LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SALT LAKE

October 21, 2026, General Meeting
Topic: ***Your Voice, Your Vote: Understand your Rights, Restrictions and Protections***
Live and on Zoom
Recording

ATTENDANCE

- 2 guest panelists
- 25 in-person attendees
- 18 attendees on Zoom

MODERATOR: Charlene Rynders, LWVSL Program Director

GUEST PANELISTS

- Lannie Chapman, Salt Lake County Clerk
- Ellie Menlove, Policy Director ACLU Utah

MEETING SUMMARY

Lannie Chapman cited the path to Utah voter registration, including holding US citizenship and being 18 years or older, by date of the general election and a Utah resident for at least 30 days before the election. Iin Utah we can vote by mail, in person, or electronic, use a drop-box, vote early, or go to a voting location where there is assistance for voters with accessibility or disablement issues.

She discussed our vote can make such a difference in our daily lives, e.g. funding schools, road maintenance, public safety, public transportation, public parks, and community programs.

Recent Utah voting law changes are: The law requires ballots be at the vote center by 8:00 p.m. on election day; Starting in 2029, voters will have to opt in to get a mail-in ballot. Next year, there will be a notice about this on our ballots; This year, there is a space on our ballot envelopes to include the last four digits of our SSN, Utah Driver License or Utah State ID, or other approved ID, along with our signature. In 2029, they won't count your ballot without this information.

In the 2026 primary voter party turnout showed 52% Democrat, 40% Republican, 7% Unaffiliated, and 1% other. Twenty five percent of voters were age 65-74 age group compared to 3% among 17–24-year-olds, 12% in 25-34 age range, 13% 35-44, 14% 45-54, 15% 75-84, and 4% for 85+. It's clear we need to work on younger voters. Salt Lake Couty had more than 93,000 people vote by mail in the 2026 primary election out of 103,000 people who voted.

Ellie Menlove described the ACLU of Utah as an organization who works to protect the civil rights and civil liberties of all Utahns. She said it feels as if our freedom to vote is facing a coordinated attack from multiple fronts, including the state and federal government, regarding how we can vote, who can vote, and how votes will be cast, counted, and certified, This creates confusion and chaos by trying to restrict mail-in voting, or using federal agents to intimidate communities, and implying there might be federal agents at the polls. She noted that more bills restricting voting and raising the threshold for retaining judges are in the works.

Despite this, she reminded us we have voting champions in state and local office. With the misinformation running rampant ahead of the elections this year, the ACLU of Utah is running an election protection program. They are recruiting and training poll watchers ahead of elections to answer questions and help anyone who has difficulty voting. They also are coordinating with the National ACLU and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights. ACLU is still looking for poll watchers.

After the speakers concluded there were questions from the audience. Some of them were:

Question: Where can we find information on Judges? The Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission JPAC has nonpartisan information on judges.

Question: Do voter laws /restrictions disproportionately affect certain groups of voters? Restrictions affect different populations such as seniors who may have registered to vote years ago and now live in a new place and find it hard to get to a clerk's office , and they can make it hard for people who recently changed their name to vote.

Question: What would be one voter regulation would make a large impact on voter access? Make birth certificates, Utah driver's license, and Utah IDs available to voters for free, return to vote by mail without having to affirmatively opt in, and universal voter registration when people turn 18.

Question: Should people feel safe at the polls? Ellie said yes. The volunteers ACLU poll watchers and Salt Lake County Chiefs of Police will work to make sure voters are not intimidated.

(You can see all of the Q&A on the meeting recording on the website)

ORGANIZATIONS AND RESOURCES

Salt Lake County Clerk's Office
ACLU of Utah
Judiciary Study
VOTE411
Know Your Judges
Track Your Ballot: https://trackmyballot.utah.gov/voter/

RECORDING: Click here to watch a full recording of the meeting or https://www.lwvsl.org/recordings/v/general-meeting

UNIT MEETING DISCUSSION AND ADVOCACY

Unit Meeting Discussion Points

At your Unit meeting, discuss actions that you or the League can take to protect voting rights, restrictions and protections. Some possible discussion points below:

- In what ways did the presentation change or solidify concerns about voter rights, restrictions and protections?
- What steps could individual members of our unit take to support voter rights and access, now or in the future? Some ideas:
    - Work with the League and LAC to change current voting laws or upcoming voting laws that create barriers for voters
    - Consider taking steps before the next election to work as a unit or with the league on engaging younger voters in the democracy process.
    - Volunteer to be a poll worker, poll watcher, or process ballots.
- How should League members stay involved?
- What action items could we take from this discussion?
- What is our follow-up plan?