**CARES Act Primary 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?**

Washington County Utah used the Election funds for our General Election to purchase additional masks, gloves and cleaning supplies like Clorox wipes and hand sanitizer.

The biggest purchase that we made was to purchase stylus/pens that were used to check in voters on the poll pads on one side, and then is a regular pen that the voter could vote their ballot with on the other side. This saved both the voter and the poll workers from making contact with each other assisting in social distancing. Also, for the General Election Plexiglas virus screens were built and installed at that in-person vote location.

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

Washington County is a vote by mail County. During the Presidential election season there was

some detrimental press concerning absentee and vote by mail. Because of this bad press, there were community members that wanted to vote in person. Washington County did offer an in-person voter solution; however, without knowing how many voters would show up on Election Day planning was a challenge.

Being able to provide a location that was large enough for the required social distancing was a challenge, but due to the pandemic, our convention center was available and used for in-person voting. This is the location where the Plexiglas virus screens were installed, and the place where the stylus/pens were used.

As always, there were some voters un-happy with how things were set up and done, especially with the additional requirements because of the Coronavirus. Washington County did require the masking and social distancing for our in-person vote location.