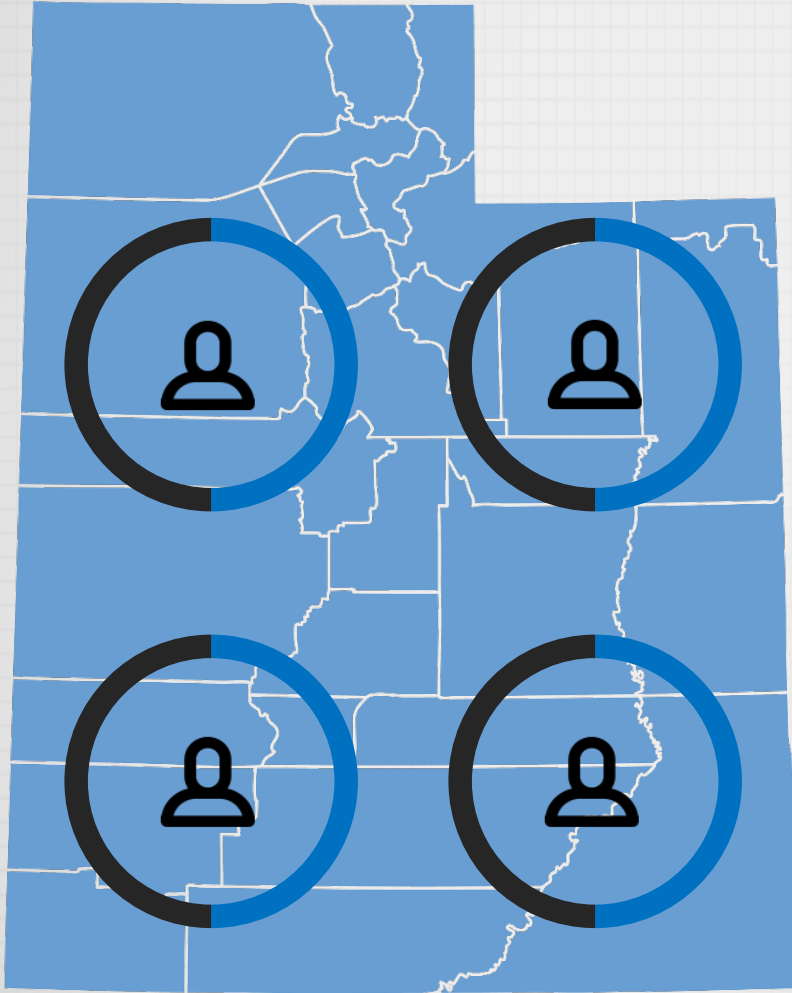


Utah Citizens' Initiative Petition



Mission Every vote should count



All Utah voters should
Have a voice

The mission of Count My Vote is to increase voter participation and broaden engagement in Utah elections.

