

## **Proclamation Recognizing National County Government Month**

April 2025

WHEREAS, the nation's 3,069 counties serving more than 330 million Americans provide essential services to create healthy, safe and vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, counties fulfill a vast range of responsibilities and deliver services that touch nearly every aspect of our residents' lives; and

WHEREAS, counties as intergovernmental partners enact local, state and federal programs to address the needs of all residents; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County and all counties take pride in our responsibility to protect and enhance the health, wellbeing and safety of our residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to elevate awareness of county responsibilities, programs and services; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County, created in 1850, is the largest county in the state of Utah with a population of 1,185,238 (2020 Decennial Census) and the 25<sup>th</sup> largest county by total area with 742.1 square miles of land area; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County is the 37<sup>th</sup> most populated county in the United States and is one of four counties in the Rocky Mountains to make it into the top 100; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County is a highly educated area of the country with 40.3% attaining a bachelor's degree or higher in their education,

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County has a diverse population with 13,189 American Indian and Alaska Native, 51,030 Asian, 23,474 Black or African American, 232,088 Hispanic or Latino, 21,742 Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, 110,890 other races and 800,914 not Hispanic or Latino, 116,943 two or more races, 847,970 white; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County, in its early history was home for thousands of years to indigenous cultures, later being settled by European Americans in 1847 when Mormon Pioneers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints arrived after descending what is now known as Emigration Canyon, declaring "This is the Right place," after seeing the valley; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County was and still is the place for technology and new advancements starting with the special irrigations and water systems set up to develop agriculture in an arid and unpromising area, to mining technologies, the artificial heart and many other advancements in technologies leading to our own Silicon Slopes and Medical Device industries, along with many other growing companies; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County is the county seat of Utah and Salt Lake City, the Capital city resides in the boundaries, Salt Lake County was home to many of the locations for the Salt Lake City hosted 2002 Winter Olympics, the most successful Winter Olympics to that date; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County started out with a probate court and judge as its first governing body from March 15, 1852 to June 8, 1896, then went to a Board of County Commissioners in June 8, 1896 until January 1 of 2001. The County then changed its form of government to a council and mayor form with the mayor and council positions to be decided in partisan elections, with 3 council seats elected at-large and six elected by district; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County is rich in its ski area, forests, lakes and streams, outdoor recreation opportunities and many other outdoor activities, it has become a tourist destination and the place to live for outdoor enthusiasts; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County has world class zoos, arts and parks thanks to the generosity of its citizens who vote to fund the ZAP Program;

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County is focused on its service to its residents and those who work and visit the county, we are always improving efficiencies in services and budgets, working hard to give top customer service experiences and making Salt Lake County the best place to live and work;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Salt Lake County Council does hereby proclaim April 2025 as National County Government Month and encourage all county officials, employees, schools, and residents to get to know your county services and officials and find out how we serve you daily.