



## PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT

*The following statement was read by Emma Petty Addams, Co-Executive Director for Mormon Women for Ethical Government, at a press conference on Monday August 25, 2025, 8:00 PM at the Third District Courthouse steps in Salt Lake City, UT.*

Good evening. I'm Emma Petty Addams with Mormon Women for Ethical Government, one of the plaintiffs in this case. **We are proud to stand here today**—alongside the League of Women Voters and all Utahns who believe in fair representation—to share that we have prevailed.

This is a significant and long-awaited victory. The people of Utah **have a constitutional right to reform their government** and today the court ruled that the Legislature violated that right when it ignored the people's voice in advocating for fair maps. And that means that Utah voters have a right to fair maps.

**This is a meaningful victory**, not just for the plaintiffs, but for every Utahn who believes that government should serve the people.

In practical terms, this means Utah's current maps must be replaced before the next election. By 2026, voters will finally have the opportunity to choose their representatives under a system that puts **fairness and transparency above political self-interest**.

For us at MWEG, this case has always been about the source of political power. We believe that it originates with the people. The people loan it to our elected representative and **those representatives must be accountable to the people**. When citizens come together and act in good faith to improve that government, we deserve to be heard, not silenced.

When voters passed Proposition 4 in 2018, they did so by crossing ideological lines. This initiative represented a broad, cross-partisan commitment to ethical redistricting. And when that reform was later overturned by the legislature, many Utahns felt ignored and disillusioned. **Today's ruling restores our voice**.

The court reaffirmed that citizens have both the **right and the responsibility to reform unjust systems**, and that this right cannot be discarded by elected officials for their own political convenience.

We thank the court for upholding that principle, and for recognizing that **voter-driven reform is not only supported by the Utah state constitution, it is essential to a functioning democracy**.

**To our state leaders, we want to say: let's work together to create a more representative government.** The people have spoken. The courts have spoken. Now it's time to move forward with cooperation and respect for the rule of law.

And to the many Utahns who have followed this case with frustration, but also with patience and hope, **this win belongs to you.**

It proves that civic engagement matters. That principled persistence matters. And that our systems can be a vehicle for positive change.

We are deeply grateful to our legal team, our fellow plaintiffs, and the thousands of committed citizens who made this case possible. And we remain determined, as ever, to continue to build a more ethical, inclusive, and representative government for all Utahns.

Thank you.