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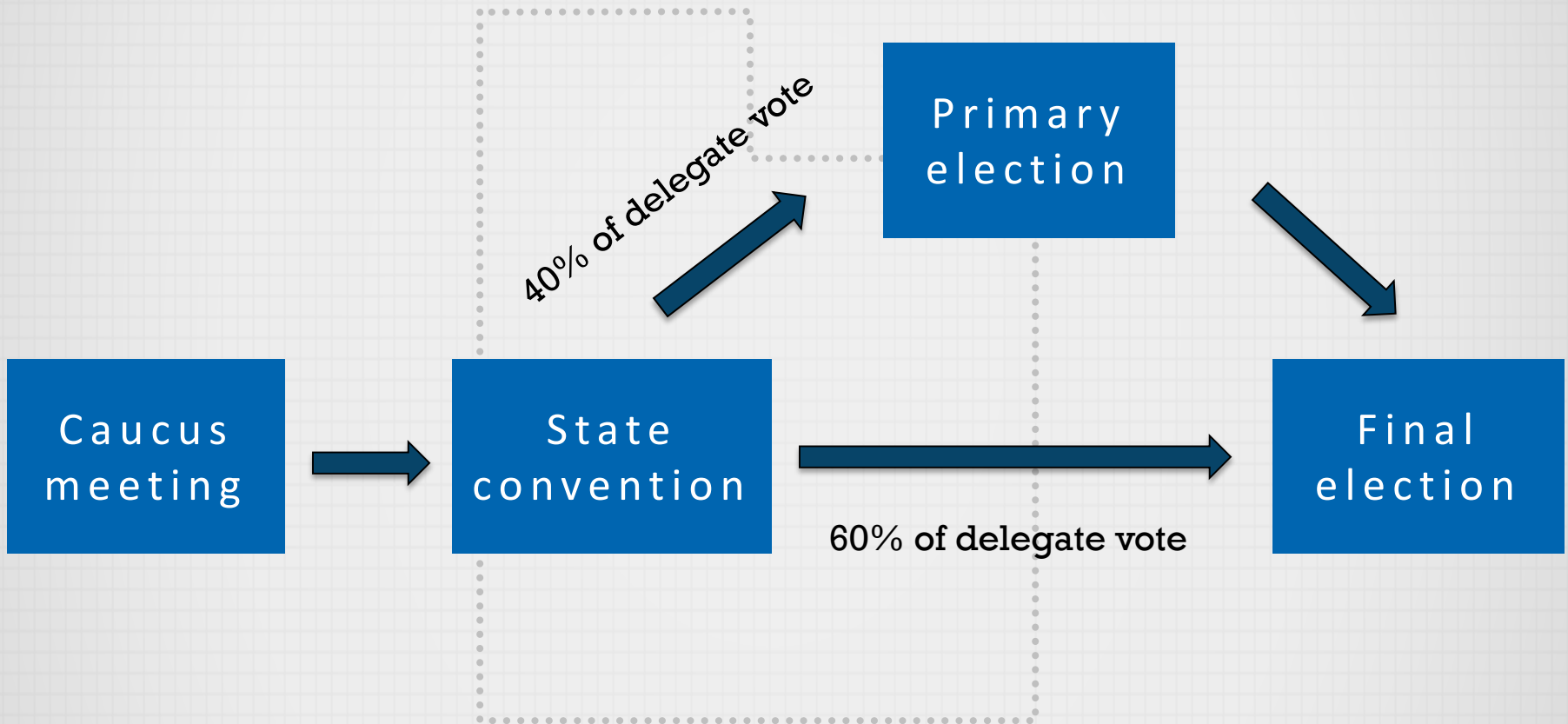
◎Part Two: **Utah Voter Participation**

◎Part Three: **Count My Vote Initiative**

Part one: caucus system

- ◎ Structural Overview
- ◎ Claimed Benefits
- ◎ Claimed Benefits – Reality
- ◎ Advantages
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caucus system structural overview



caucus system **claimed benefits**

- ⊙ Direct Contact Between Candidates and Delegates
- ⊙ Delegates Elected by Neighbors
- ⊙ Prevents “Fly-Over” Counties
- ⊙ Maintains Party Platform and Candidate Purity
- ⊙ Limits Influence of Money in Elections



caucus system **claimed benefits** - **reality**

- ⊙ Direct Contact Between Candidates and Delegates
 - ⊙ **Limits Contact Between Candidates and all Other Voters**
- ⊙ Delegates Elected by Neighbors
 - ⊙ **Elected Only By Caucus Attendees, Many Excluded**
- ⊙ Prevents “Fly-Over” Counties
 - ⊙ **Rural Voters Underrepresented in Caucus System**
- ⊙ Maintains Party Platform and Candidate Purity
 - ⊙ **Delegate Priorities Don’t Represent Utah Voters**
- ⊙ Limits Influence of Money in Elections
 - ⊙ **Money Has More Influence in Caucus System**



Caucus system **DISADVANTAGES**

Limits Contact Between Candidates and all Other Voters

- ⊙ All State Party Delegates = **0.3% of Utah's Voting Age Population**
- ⊙ All Republican State Delegates = **0.6% of Utah Republicans**
- ⊙ Delegates received hundreds of mailings, phone calls, gifts, and invitations to meals and events leading up to the state convention.
- ⊙ The rest of Utah voters are never engaged. Candidates ignore most Utah voters during the most determinative elections.
- ⊙ By the time voters can participate, key decisions have been made.

