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PRESS RELEASE

STATEMENT REGARDING ELECTION OFFICE INVESTIGATION

LOGAN, UTAH - Cache County takes seriously its responsibility to ensure that elections are conducted in a way that is fair, transparent and in compliance with the law. Elections are the foundation of our freedoms and our form of government, and are critical to the preservation of our constitutional republic.

In Utah, election operations are the specific duty of County Clerks as well as City Recorders and Clerks. In the Council/Executive form of government that exists in Cache County, the County Council and County Executive each have supervisory and investigative authority over the operations of county officers, including the Clerk. The Lt. Governor's office is also specifically charged with oversight of election operations carried out by County Clerks.

This week, Cache County officials were contacted by the Lt. Governor's office regarding a concern identified by the Lt. Governor's election staff. The concern is related to a document that was filed by the Cache County Clerk's Office with the Lt. Governor's Office. In response to that concern, Cache County initiated an investigation. As part of the investigation, the County Clerk placed two employees on administrative leave. This is a standard practice in personnel investigations. In order to support the integrity of the investigation, the Cache County Clerk placed himself on administrative leave as well. Neither the County Council nor County Executive have the authority to place another elected official on administrative leave.

While it is the County's standard practice to not comment on ongoing investigations, the fact that this investigation relates to the elections office has raised concerns with members of the public, candidates, city elected officials, and city elections officials. The need to reassure the public of the integrity of the election process in Cache County has necessitated a public statement.

We are confident in the integrity of election results in Cache County. Cache County is confident that the election process carried out by election staff has resulted in trustworthy and verifiable results.

In an unrelated coincidence, a recount is being conducted today for city council races in Hyrum and Logan Cities. Those recounts were requested last week by candidates in those races due to the fact that election results were within the statutory threshold of 0.25%.

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