CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF
ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY
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Utah's Electorate: What Changed from 2024 to 2026

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Summary

Republicans won three of Utah's four U.S. House seats in 2026, but their statewide lead from 2024 disappeared. In CSED surveys of Utah voters, Democratic House candidates went from 33% of the statewide vote in 2024 to 47% in 2026. Republican candidates fell from 62% to 47%, leaving the two parties essentially tied.

- **The party makeup of voters changed the most.** Republicans (counting independents who lean Republican) were 63% of House voters in 2024 and 52% in 2026, as fewer of Utah's 2024 Trump voters cast ballots.
- **How people voted changed too, but mostly in the middle.** Independents and Republicans with looser party ties moved toward Democrats in their voting behavior. Strong Republicans and strong Democrats voted for their own party at almost exactly the same rates as in 2024.
- **About three-fifths of the Democratic gain came from the change in who voted.** About two-fifths came from voters within each group voting more Democratic.
- **Republicans who crossed over were "traditional" Republicans, not MAGA supporters.** Virtually no Republican who identified with the MAGA movement voted for a Democrat for Congress.
- **Latter-day Saints moved toward voting for Democrats as much or more than other voters.** The religious makeup of the electorate barely changed, but active Latter-day Saints more than doubled their Democratic vote, from 13% to 28%. This shift is likely a result of 2024 Trump voters turning out at a lower rate in 2026, though some Latter-day Saint Republicans also crossed over to vote for Democrats.

2024: How each partisan group voted, by district

In 2024, party loyalty was very high in all four districts. Nearly every Democrat and Republican, including those who only lean toward a party, voted for their own party's House candidate. Pure independents divided, favoring Republicans in some districts and Democrats in others.

District	Candidate	Strong Dem	Weak Dem	Lean Dem	Indep.	Lean Rep	Weak Rep	Strong Rep	All voters
1st	Bill Campbell (D)	96%	90%	89%	38%	6%	7%	2%	33%
1st	Blake Moore (R)	4%	10%	8%	44%	75%	90%	95%	62%
1st	Other	0%	0%	3%	18%	19%	3%	3%	5%
2nd	Nathaniel Woodward (D)	100%	91%	89%	39%	4%	9%	1%	34%
2nd	Celeste Maloy (R)	0%	4%	7%	36%	77%	84%	93%	58%
2nd	Other	0%	4%	4%	25%	19%	7%	6%	8%
3rd	Glenn Wright (D)	97%	94%	88%	51%	7%	10%	2%	35%
3rd	Mike Kennedy (R)	2%	6%	12%	48%	93%	89%	98%	65%
3rd	Other	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%
4th	Katrina Fallick-Wang (D)	96%	88%	84%	45%	7%	8%	2%	30%
4th	Burgess Owens (R)	3%	5%	4%	26%	79%	85%	96%	62%
4th	Other	2%	7%	13%	30%	15%	7%	2%	8%

Source: CSED 2024 survey of Utah voters, weighted. Utah's district lines changed for 2026, so these districts cannot be matched one to one with the 2026 districts. Blake Moore, Celeste Maloy and Mike Kennedy ran in 2026 in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th districts, under new boundaries.

2026: How each partisan group voted, by district

In 2026, Democratic candidates did better with Independents and Republican leaners in every district, most of all in the new 1st District. Strong partisans on both sides stayed just as loyal as in 2024.

District	Candidate	Strong Dem	Weak Dem	Lean Dem	Indep.	Lean Rep	Weak Rep	Strong Rep	All voters
1st	Ben McAdams (D)	99%	97%	97%	66%	21%	34%	3%	71%
1st	Riley Owen (R)	0%	0%	1%	17%	75%	62%	95%	26%
1st	Other	1%	3%	2%	17%	5%	4%	2%	4%
2nd	Peter Crosby (D)	99%	93%	94%	58%	21%	19%	2%	42%
2nd	Blake Moore (R)	1%	6%	2%	23%	60%	72%	93%	50%
2nd	Other	0%	1%	3%	19%	19%	9%	5%	8%
3rd	Kent Udell (D)	98%	89%	91%	58%	12%	14%	3%	36%
3rd	Celeste Maloy (R)	0%	6%	6%	17%	65%	79%	95%	56%
3rd	Other	2%	5%	3%	25%	23%	7%	2%	7%
4th	Johnny Larsen (D)	96%	99%	88%	47%	13%	15%	3%	39%
4th	Mike Kennedy (R)	3%	1%	6%	28%	71%	79%	94%	53%
4th	Other	1%	0%	7%	25%	16%	6%	3%	7%

Source: CSED 2026 survey of Utah voters, weighted. "Other" includes the Libertarian candidate and any other candidate on the ballot. Group sizes within a single district are small, so differences of a few points are not meaningful.