Caucus system **DISADVANTAGES**

Elected Only By Caucus Attendees, Many Excluded

- ⊙ Caucus System Excludes Everyone Who Can't Be Physically Present
- ⊙ Utah Voters **Participate in Caucuses Less Than Primary and Municipal Elections**. Utah Voting-age Election Participation:
 - ⊙ 2008 Primary Election = 23.1%
 - ⊙ 2009 Municipal Election = 15.1%
 - ⊙ **2010 Caucus Meetings = 3.9%**
 - ⊙ 2010 Primary Election = 12%
 - ⊙ 2011 Municipal Election = 11.2%
 - ⊙ **2012 Caucus Turnout = 8.1%**
 - ⊙ 2012 Primary Election = 13.3%

Caucus system **DISADVANTAGES**

Rural Voters Underrepresented in Caucus System

- ⊙ “Fly-Over” notion only relevant to statewide candidates.
- ⊙ Parties now distribute state delegates based on population and affiliation:
 - ⊙ GOP state delegates = **72% urban** vs. **28% rural**
 - ⊙ 60% of GOP state delegate votes secures nomination.

Caucus system **DISADVANTAGES**

Delegate Priorities Don't Represent Utah Voters



Education = Key Disparity:

Utah voters agree – *improving the quality of K-12 education is priority #1.*

In 2010, Republican delegates ranked “*improving the quality of K-12 education*” **11th among the 22 issues surveyed.** “Getting the United States Out of the United Nations” was 7th.

In 2012, as in 2010, Republican Delegates were the **only group to not rank** “*improving the quality of K-12 education*” as a top 5 priority.



Caucus system **DISADVANTAGES**

Money Has More Influence in Caucus System

- ⦿ Last year, Republican Party campaigns for statewide office spent **more than \$6.5 million in the caucus system.**
- ⦿ \$6.5 million spent to win 2,483 delegate votes.
- ⦿ ***That's \$2,726 per delegate...***



Part two: voter participation

- ⊙ State Election System Can Be Barrier
- ⊙ Problem Unique to Utah
- ⊙ Why? Potential Answers
- ⊙ Caucus System is Barrier to Participation

voter participation **systematic** **barrier**

“A state’s election system can either hinder or encourage participation”



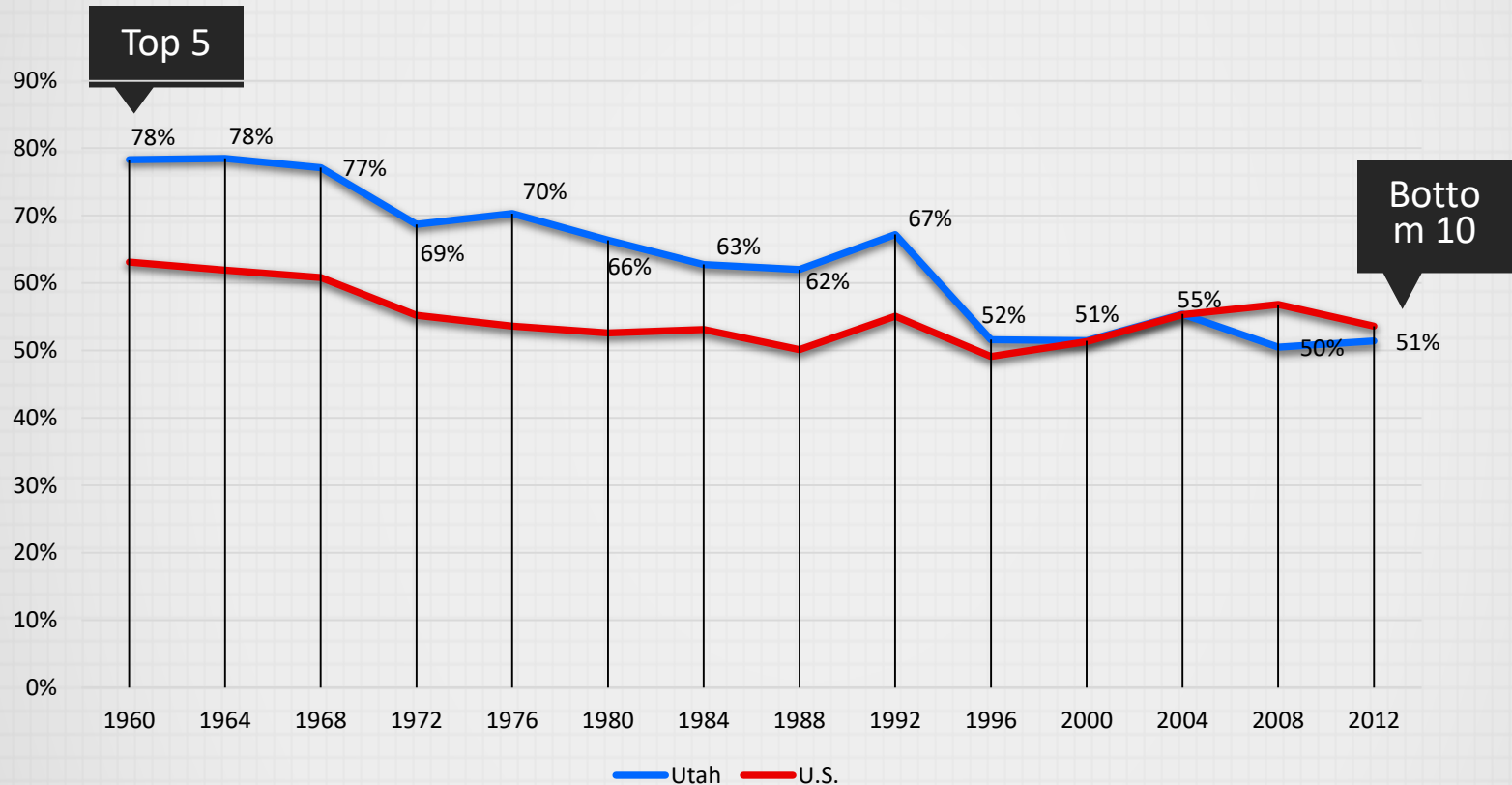
Voter participation **problem unique to utah**

