



Davis County Clerk / Auditor

Steve S. Rawlings, CGFM
Clerk/Auditor

Brian McKenzie, CERA
Elections Manager

Memo

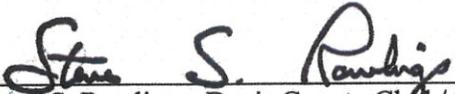
From: Davis County Clerk/Auditor, Box Elder County Clerk, Salt Lake County Clerk, Utah County Clerk/Auditor

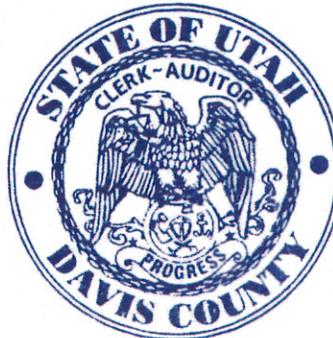
Date: August 14, 2014

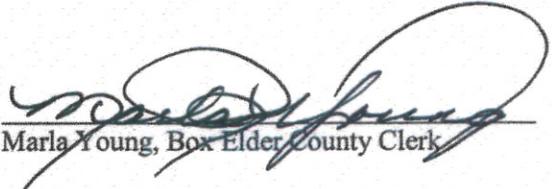
RE: Utopia opinion question on November Ballot

Recently, mayors from six Utah cities announced plans to put a question regarding internet service as a utility on the ballot in this coming November Election, a project better known as UTOPIA. Although we commend these city representatives for their efforts to gather public input and opinions on this topic, an opinion question such as one that has been announced is simply not authorized in state law.

Utah law does permit some opinion questions to be placed on the ballot, but they must be authorized by the Legislature. After consulting with the Lieutenant Governor's Office and our own legal counsel we have found that in this situation there is not any authorization to place the question on the ballot. As positive as it may be to gather input from citizens in this manner, our role is to follow the laws as they are written, and therefore we are unable to place a ballot question of this type on the ballot this November. We encourage the respective cities to search out other avenues to gather public input on this important issue.


Steve S. Rawlings, Davis County Clerk/Auditor




Marla Young, Box Elder County Clerk


Sherrie Swensen, Salt Lake County Clerk


Bryan E. Thompson, Utah County Clerk/Auditor