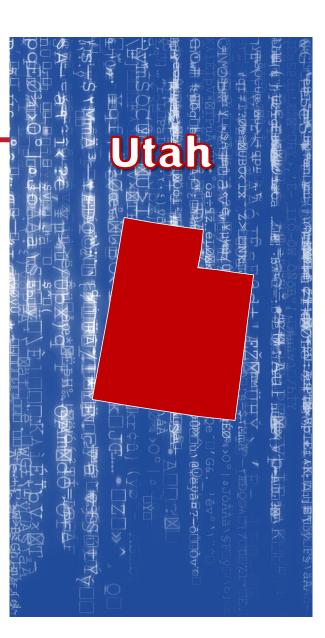
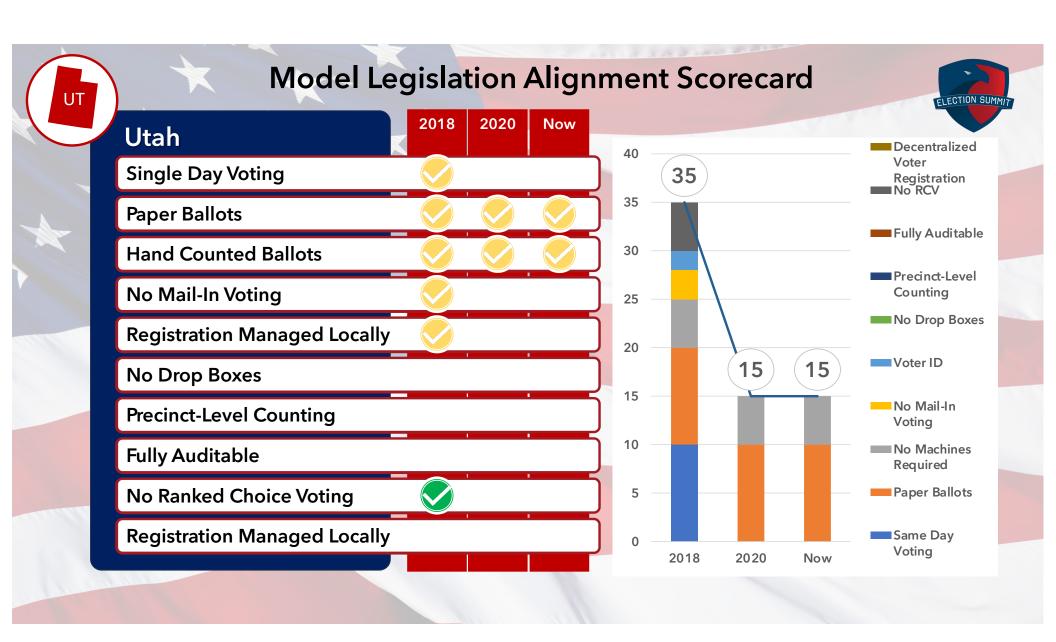


# **STATE STATUS**









# Reason for Hope: Legislative Success



#### Utah

- Utah's Legislature commissioned a statewide audit, published Dec. 2022: their report documents over 80 pages of flaws in Utah elections, and finally admitted that, for over 15 years, Utah's "post-election audit lacks the ability to validate election results." The online report lists 22 recommendations (most of which have not been implemented yet, but we're hoping).
- Rep. Phil Lyman's bill for "Independent Election Evaluations" passed the Utah House in 2023 (but failed to get a hearing in Utah's Senate: HB155).
- Almost 50% of Utah voters are "private or withheld" (many without their consent), and a bill passed in 2023 finally allowed political parties & candidates some limited info to be able to campaign to these hidden voters (but they're still hidden from any public auditing): HB303.
- A bill allowing for the Legislative Auditor General to conduct some election audits, in some cases, passed in Utah in 2023 (but didn't outline any standards: HB269).



### Reason for Hope: Lawsuit Success



#### Utah

#### Orten/Anderson v. Utah County et al:

- Not one county in Utah has released Cast Vote Records (CVR's) yet, and a lawsuit for public access to CVR's and other election records was dismissed in July 2022, but is in appeal. Good news from the lawsuit: Utah's Lt. Governor admitted that CVR's "can be requested by the board of canvassers," which means...
- Citizens in every county across Utah <u>need</u> to call for their county and city councils to pull their CVR data during canvassing. Before certifying election results, they could also call for CVR Analysis. A county commissioner in Utah County was successful in getting CVR's analyzed by a professional statistician in the November 2022 Election. This set a wonderful precedent in Utah, showing how anyone on the board of canvassers can deputize others to help them certify whether election results are accurate or not!



## Reason for Hope: Hand Count Success



#### Utah

- Washington County is one of the few counties in America that didn't allow open public comment in 2021 commission meetings, but commissioners granted some limited comments for 2 months in 2022, plus 4 months in 2023 so far.
- Along with private meetings, citizens use public comment periods to call for hand-counts whenever they can. The hand count movement is growing: so far, over 1,000 county residents have signed a hand-count petition at: <u>SouthernUtahnsForTransparency.com</u>
- Citizens have also tried working with cities, and a few city officials have been more open to hand-counts than county officials. At least one city council has officially voted to hand-count their municipal election during canvassing for Fall 2023 elections.