- ⦿ Utah's historically high rate of voter participation has declined in recent decades.
- ⦿ From 1960 to 1998, Utah's turnout was always above the national average. Since 1998, Utah's turnout has been near or below the national average.
- ⦿ Utah consistently ranks #1 in the nation in community engagement and volunteerism.
- ⦿ Utah socioeconomic indicators should correlate with higher voter participation.

UTAH VS. NATIONAL

PARTICIPATION

Percent of Voting Age Population in Presidential Elections 1960-2012



voter participation **problem unique to utah**

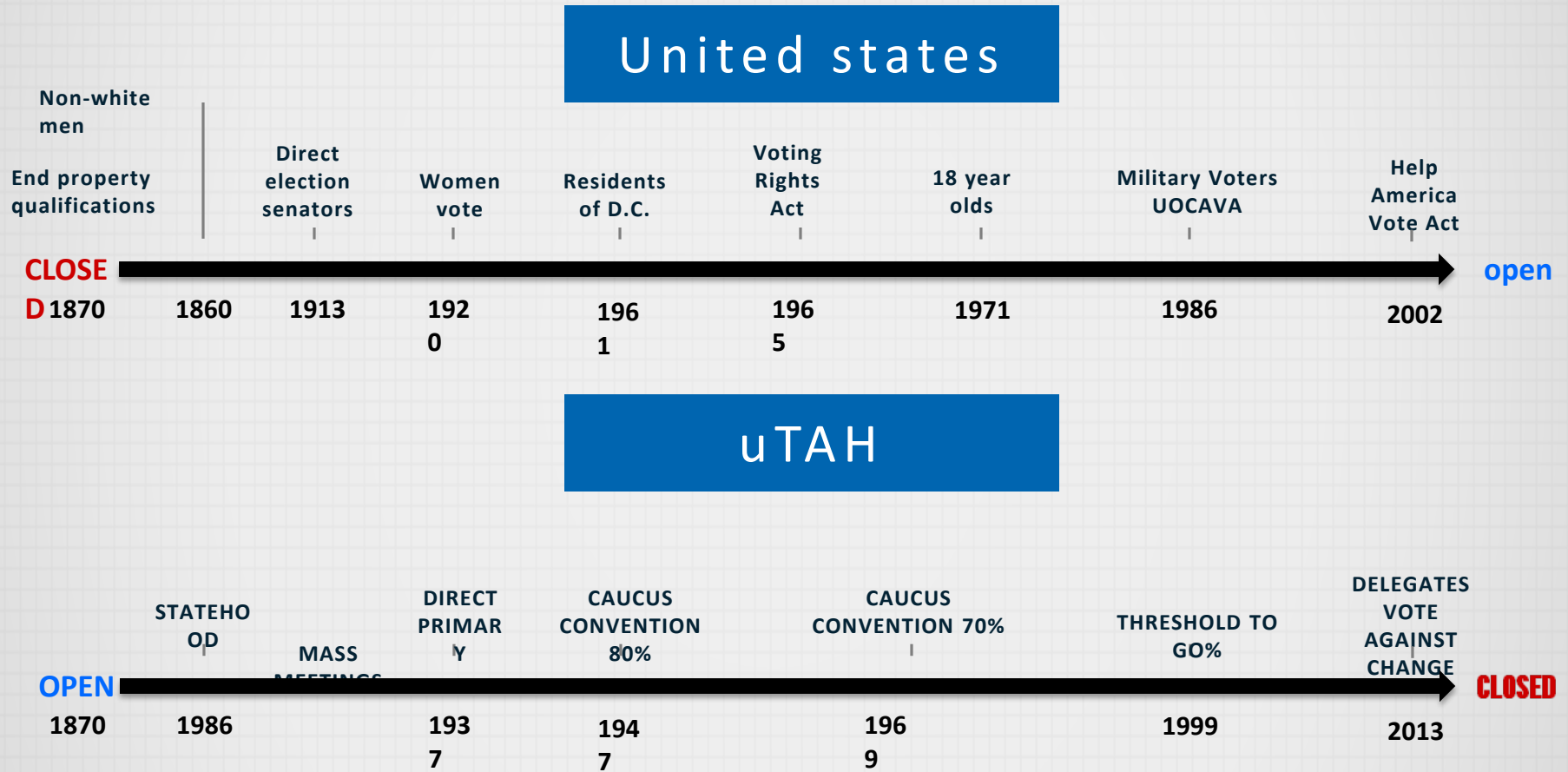
