

From: Jason Rose <JSRose@slco.org>
To: "rmverdicts@yahoo.com" <rmverdicts@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 11:30 AM
Subject: voting in school districts

Councilman Wilde:

I have attached the clerk's email response to Michael Clara's inquiry back in October.

When I talked to Sherrie Swensen, Dahnelle Burton-Lee, and Melanie Mitchell (the Clerk's legal counsel), they told me that they rely on the information that they obtain from the individual school districts. The law referred to areas within a school district as "precincts" until 1994. And some school districts still refer to the areas within their school districts as "precincts." Salt Lake City School District is one of those that still refers to them as "precincts." When Sherrie spoke to the superintendent of the Salt Lake City School District, he told them that they use the term "precinct" and that is the term they used in submitting their information to the Clerk and that is the term they use on their website (<http://www.slcschools.org/board/>) and with the public. Sherrie did not feel it was her place to change the nomenclature used by the School District. And she thought it would be more confusing to the public to use a nomenclature that is not used by the School District.

Sherrie also stated that by the time they received the request to change the ballot, absentee ballots had already been sent out and the electronic voting machines had been locked down. So it would have been too late to make a change to the ballot for this past election. Legal Counsel pointed out that while the statute refers to the areas within a district as "districts," the statute does not require a school district to call them "districts," though she admitted that it made sense to do so. They also pointed out that as a member of the school board, Mr. Clara has the right to propose that the School District call the areas within the School District "districts" consistent with the statute, and that they would print the ballots consistent with the nomenclature used by the School District.

Is there anything I can do further?

Jason

Re: voting in school districts

Inbox x



David Wilde

Jan 16 ☆



to Jason ▾

Jason:

I appreciate that information. I would agree that it appears this problem is not one of our making, and will have to be remedied by either state legislation or the individual school district. And I agree that Mr. Clara is in a position to bring the matter up for resolution at the school district level.

Thanks for looking into it.

Dave W.