Statewide: 2024 compared with 2026

With all four districts combined, Utah's House electorate was less Republican in 2026, and the voters in the middle moved toward Democrats. Combining the districts (mostly) sidesteps the problem of the new district lines.

The first two columns show what share of *all* House voters each group made up. The rest show the percentage of each group who voted for the Democratic or Republican candidate.

Party identification	Share of all voters 2024	Share of all voters 2026	Voted Dem. 2024	Voted Dem. 2026	Voted Rep. 2024	Voted Rep. 2026
Strong Democrat	13%	15%	97%	98%	2%	1%
Weak Democrat	6%	8%	91%	95%	6%	3%
Lean Democrat	11%	15%	87%	93%	8%	3%
Independent	7%	10%	43%	57%	39%	22%
Lean Republican	13%	11%	6%	16%	81%	67%
Weak Republican	15%	13%	9%	19%	87%	74%
Strong Republican	35%	28%	2%	3%	96%	94%
All House voters	**100%**	**100%**	**33%**	**47%**	**62%**	**47%**

Source: CSED 2024 and 2026 surveys of Utah voters, weighted, all four US House districts combined.

Three things stand out:

- **The Republican share of the electorate got smaller in 2026.** Counting leaners, Republicans fell from 63% of House voters to 52%. Democrats rose from 29% to 38% and pure independents from 7% to 10%. The biggest single drop was among Strong Republicans, from 35% to 28%.
- **The middle moved.** Independents went from a near tie (43% Democratic, 39% Republican) to clearly favoring Democrats (57% to 22%). The share of Lean and Weak Republicans voting Democratic roughly doubled, from under 1 in 10 to about 1 in 6.
- **The strongest partisans did not move.** Strong Republicans gave their party's candidates 96% in 2024 and 94% in 2026. Strong Democrats were 97% and 98%.

Why Democrats gained: who voted, and how they voted

Most of the Democratic gain came from a different mix of voters, not from Republicans switching sides. A simple what-if shows this most clearly. Suppose 2026 voters had the 2026 mix of party identification, but each partisan subgroup voted exactly as it did in 2024.

- **2024 actual:** Democrats won 33% of the statewide House vote.
- **2026 partisan mix of voters, 2024 voting patterns:** Democrats would have won about 41% in 2026. That 8-point gain comes only from the partisan composition of who voted.
- **2026 actual:** Democrats won 47%. The remaining 6 points come from groups voting more Democratic than they did in 2024.

Roughly three-fifths of the shift between 2024 and 2026 came from the makeup of the electorate and two-fifths from changed votes. The shift in votes showed up across the middle of the partisan spectrum, not in one group alone. In a year like this, some people who called themselves Republicans in 2024 may describe themselves as independents or leaners in 2026 (although to be fair, voters may shift in their partisan strength between elections, but are heavily "category stable"—that is, Republicans don't often become Democrats and vice versa. More commonly, a "Strong Republican" might become a "not so strong Republican"). So, the "who voted" part of the change probably reflects the composition of turnout but could partly be reflected by how people labeled themselves within each partisan category.

The survey has other evidence that points to turnout as the main reason. Among 2026 voters who also voted for president in 2024, 48% say they voted for Donald Trump and 45% for Kamala Harris. Trump actually won 59% of Utah's 2024 vote and Harris 38%. People do not always report a past vote accurately, but a gap this large is hard to explain that way. It looks more likely that many of Utah's 2024 Trump voters did not vote in 2026.

2026: Traditional Republicans vs. MAGA Republicans

The Republican crossover voters who defected to vote for a Democrat for US House in 2026 came almost entirely from people who see themselves as "traditional" Republicans. The 2026 survey asked Republicans and Republican leaners whether they see themselves more as supporters of the MAGA movement or as more aligned with the traditional Republican Party. Among those who voted for the U.S. House, 33% chose MAGA, 54% chose the traditional party and 13% said neither.

Republicans who said they are...	Voted Republican	Voted Democratic	Voted other	Share of Republican voters
MAGA supporters	95%	0%	4%	33%
Traditional Republicans	80%	15%	6%	54%
Neither	72%	10%	17%	13%
All Republicans and leaners	**84%**	**9%**	**7%**	**100%**

Source: CSED 2026 survey of Utah voters, weighted. Republicans include independents who lean Republican.

