

## **Election Information for 2009 (Municipal or City Elections)**

Your interest and involvement in the municipal election process is encouraged and appreciated. The City is the closest level of government to your home and is where you can have the greatest direct influence. We hope the information contained herein will be helpful to you. **Please note that although we endeavor to keep this information current, election laws have changed regularly and sometimes significantly over the past several years. To be safe, dates and other information posted herein should not be absolutely relied upon. To verify current information and critical dates on City Elections, please contact the Clinton City Manager/Recorder's Office at 801-614-0700. For County, State or National Election information, contact the Davis County Elections Office at 801-451-3589. If you have concerns, feedback, or need additional information beyond that noted herein, please contact the desired above office.**

### **(1) -Voter Registration**

By law, **voter registration is a County function**. Therefore, City personnel are unable to process any voter registration for you. You have several options for registration:

- 1) You may go directly to the County Clerk's office (28 East State Street, Farmington) or call them at 801-451-3589 for information.
- 2) You may choose to register by mail. Mail-in forms can be obtained in the cashier's area at Clinton City Hall (2267 North, 1500 West, Clinton). You may also print a copy of the mail-in form using the Davis County Clerk/Auditor website, [www.co.davis.ut.us/clerkauditor/elections/registration.cfm](http://www.co.davis.ut.us/clerkauditor/elections/registration.cfm). Be advised, if you use the mail-in form, it must be postmarked at least 30 days prior to the election and be received by Davis County Clerk's office no later than 7 days prior to the election. A copy of a photo ID or copies of two other valid forms of identification must accompany your registration.
- 3) A third option is to update voter information by completing a registration card at a State or a County agency (such as the Motor Vehicle or Driver's License Division) and have that agency forward the card to the appropriate County for you. Please note that this option sometimes is very slow, and you may not be registered in time to vote in the current year election.

Going to the County Clerk's office in person is always the quickest and most reliable method for registering. It is strongly recommended that you register as early as possible to avoid missing the opportunity to vote. To register, you must be:

- a U.S. citizen;
- be a resident of Utah for at least 30 days immediately before the next election;
- be at least 18 years old on the day of the next election, and
- have your principal place of residence in a specific voting precinct in Utah (within Clinton if voting in a municipal election).

Note that a person who has been convicted of a felony, whose right to vote has not been restored as provided by law, may not register to vote while incarcerated or until that right is restored.

### **(2) -Election Dates & Positions to be Filled**

Clinton City holds elections in the Fall of **odd-numbered years** (e.g. 2009, 2011, 2013). Those candidates who are successful in the municipal election typically will take office on the first Monday in January of the year following the election. The Mayor and two Council Members are elected in

one year, and the other three Council Members are elected in the next election two years later. In the even-numbered years (e.g. 2008, 2010, 2012), Davis County handles **all** voting issues for the Federal, State, and County positions.

Clinton City’s election is “**non-partisan**”, meaning that a candidate is not nominated by nor associated with a political party, thus can be from any or no political party. All candidates are “**at-large**”, meaning they can be from any location within the City boundaries, and are not elected by certain voting precincts or areas, but by the entire voting public of the City, thereby each represents the entire City. The candidate(s) with the highest number of votes will take office according to the number of vacancies to be filled.

The **Primary Election** for Clinton City is held the second Tuesday after the first Monday in **September of odd numbered years, if** the number of candidates that have filed exceeds twice the number of positions to be filled. For example, in the year that three Council seats are to be filled, there will be a primary election only if there are more than 6 candidates for those three seats. Every year it seems there are frustrated citizens who believe we keep changing the timing of the Primary election. The new “early voting” process has changed the dates of the Primary Elections, but the real difference is the Federal, State, and County primaries are always earlier since they coordinate through a nationwide system established by federal and state law, as compared to our local system during odd numbered years. The Federal, State, and County Primary Election occurs the third Tuesday after the third Monday in **June of those even numbered years**, while the City’s Primary, if there is one at all, occurs in **September** of odd numbered years.

The **General Election** is held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November (odd numbered years for City and even numbered years for Federal, State, and County elections, as noted earlier).

**(3) -Candidate Filing**

Each candidate for Mayor or City Council must file a "Declaration of Candidacy", **in person**, with the City Manager/Recorder or his Deputy. The filing period typically is between July 1 and July 15 at 5 p.m. in the year the election is held. If you are considering running for office, please personally contact the City Manager/Recorder’s Office (801-614-0700) to verify the current filing period. A Clinton City resident may become a candidate for the Mayor or City Council seat by either:

1. Declaring Candidacy with the City Manager/Recorder (signing the form) and paying a \$25.00 fee; or,
2. Obtaining a Nomination Petition from the City Manager/Recorder’s office and getting 25 or more qualified signatures (Clinton residents 18 yrs of age or older)-No Fee.

A write-in candidate may run for office, but State law requires that they **file** as a write-in candidate no later than 30 days prior to the November General Election.

**Qualifications for a candidate are:**

1 - Be a United States citizen at time of filing.
2 - Be at least 18 years old at the time of the next municipal election (November General Election).
3 - Be a legal resident of the municipality or an area recently annexed into the City for 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the date of the election.
4 - Be a registered voter of the municipality.

