



## MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor & Council  
From: Amalie Ottley, City Recorder  
Date: March 28, 2025  
Subject: Possible Implementation of Fast Cast Voting in Santaquin

---

Mayor & Council,

Utah County Clerk Aaron Davidson sent an email regarding the possible implementation of Fast Cast Voting for the 2025 municipal elections. The email reads as follows:

*During the municipal elections this year, Utah County Elections Division would like to expand Early Voting opportunities by incorporating the Fast Cast Voting method at each municipality that would like to participate. To accomplish this, we would like to give each municipality the option to accept Fast Cast ballots Monday through Thursday the week before election day in their city centers during normal operating hours. Each municipality could elect to have this method available all four days or any portion of the four days, it's your election and you can decide. We are hoping this will increase voter participation and improve the percentage of ballots that are accepted, because these ballots will not be put through the signature verification process and therefore avoid the cure process.*

### **Fast Cast Voting**

Fast Cast Voting is a method that was introduced in Utah County last year and works as follows:

1. Utah County Elections mails a ballot out to every active voter.
2. The voter fills out their ballot, puts it in their ballot envelope, seals it, and signs it.
3. The voter returns the ballot to a voting center (which would be your city office), presents their ID, and signs a poll pad.
4. The poll worker stamps their envelope with a designated stamp, signifying that the voter presented their ID and was verified as a valid voter.
5. The ballot is dropped in the ballot box at that voting location.
6. Ballots are picked up, returned to the ballot processing center, verified that the voter did not vote by some other method, opened, and counted.

Since the voter presented ID when the ballot was returned, signature verification does not need to be performed and 100% of the Fast Cast ballots are accepted, opened, and counted with no further verification needed.

In the 2024 General Election, statewide 20,606 signatures were challenged and not cured, that was 1.54% of all ballots cast. In Utah County, 4,693 ballot envelopes were not cured. The Fast Cast Voting method is a safer and more secure method of returning a ballot to be confident that the ballot will be counted without the need for any curing.

### **Early Voting at City Centers**

We would like to propose that Fast Cast Voting be made available at each city center that would like to participate as an Early Voting option and would function as follows:

1. Each city would have two or more employees deputized to work as poll workers.
2. Each city would be provided with a poll pad and training. (The larger cities could request additional poll pads.)



3. Voters would bring in their ballot inside their ballot envelope.
4. The voter would present their ID to verify they are a valid voter.
5. The voter would sign the poll pad.
6. The poll worker would stamp the ballot envelope in a designated area.
7. The voter would place the ballot in the teal-colored canvass ballot bag that we will provide you with.

*This process will only be able to accept those ballots that comply with the Fast Cast Voting method. All other voters that attempted to return or cast a ballot that don't comply with the requirements of this method will be directed to the County Elections office for early voting assistance.*

*Utah County Elections will have teams of two picking up the ballots as needed throughout the week. We will arrange to have the poll pads and remaining ballots picked up or delivered on Thursday evening or Friday morning.*

*Our intention is to have each city pay for their own employees to perform this task. We could hire and pay your employees as poll workers, but we would then have to incur that cost, gather the charges, and redistribute those charges back to the city through the inter-local agreement charges.*

*If your city would like to participate in this opportunity, we will need to know as soon as possible so that we can get it into our instructions that we mail to each voter with their ballot and on our website.*

After reviewing the email, city staff and legal counsel have concerns regarding the substantial increase of cost, in addition to the already increased cost of the election itself, for the city to implement the fast cast voting. Increased staff time, responsibility, and training both in processing ballots and maintaining chains of custody and extra security measures would be a strain on employees all for unknown outcomes. Finally, re-inserting City staff into the elections process in this manner might counter some benefits of using the County as a neutral third party, especially if there are actual or perceived problems with the election administration. Staff would recommend that the city not participate in the fast cast program, until such a time that Utah County can verify that the results are favorable for municipal elections.