- ◎ Problem is Unique to Utah – Turnout is declining in Utah relative to other states.
- ◎ Not a national problem; a Utah-specific problem.
- ◎ Why? Answer and solution is unique to Utah.

voter participation answer

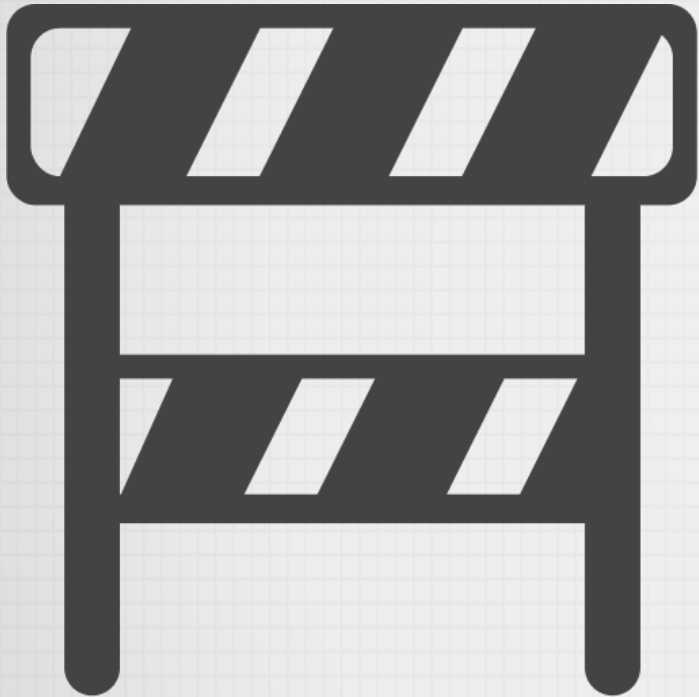
Potential Answers:

- ⊙ Young state? Utah has always been a young state, even during historical periods of high turnout.
- ⊙ One-Party State? 38 states have the governor's office and the legislature controlled by the same party.
- ⊙ Caucus System? Utah limited access in caucus system in 1990s, made primaries rare, candidates more extreme, and amplified non-competitive elections.

