



CITY ELECTIONS

FRUIT HEIGHTS: AS AMERICAN AS BASEBALL, APPLE PIE, AND THE PINECONE PARTY?



Pinecone Party



Sagebrush Party

Shortly after Fruit Heights was incorporated as a city in 1939, the town council decided municipal elections should be non-partisan in nature.

The council decided to hold community gatherings, known as caucus meetings, to nominate candidates for each vacant office. Candidates would be chosen based on their thoughts regarding community issues, not national politics.

The council needed to name the two non-partisan parties. Notes suggest Brig Harvey, a sheepherder, suggested "**Sagebrush Party**" based on the amount of sagebrush on his open land.

Similarly, documents state Forest Barker, whose property was surrounded by many pine trees, suggested the name "**Pinecone Party**".

Neither party represents Democrats or Republicans, and there is no division based on where a resident lives in the city.

Every Two Years, Residents Are Divided into Pinecone and Sagebrush Parties

In a very unique system, lasting for one night every two years, Fruit Heights residents divide themselves into the Sagebrush and Pinecone parties to decide who will run for mayor and city council seats.

While most cities in Utah require candidates running for office to file a petition and face off in a primary election, Fruit Heights uses a much different system. A system of picking candidates that stretches back to the early days of the city.

In Fruit Heights, the two non-partisan parties meet at a caucus meeting to nominate candidates who will then face each other in the general election.

See CAUCUS MEETING on reverse side

CAUCUS MEETING

★ MAY 18, 2023 ★
7 pm City Hall

The City Council has three seats up for election this year. Candidates for November's election will be nominated at the May caucus meeting.

This is your chance to participate.

Be Part of History
GET INVOLVED

So, What is a Caucus Meeting, and Why is it Used?

Simply put, anyone wishing to run for office in Fruit Heights must be nominated at a caucus meeting. City council seats and the office of mayor come up for election on alternating odd numbered years. In an election year, a caucus meeting is held months before the general election in order to nominate candidates.

Those interested in running for office in Fruit Heights, or those just wanting to be involved in shaping the city and its future, should plan on attending the caucus meeting. Any resident eligible to vote is invited, welcome, and encouraged to attend the caucus meeting.

The two parties, Pinecone and Sagebrush, both meet at City Hall. One party meets upstairs in the Council Chambers, and the other meets downstairs in the Banquet Hall. Residents attending may decide which meeting they would like to attend.

To start the evening, each party elects a chairperson whose responsibility it is to find persons interested in running for office. Candidates make a brief presentation

about why they are running and what issues they find important. A vote is taken and each party nominates three candidates to run for office. This process creates six total candidates who will be listed on the November general election ballot. Bylaws are followed by each party to ensure a fair process.

Following the caucus meeting, the nominated candidates have a filing deadline in which they need to officially declare their candidacy to the City, and pick up a candidate packet.

The packet covers details candidates need to know, including important dates, timelines and locations permitted when distributing campaign materials.

Historically, many cities ran elections this way, but most have dropped the nominating conventions, leaving Fruit Heights as one of the few remaining cities in Utah using this system. Fruit Heights favors this system for several reasons, namely cost advantages. **Please attend the Caucus Meeting on Thursday, May 18, 7 pm, City Hall.**



Fruit Heights City Government

Fruit Heights government is comprised of the mayor and five city council seats. The mayor has administrative and executive responsibility, while the council has legislative responsibility. Council responsibilities include:

- Adopt City Budget
- Approve City General Plan
- Determine Tax and Fee Rates
- Determine Services Provided
- Provide Oversight to City Functions
- Pass Resolutions/ Ordinances
- Respond to Needs of Citizens

Every two years, different offices come up for election. This year, three council seats are up for

election, and in 2025, two council seats and the office of mayor will be up for election.

City council meetings are typically held at 7 pm at City Hall on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Fruit Heights does not have districts, therefore all members of the city council are elected at-large. Council members are elected to a four year term.

Current City Council

Mayor: John Pohlman-Elected 2021

Council: Diane Anderson-Elected 2019

Council: Gary Anderson-Elected 2019

Council: Eileen Moss-Elected 2019

Council: George Ray-Elected 2021

Council: Florence Sadler-Elected 2021