5 - Per Utah Constitution Article IV, Section 6, any mentally incompetent person, any person convicted of a felony, or any person convicted of treason or a crime against the elective franchise may not hold office in this state until the right to vote or hold elective office is restored as provided by statute.

The candidate must declare at the time of filing that he/she meets all of these qualifications. Anyone interested in running for municipal office should obtain, from the City Manager/Recorder's office, an informational handout concerning filing, sign ordinances, campaign financial disclosure, and other rules and information governing the City's elections.

#### **(4) -Absentee Voting**

Registered voters who will be out of town or otherwise unavailable to vote on election day may obtain an **absent-voter ballot** during the designated time prior to the municipal election. (Please note that we do not handle absent-voter ballots or any other voting during even-numbered election years when Federal, State, and County officials are elected. The County handles ALL voting in those years.) Absent-voter ballots **for a municipal election** may be obtained through the proper completion of an Absentee ballot request form. This can be obtained by:

- 1) picking it up in person at the City Recorder's office, 2267 N. 1500 W., Clinton, UT 84015;
- 2) requesting by telephone, (801) 614-0700, that one be sent to your address;
- 3) by mailing your request to the **City Manager/Recorder**; or,
- 4) by e-mailing (see web site at [www.clinton.net](http://www.clinton.net) for latest e-mail for City Manager/Recorder).

To reduce the risk of a request and/or ballot not getting to/from the Recorder's office in time, we suggest coming in to our office in person. However, if you choose to mail your request, you will be sent a form which must be filled out first, then subsequently, at the appropriate time, a ballot will be sent to you. You may request a ballot for both the Primary and General election if you desire. **The person who will vote the ballot must also sign the form and subsequent ballot.** If you feel you have special or complicated circumstances or are unclear as to how you may obtain an absent-voter ballot, please call the City Manager/Recorder's office directly (801-614-0700). Overseas requests require extra time and by law must be received at least 20 days prior to the election to be valid, so please allow as much time as possible for your request to be processed.

#### **(5) -Provisional Voting**

Provisional voting was developed in an effort to allow all registered voters the opportunity to participate in the election process. This option is available for voters who have recently moved within the City or the state and have possibly not registered at their new residence but wish to vote. It does not absolutely guarantee that your vote will count, but it does give it a very good chance. The process works in the following manner.

Since you have moved, you generally will be in a different precinct than in the past, and your name will not appear in your new precinct's voter registration book. Because you typically would not be allowed to obtain a ballot in your former precinct, the election judges are instructed to not allow you to vote there since you have moved, what can you do? You need to take to your new precinct poll, a legal photo ID (such as a driver's license or federal/state-issued photo ID) and something that proves

your current address (e.g. a utility bill). If your Utah driver's license has been updated for your new address, it will satisfy both purposes. Once you prove your identity and your address to the judge in your new precinct, he/she will give an affidavit envelope to you, which you must complete. You must also sign a sworn statement that you are the person you claim to be and living at the new address. This affidavit will eventually be turned over to Davis County and will serve to update your voter registration, thus it is important that you complete it fully and correctly.

Once the affidavit is completed, the election judge will provide a provisional ballot to you, and after you vote, place it inside the affidavit envelope and seal the envelope. The envelope with the ballot is returned to the judge who places it, unopened, in a special ballot box. After the polls close, City or County elections staff will verify that you are legitimately registered somewhere in the State of Utah (even if not at your new address). If they determine that you are properly registered somewhere in this State and that you provided proper proof of identity and residence to the judge, then your ballot will be opened and counted with all other ballots. The affidavit envelope (without the ballot) is then forwarded to the County and used, as noted earlier, to update your voter registration.

**Provisional balloting is not meant to be a replacement for the registration process.** It is much more cumbersome for you to vote in this manner and a great deal of extra work for elections personnel. We ask you to PLEASE register if you move, even if just across the street. We want you to have the opportunity to cast your vote as efficiently as possible and for every vote to count.

#### **(6) -Early Voting**

Utah State election law provides for early voting to begin 14 days prior to the official election day. This is not the same thing as absentee voting. Some citizens wish to vote early to avoid waiting in long polling location lines. Others may be out of town on election day. Still others may wish to vote early simply because it is more convenient for their schedule. Whatever the reason, those wishing to vote early may do so according to a pre-determined schedule of dates, times and locations. As the next election approaches, the detailed early voting information will be posted in the newsletter and at City Hall. **Please note that in order to vote early, a voter must provide valid photo I.D. and must be registered no less than 30 days prior to the election.**

#### **(7) -Viewing Election Results and Candidate Financial Disclosures**

The results of the Primary and/or General Elections can be viewed at [www.clintoncity.com](http://www.clintoncity.com), or [www.elections.utah.gov](http://www.elections.utah.gov). Candidate financial disclosure reports will also be available at these two web sites immediately before the Primary and/or General Elections.

**Again we thank you for your interest and involvement in the voting process.**