Voter participation caucus system barrier



Voter participation **caucus system** **barrier**



ANTIQUATED

most restrictive in
nation

exclusionary

unfair

least accountable to
voters

Voter participation caucus system barrier

The Caucus System is Antiquated:

- ⊙ Many years ago, Utah limited voting to a single day – Election Day.
- ⊙ Utah has since modernized elections to include early voting, vote by mail, and online voting for military and overseas citizens.
- ⊙ The time has come (is long overdue) to modernize our election system to include all Utah voters in choosing candidates for public office.

Voter participation caucus system barrier

Caucus System is Most Restrictive System in Nation:

- ⊙ Utah's caucus system requires candidates to receive over 40% of delegate votes to force primary.
- ⊙ Caucus system imposes the nation's highest barrier to entry on potential candidates.
- ⊙ No other state allows a political party to preclude a primary election for a statewide or national office.

Voter participation **caucus system** **barrier**

The Caucus System Excludes:



- ⊙ Utah's military voters.
- ⊙ Utah voters working or serving away from home.
- ⊙ Parents who can't leave children.
- ⊙ Working Utahns.
- ⊙ Every other Utah voter who cannot be physically present at their caucus meeting.

Voter participation caucus system

barrier

The Caucus System is Unfair, Marginalizes and Disenfranchises Groups of Utah Voters:



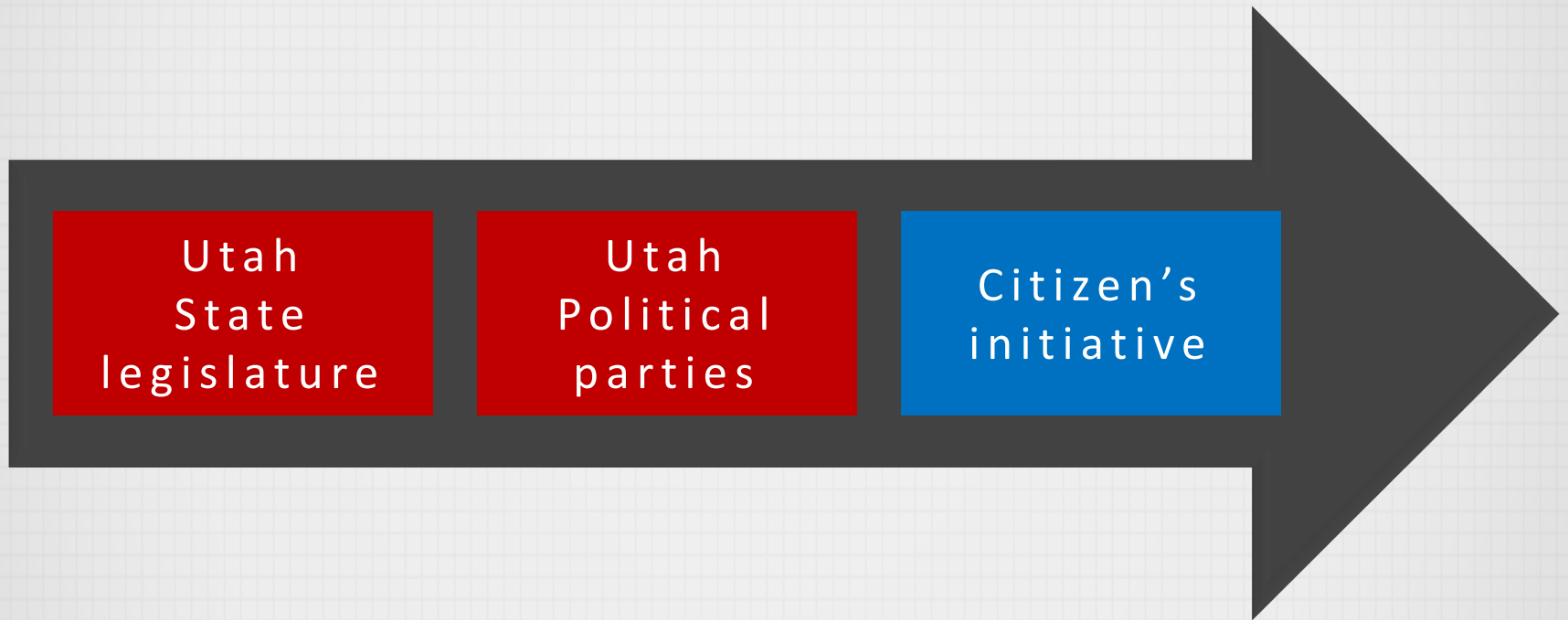
- ⊙ Women vote at higher rates than men
 - 53% of votes cast.
- ⊙ Women are underrepresented in delegate ranks of both parties:
 - ⊙ 25% of GOP delegates
 - ⊙ 43% of Democratic delegates
- ⊙ Young Utah voters cast 15% of ballots, only represent 2% of all delegates.

