

Craig Frank

In January 2011 an unfortunate event occurred in the northeast area of Utah County when I arbitrarily discovered I was living outside my House District 57 boundaries (and had been for two years). The Utah State House of Representatives had just launched its new website, and as I was perusing the contents of the site found a new function which allowed citizens the ability to "click" on their neighborhood and identify their State Senator and State Representative. To my surprise when I clicked on my neighborhood in northern Cedar Hills, Senator Valentine and Rep. John Dougall appeared--not me. That same morning, I notified the House of Representatives' staff of the discrepancy, and, by that afternoon was officially dismissed from the Utah State House of Representatives. (The Utah State Constitution requires every representative to live within their statutorily defined district.) Although Lt. Governor Greg Bell had certified my election to the House in conjunction with the November 2010 election (he produced and signed a certification document), that certification was nullified and 2500+ citizens in Cedar Hills were "disenfranchised" (an official determination made by Judge Christine Johnson of the Fourth District Court).

Identifying the previous events surrounding the Cedar Hills/Highland boundary problem provides a point of reference and brief history of the events that were placed in motion more than a decade before my dismissal from the legislature. Erroneous maps were created (in my opinion, unintentionally) by Utah County officials through a series of land annexations following the 2001 legislative redistricting process. **The 2002 County Precinct maps between LD57 and LD27 clearly showed the erroneous boundary--half a decade before Bryan Thompson assumed office as the Utah County Clerk in January 2007.** (In fact, the committee responsible for verifying the county elections maps, coordinated with the State for redistricting following the 2000 census, included our current Governor Gary Herbert--then serving as a Utah County Commissioner.)

With all the computer technology, with all the discerning eyes, with all the legislative processes and hearings (involving thousands of people with a vested interest), this error remained undetected for nearly a decade. **Alluding to or inferring that any one person is responsible for the errors associated with this event is unfair and irresponsible, and should be perceived as political self-interest and personal agenda.**

Let's move forward through this inspired elections process. Let's not point fingers at each other. Let's dwell on the issues and the facts. And then, let's enjoy the fruits of our Representative Republic. God bless America, our Constitution, and the Great State of Utah.

To the best of my knowledge, these are the events and facts as they transpired.