**CARES Act General Election Narrative**

State of Utah

Office of the Utah Lieutenant Governor

The federal government requires a report after each primary and general election that includes a full accounting of the uses of the CARES Act and an explanation of how the funds were used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. **Please submit this narrative to lshafer@utah.gov or elections@utah.gov no later than November 20, 2020.**

1. **How did the county use the funds to address the pandemic?**

Weber County was able to use the CARES Act funding to greatly increase the protection for our staff, poll workers, and voters. We did this by being able to distance workers in our office, place sneeze guards between them, and equip them with proper safety equipment including masks, gloves, and sanitation.

At our polling place we are able to use a large, open building and place sneeze between each poll worker and the voters. We were able to create a contactless process to check voters in and give them a replacement ballot. We were able to have voters use their car as a polling booth and then we purchased ballot drop boxes that they used on their way out of the polling place parking lot.

We were also able to use CARES funding to do a mailing to each household in our county encouraging them to update their address and vote by mail. 95% of our voters voted by mail which greatly reduced the risk and potential spread of COVID.

1. **What were some challenges and major issues the county faced in responding to the pandemic?**

The biggest challenges we faced were:

1. Envisioning and implementing a whole new process for in person voting that would protect poll workers and voters from contracting and/or spreading COVID-19.

2. Purchasing new equipment for our new method of in person voting, when there was no budget and little local money available.

3. Getting the word out to voters about how the election was being conducted and getting them to exercise their right to vote while staying home and voting by mail.