Part three: count my vote initiative

- ⊙ Citizens' Initiative as Last Resort
- ⊙ Direct Primary Election Facts
- ⊙ Structural Overview



Count my vote initiative our last resort



Count my vote initiative **direct** **primary**

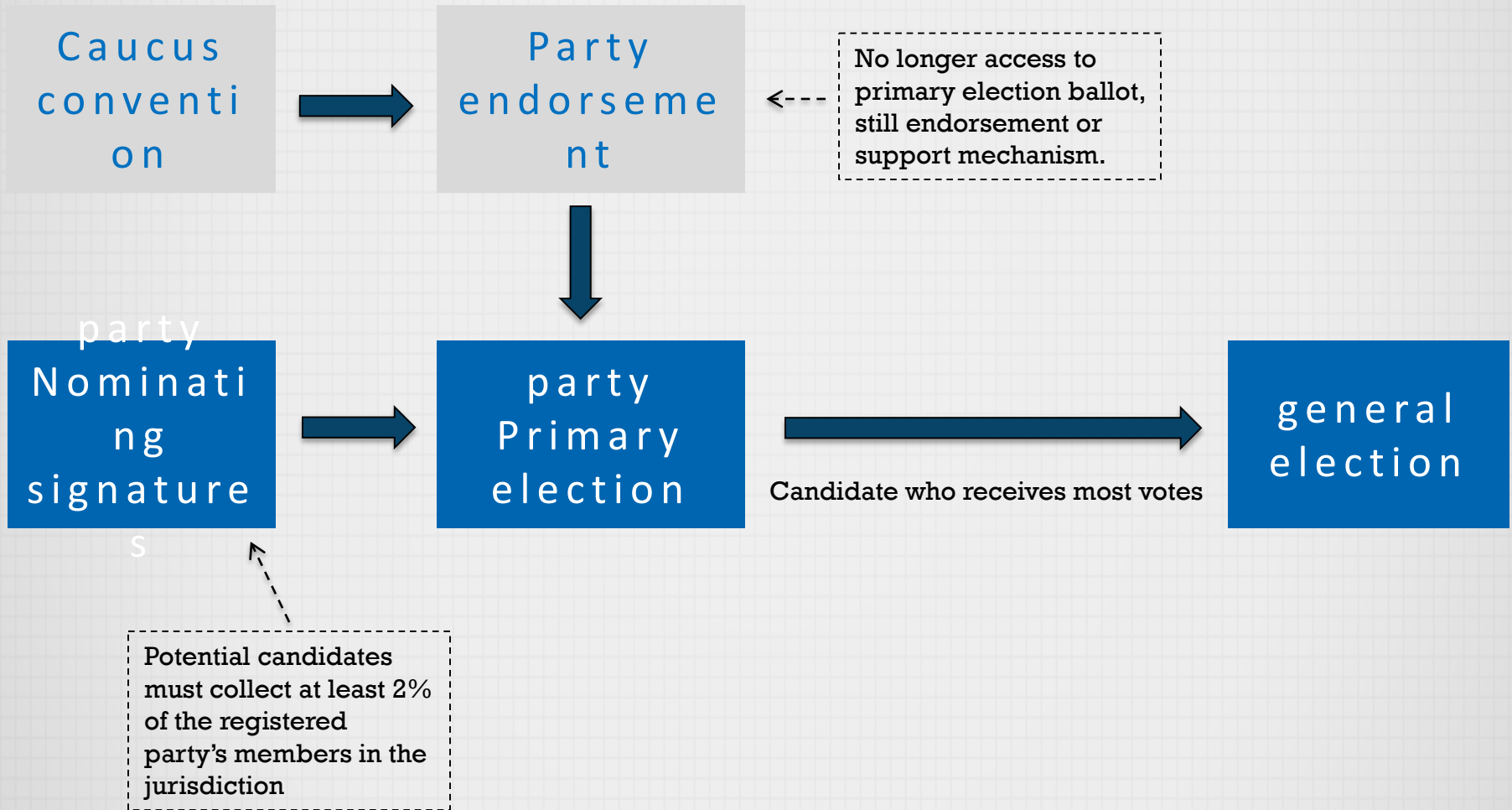


- ⊙ Facilitate greater participation.
- ⊙ Improve candidates' access to the primary election ballot.
- ⊙ Preserve the power of political parties to select their nominees.
- ⊙ Reduce the potential for fraud and election irregularities.
- ⊙ Remove systemic obstacles to participation.

“The time has come to include all voters in picking candidates, not just an elite few.”

Deseret News Editorial Board

Count my vote initiative **direct** **primary**



Count my vote initiative **direct** **primary**

The Count My Vote Citizens' Initiative Petition would implement a **direct primary election**, **not an open or “blanket primary” election**, as is used in the states of California and Washington.

The direct primary election would only impact Utah's **partisan primary elections**.

Count my vote initiative **direct**

primary

- ⊙ Count My Vote initiative would implement a direct primary election by changing the way candidates gain access to a primary election ballot.
- ⊙ Rather than candidates being nominated by small number of delegates at convention, candidates would be nominated by a broader group of their party's registered voters.
- ⊙ A candidate would seek nomination for office by collecting signatures from registered Utah voters who are affiliated with the candidate's same political party.
- ⊙ Acquiring the required number of valid signatures would place the candidate on their party's primary election ballot as a candidate for that party.

Count my vote initiative **direct** **primary**

- ⦿ To be eligible for nomination, current law requires candidates to file a declaration of candidacy with the appropriate election official (Lieutenant Governor or County Clerk) and meet eligibility requirements of the office for which they seek.
- ⦿ In a direct primary election, candidates would still be required to file a declaration and meet established eligibility requirements in order to be nominated for office.
