

*How to Increase Accountability in the State School Board:
Let Elected Local School Board Members Elect the State Board*

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The Representative Model

- The best way to get accountability in the State School Board is to create a direct link to those with a vested interest, such as the local school boards.
- This will increase the accountability of the state board as well as elevate the importance of the local school board members and their election.
- Local school board members are much more likely to be informed and interested in education issues.
- They have already been selected by their neighbors and have been vetted through the local election process.

Key Points

- The 41 local school districts can be grouped into 15 State School Board districts (See Attachments 1 & 2 for an example of how this could be accomplished and how that would compare to the current districts.)
- Electoral votes are allocated to school districts based on student population (or a similar measure). Each district designates elected board members as electors who then choose their state representative from among qualified candidates.
- This moves the system significantly toward more local control, while maintaining the authority of the legislature to provide broad guidelines as they see necessary.
- It would clearly establish that the state board is not an independent or separate branch of government

Background

- In 1950, the Utah State Constitution was amended to move from an appointed state school board to an elected state board.
- There is general dissatisfaction with the state board.
- The fundamental problem is the lack of accountability.
- The board is populated with self-proclaimed experts who act with impunity, enacting policy and decisions without responding to parents and educators.
- A recent court decision requires that the Legislature consider making changes to the current election process.

Possible Proposals

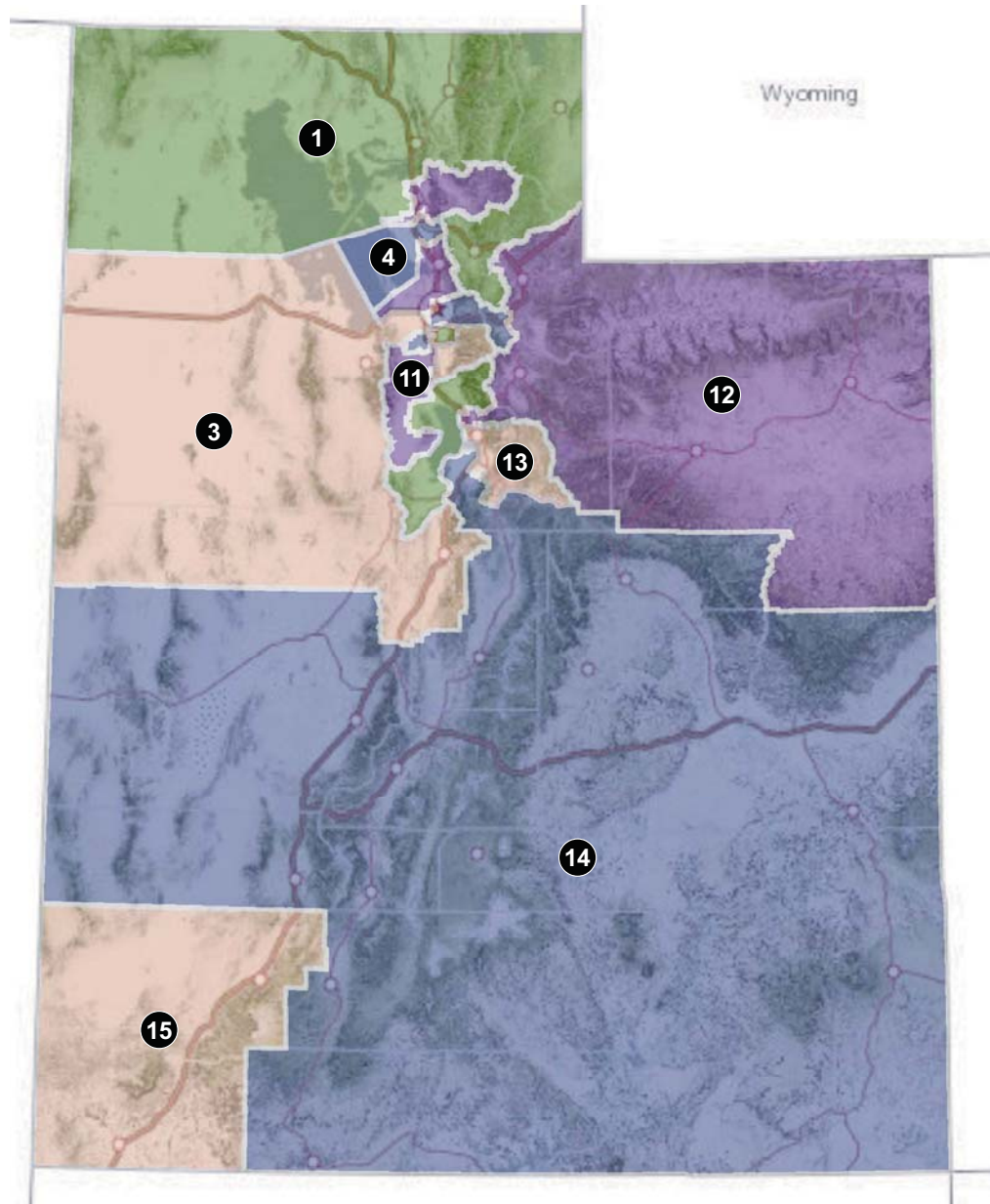
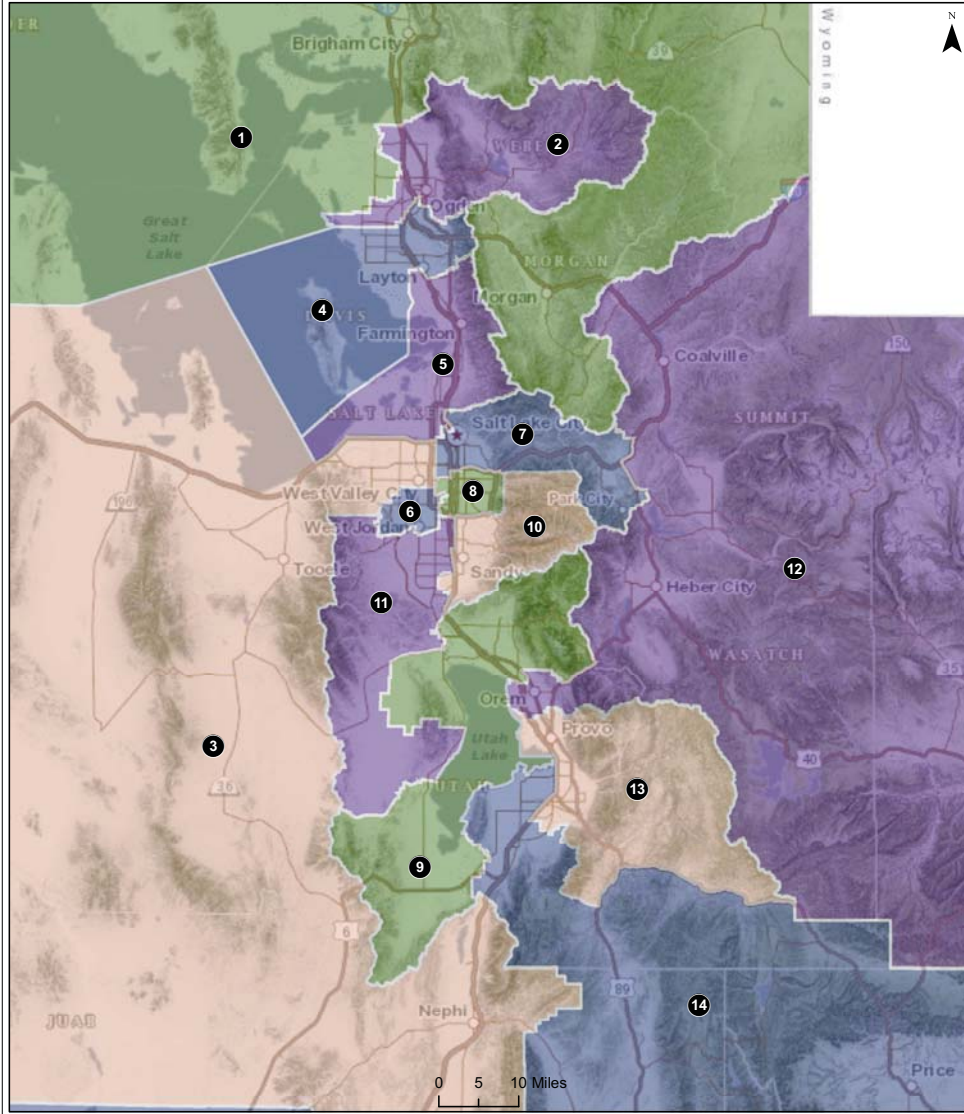
- Direct non-partisan elections: Anybody can be on the primary ballot. The top two vote-getters would be on the November ballot.
- Direct partisan elections: Political parties nominate candidates for the November ballot
- Representative model: Voters elect local school board members who then elect members of the state school board
- Appointed-Elected hybrid: The governor uses a nominating process to narrow the field and voters choose from the top two nominees
- Gubernatorial appointment: The governor appoints board members with the Senate's approval

Attachment 1- Current State School Board Boundaries

2012 Utah State Board of Education Districts

This map takes effect on January 1, 2012, for purposes of nominating and electing officials and on January 1, 2013, for all other purposes. For detailed information about this and other political districts visit <http://elections.utah.gov/map/district-maps>.

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Attachment 2 - An Example of State Board Districts Formed by Combining Local School Districts FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