- Of the Republicans who voted for a Democrat for Congress, 85% called themselves traditional Republicans and 15% said neither. Essentially none were MAGA supporters.
- Strong Republicans are split almost evenly: 47% MAGA and 46% traditional. Weak Republicans lean heavily traditional, 71% to 11%. That is the group where Democratic candidates made gains.
- The 2024 survey did not include this question, so we cannot say whether the balance between the two groups changed.

Religion: Latter-day Saints moved toward Democrats too

The religious makeup of Utah's electorate barely changed from 2024 to 2026, but every religious group voted more Democratic. Latter-day Saints were 54% of Utah voters in 2024 and 52% in 2026. Active Latter-day Saints more than doubled their Democratic vote, from 13% to 28%.

Religious group	Share of voters 2024	Share of voters 2026	Voted Dem. 2024	Voted Dem. 2026	Voted Rep. 2024	Voted Rep. 2026
Not religious	29%	31%	64%	73%	32%	20%
Other religion	17%	17%	39%	51%	55%	41%
Other Latter-day Saints	12%	10%	23%	38%	72%	56%
Active Latter-day Saints	42%	41%	13%	28%	82%	66%
All House voters	**100%**	**100%**	**33%**	**47%**	**62%**	**47%**

Source: CSED 2024 and 2026 surveys of Utah voters, weighted, all four districts combined. Active Latter-day Saints describe themselves as very active in their faith; Other Latter-day Saints includes somewhat, not very and not active. Not religious includes those with no religious preference and those who preferred not to say.

- **The religious makeup of the electorate stayed the same.** If each religious group had voted in 2026 just as it did in 2024, Democrats would have won about 34%, almost exactly their 33% in 2024. So nearly all of the 14-point Democratic gain happened within religious groups, not because the religious mix of voters changed. Within each group, fewer 2024 Trump voters turned out and some Republicans crossed over.
- **Latter-day Saints moved as much as anyone.** Every religious group moved 9 to 15 points toward Democrats. Because Latter-day Saints are about half of the electorate, they supplied about half of the Democratic gain. Active Latter-day Saints alone supplied about 6 of the 14 points.

Fewer voters in every religious group called themselves Republicans in 2026. The drop was 8 to 14 points in each group.

Religious group	Republican 2024	Republican 2026	Strong Rep. 2024	Strong Rep. 2026	Democrat 2024	Democrat 2026
Not religious	32%	22%	14%	9%	58%	64%
Other religion	58%	45%	32%	27%	35%	43%
Other Latter-day Saints	71%	62%	36%	32%	19%	29%
Active Latter-day Saints	83%	75%	50%	42%	10%	17%
All respondents	**63%**	**52%**	**35%**	**28%**	**29%**	**37%**

Source: CSED 2024 and 2026 surveys of Utah voters, weighted, all respondents. Republican and Democrat include independents who lean toward each party. The gap to 100% is pure independents.

- Among active Latter-day Saints, the share calling themselves Republicans fell from 83% to 75%, and the share calling themselves strong Republicans fell from 50% to 42%.
- But because the religious mix of voters held steady between the two elections, the shift away from identifying as Republican toward identifying as Democratic between the two elections is most likely a function of 2024 Trump voters who stayed home in 2026. If the 2024 Trump voters stayed home within each religious

group, that would leave each group less Republican while keeping the overall mix of religious affiliation in the state about the same.

- Republicans of other faiths, the group most likely to call itself MAGA, saw the largest drop between the two years.
- Voting for a party's candidate and identifying with a party are two different things. The shift in voting behavior among Latter-day Saints between 2024 and 2026 shows some movement away from voting for Republicans and toward voting for Democrats. Some of this movement is likely an actual shift in behavior among voters and not entirely attributable to turnout. Statewide, the share of Republicans who voted for the Democratic House candidate rose from 4% in 2024 to 9% in 2026. The change was largest among Republicans who are active Latter-day Saints: in 2024 they were the least likely Republicans to cross over (3%), and in 2026 they did so at 10%, about the same rate as other Republicans.
- Crossover voting for the other party is much more likely than a big shift in partisan identity. Partisan identity is typically quite stable in voters across a lifetime. Voters may shift in the strength of their identity but changing partisan teams is the exception not the rule. A large shift in partisan identity typically takes many years and generational replacement to occur.
- These are two separate surveys, and we do not follow the same people over both. It's possible that some of the change in partisan identity between 2024 and 2026 among Latter-day Saints reflects voters who changed their partisan identity, but we cannot be sure without tracking the same voters over both elections. Lower turnout in 2026 among 2024 Trump voters is most likely to be the main cause of a changed distribution of partisan identity among Latter-day Saints.

