



OFFICE OF THE
STATE AUDITOR

News Release
For Immediate Release
September 26, 2017

**Office of the State Auditor Releases Letters to the Lieutenant Governor
Addressing Observations of the Recently Completed Primary Election**

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

The Office of the State Auditor (Office) today officially released two letters sent to Lieutenant Governor Cox, the chief elections officer of the state, addressing observations of the recently completed primary election for the Third Congressional District (CD3).

The first letter, dated August 17, 2017, highlights the Office's review of the ballot counting process, including opportunities to strengthen voters' constitutional guarantee of a secret ballot.

The second letter, dated September 19, 2017, details issues related to the use of the Voter Information and State Tracking Application (VISTA). The Office identifies opportunities for state and county election officials to strengthen processes and the VISTA system in order to avoid various ballot errors that were experienced during the recent CD3 and municipal primary elections.

As part of the Office's observation, we examined the VISTA system capabilities, analyzed VISTA reports, reviewed ballot mailing instructions and conducted poll watching at certain ballot counting locations. We appreciate the dedication of election officials across the state and their assistance in our review.

Both letters may be found on the Office's website, auditor.utah.gov. The first letter is available specifically at <https://reporting.auditor.utah.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=01541000002ehkmAAA>.

The second letter is available specifically at <https://reporting.auditor.utah.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=01541000002f275AAA>.

About the Office of the State Auditor

The Office of the State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting Federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program performance audits, performing fraud and compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah's government agencies.

The State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every four years. The role of the State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see auditor.utah.gov.

Contact:

Nicole Toomey Davis
Public Information Officer
Office of the State Auditor
801-678-4835
ndavis@utah.gov