- ⦿ Candidates would be required to acquire valid signatures that amount to 2% of their political party's registered, affiliated voters in the jurisdiction for which the candidate is running.

Count my vote initiative **direct** **primary**

- ⦿ Intent of the 2% threshold is to limit non-serious candidates from placement on a primary election ballot while not placing too high of a barrier to nomination on any serious candidate.
- ⦿ For example, a Republican Party candidate running for statewide or federal office would be required to receive approximately 11,500 valid nomination signatures. A Democratic Party candidate running for the same office would have to receive approximately 3,000 signatures.
- ⦿ This is a level threshold that uses the same percentage for all parties.

Count my vote initiative **direct** **primary**

- ⊙ A direct primary election, as proposed by Count My Vote would **not eliminate or prohibit the caucus-convention system.**
- ⊙ Political parties could utilize the caucus-convention system to endorse a candidate from among those who have been nominated by the party's affiliated voters.
- ⊙ If Utah's convention system allowed all candidates who received at least 20% of delegates' votes to proceed to the primary election, **at least five more primary elections would have taken place since 2002.**
- ⊙ In addition, **four primaries would have had more than two candidates.**

Count my vote initiative **direct** **primary**

Initiative Deemed “Clearly Constitutional” by 15 Former Presidents of the Utah State Bar:

John A. Adams

Nathan D. Alder

Charles R. Brown

N. George Daines

Scott Daniels

Bert L. Dart

Randy L. Dryer

Dennis V. Haslam

Robert L. Jeffs

Steven M. Kaufman

Charlotte L. Miller

Paul T. Moxley

Lori W. Nelson

Stephen W. Owens

Rodney G. Snow

“Those holding power under the existing system will, of course, never relinquish it on their own. It will have to be taken from them. By the people. The Count My Vote petition drive is the first step in that process.”

- *Salt Lake Tribune Editorial Board*

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