Active Latter-day Saint Republicans are the most likely to call themselves traditional Republicans and the least likely to choose MAGA. Even so, they crossed over to Democratic House candidates at about the same rate as other Republicans.

Republicans who are...	MAGA	Traditional Republican	Neither	Voted Dem.	Voted Rep.	Voted other
Not religious	32%	49%	18%	11%	77%	12%
Other religion	45%	41%	14%	7%	84%	8%
Other Latter-day Saints	38%	48%	15%	8%	86%	6%
Active Latter-day Saints	29%	60%	12%	10%	85%	6%
All Republicans	**33%**	**54%**	**13%**	**9%**	**84%**	**7%**

Source: CSED 2026 survey of Utah voters, weighted. Republicans include independents who lean Republican and who voted for the U.S. House. The 2024 survey did not ask the MAGA question.

From 2024 to 2026, active Latter-day Saints' vote for Democratic US House candidates rose 15 points, from 13% to 28%. This change can be attributed to three roughly equal reasons. First, fewer active Latter-day Saint voters in 2026 were Republicans, consistent with lower turnout among Trump voters. Second, active Latter-day Saint Republicans crossed over to vote Democratic (going from 3% in 2024 to 10% in 2026). Third, active Latter-day Saints who are not Republicans voted more heavily Democratic.

About the Utah Voter Poll

These figures come from two iterations of the Utah Voter Poll, surveys of Utah voters by the Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy (CSED) at BYU. In 2024 6,513 Utah voters participated and in 2026 it was 5,230.

For both surveys a sample of likely voters was drawn from the Utah voter file using a model of turnout for that year's general election. Voters more likely to vote in the upcoming election were more likely to be randomly sampled. Voters were invited to participate by mail and interviewed online. Each survey was fielded about a week before the election and closed at midnight on Election Day. Respondents who had already voted reported how they voted; those who had not yet voted said how they planned to vote. In both years, a large majority of respondents participated in the survey after casting their vote, making these surveys more akin to exit polling than a preelection survey.

Both surveys are weighted by age, gender, county, and party registration, with population targets set from that year's sample of likely voters. Both are also weighted to the actual election results. In 2024 that meant the statewide races for president, governor, U.S. Senate, and attorney general. In 2026, with no statewide candidate races, it meant the four U.S. House races and the two constitutional amendments. Neither survey is weighted by religion or by party identification. In 2024, weighting to the presidential result raised the share of Republican identifiers by about six points, because Trump voters were less likely to take the survey. In 2026 the weights changed party identification very little, because the people who responded already resembled the voters who turned out.

Margin of error. Statewide figures are accurate to within roughly plus or minus 2 percentage points. Smaller groups, such as pure Independents or a single party group within one district, are much less precise.

Party identification is based on a standard survey question. "Leaning" Democrats and Republicans first call themselves independents, then say they lean toward one party. When referring to Republicans or Democrats as a group, leaners are counted as partisans not independents.

Selected Survey Question Wording

pid
Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent or something else?

- ○ Republican (1)
- ○ Democrat (2)
- ○ Independent or Unaffiliated (3)
- ○ No preference / Neither (4)
- ○ Other (5)

Asked if :
pid = 3
Or pid = 4
Or pid = 5

pid_lean
Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or to the Democratic Party?

- ○ Republican (1)
- ○ Democratic (2)
- ○ Neither (3)

Asked if :
pid = 1

pid_strong_rep
Would you call yourself a strong Republican or a not very strong Republican?

- ○ Strong Republican (1)
- ○ Not very strong Republican (2)

Asked if :
pid = 2

pid_strong_dem
Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or a not very strong Democrat?

- ○ Strong Democrat (1)
- ○ Not very strong Democrat (2)

Asked if :
pid = 1
Or pid_lean = 1

maga
Do you see yourself more as a supporter of the MAGA movement, or more aligned with the traditional Republican Party overall?

- ○ The MAGA movement (1)
- ○ The traditional Republican Party (2)
- ○ Neither (3)

religpref
What, if any, is your religious preference?

- Protestant (1)
- Catholic (2)
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) (3)
- Jewish (4)
- Muslim (5)
- Other (6)
- No preference / No religious affiliation (7)
- Prefer not to say (8)

Asked if :

religpref = 1

Or religpref = 2

Or religpref = 3

Or religpref = 4

Or religpref = 5

Or religpref = 6

s_activity
How active do you consider yourself in the practice of your religious preference?

- Very active (4)
- Somewhat active (3)
- Not very active (2)
- Not active (1)
- Does not apply / Prefer not to say (0)