Today, November 5, is Election Day for many cities in Utah. Below we highlight some of the interesting races to watch this year:

1. Logan City Council Race
Logan City will be electing three new city council members from six candidates in the general election. Two of the six candidates are incumbents on the council, including Tom Jensen and Jeannie F. Simmonds. The other candidates are Abraham E. Verdoes, Ken Heare, Keegan Garrity, and Mark A. Anderson. This is a vote-by-mail election. If your ballot has not been sent out and postmarked no later than the day before the election (yesterday) then you can drop off your ballot at Logan City Hall inside or outside.

2. Ogden City Mayor’s Race
In Ogden, current Mayor Mike Caldwell is running for a third term against candidate Angel Castillo, a marketing consultant. In the primary election Mayor Caldwell received 44.7% of the vote while Castillo received 28.3%. In the primary, the votes were followed by two other candidates, Daniel Tabish at 22.2% and John H. Thompson at 4.8%. It will be interesting to see how the general vote turns out after the split vote in the primary election.

3. West Jordan City Mayor’s Race
West Jordan recently made changes to its local government, allowing the Mayor, not the city manager, to control the heads of departments in the city and possess veto power over initiatives made by city council. This change makes the general election much more interesting as the city will now be electing its first “strong mayor”. Candidates in this election are City Council member Dirk Burton and current Mayor Jim Riding. In the primary election, Burton won 42.6% of the vote while Mayor Jim Riding won 38.6% of the vote. Stay tuned to this election, it should be interesting to see how it turns out!

4. Provo City Council Race
Four spots opened up in Provo’s City Council this year. Bill Fillmore, running for city council district 1, made it through the primaries without a runoff in the general election. He will be representing the first district in January. In district 3 it is between Shannon Ellsworth and Robin Roberts. In district 4, Travis Hoban and Valerie Paxman. In the city wide 2 seat, David Shipley and Janae Moss go head to head. All candidates agreed that more inclusivity needed to occur in the city and that they would all work to break down those barriers that divides the city.

5. Sandy City Council Race
Four spots are open on Sandy’s City Council this year. In district 2, it is between incumbent Maren Barker and Alison Stroud. In district 4, Brooke D’Sousa and Monica “Monica Z” Zoltanski compete. In addition to these districts, two at-large spots are open and the candidates are Jim Edwards, Marci Houseman, Cyndi Sharkey, and Dea Theodore. Be sure to watch these races and don't forget to VOTE!

We are also having a couple upcoming events to look out for: Today at 4:00 pm in the David B. Haight Center we have Pizza & Politics with Salvador Petilos, Director of the Utah Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control. There will be an open discussion of alcohol laws in the state of Utah. There will also be free pizza! On November 14th at 2:30 pm in Library 101, USU is hosting Matt Paul to give us a 2020 election outlook. Paul who served as Chief of Staff for the Vice Presidential Candidate Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia during the 2016 campaign will share lessons from 2016 and thoughts on 2020. Hope to see you there!!