirement for the feasibility study but was considered by LRB as a potential scenario.)
 - **SCENARIO 2 – NO GOVERNMENT OFFICE:** This scenario includes incorporation costs as outlined in UCA 10-2a-220, without the additional expense related to a new government office.
- The section titled "Tax Burden on Study Area" on pages 30 - 32 of the Feasibility Study addresses the requirement of UCA 10-2a-205(3) requiring a projection of the tax burden per household of any new taxes that may be levied within the proposed municipality within 5 years after incorporation. Below is select language from the Feasibility Study to provide such projected tax impact under each scenario:
 - **SCENARIO 1 - GOVERNMENT OFFICE:** In this scenario, matching Utah County's tax rate is more than sufficient to meet the expenditures within the Town. No additional Spring Lake tax rate is necessary to provide sufficient funding for Spring Lake. The average tax impact within the Spring Lake area is estimated at \$442 for a primary residence valued at \$530,000. This would represent **a decrease of \$31** from the projected Utah County tax of \$473. (See table 8.4 for annual projections.)
 - **SCENARIO 2 - NO GOVERNMENT OFFICE:** In this scenario, matching Utah County's tax rate is more than sufficient to meet the expenditures within the Town. No additional Spring Lake tax rate is necessary to provide sufficient funding for Spring Lake. The average tax impact within the Spring Lake area is estimated at \$320 for a primary residence valued at \$530,000. This would represent **a decrease of \$152** from the projected Utah County tax of \$473. (See table 8.6 for annual projections.)

FISCAL IMPACT ON COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES AREA

- Section 8 on pages 29 - 30 addresses the requirement of UCA 10-2A-205(3), which requires a projection of the fiscal impact of the municipality's incorporation on unincorporated areas, other municipalities, special districts, special service districts, and other governmental entities in the county. This outlines the fiscal impact of the potential incorporation of Spring Lake on the Utah County Special Services Areas (SSAs) due to the shift of revenues from the county to the town of Spring Lake. This decrease in revenues received by the county is partially offset by revenues the county would receive from Spring Lake for contracted public

safety services. The projected average annual net impact to the Utah County SSAs would be an increase of \$12 based on a median home value of \$530k. (See table 8.2 for annual projections.)

Proposition 9 – Map of the Proposed Incorporation of Spring Lake



Proposition 9 will be on the November 5, 2024, General Election ballot. By-mail ballots will be sent to all eligible voters within the proposed incorporation area by the October 15, 2024.

Voters can vote 1 of 3 ways:

By ballot drop boxes:

There are 28 drop boxes throughout the county. All county drop boxes will be opened on October 15, 2024, and will remain open 24/7 until Election Day. Ballot drop boxes will close at 8:00 pm on November 5, 2024.

For a list of locations go to www.vote.utahcounty.gov.

By Mail:

Ballots must be postmarked no later than November 4, 2024. Ballots mailed after October 30, 2024, may need to have a hand-stamped postmark at the post office counter to ensure timely deliver.

In Person:

Early Voting: October 28, 2024, through November 2 and November 4, 2024.

Election Day: November 5, 2024

For a list of locations, dates, and times, please visit www.vote.utahcounty.gov.