

Currently, San Juan County operates under a Commission form of government. This 3 member Commission has both legislative and executive decision making authority.

The special election, initiated by a signature process sponsored by 5 registered County members created the petition, where the petitioners met the State Code requirements to ask San Juan County citizens this question: "Shall a Study Committee be appointed to consider and possibly recommend a change in San Juan County's form of government?"

Per State Code, the Study will be facilitated by 7 appointed volunteers selected to perform the following duties: A) Hold public hearings and community forums to get citizen input; B) Study the County's government and the alternative forms of County Government options; C) Determine whether the county's government could be significantly improved by changing the form of county government; D) Report on its findings within 1 year.

Per State Code, in making appointments to the study committee, the appointment council (who are the 5 sponsors of the petition as stated above), shall work to achieve a broadly representative study committee membership. The appointment council may not appoint an individual to the study committee unless that individual is a registered voter in the County and does not hold any public office or employment other than membership on the appointment council.

The possible forms of government are:

- The County Commission form; Section 17-52a-201. (This is a 3 member commission having both executive and legislative powers.)
- The expanded County Commission form; Section 17-52a-202. (This can be a 5 member or 7 member Commission having both executive and legislative powers.)
- The County Executive and Council form; Section 17-52a-203 or; (This is an elected County Council, and an elected County Executive such as a County Mayor and can include other officers and employees. The County Executive has the executive powers and the County Council has legislative powers)
- The Council-Manager form; Section 17-52a-204. (This form the County Council is elected and has the legislative powers. The Manager is appointed, is the administrative head and has the executive powers of a County Executive with exceptions.)

Within the one year, the Study Committee will hold open public meetings and submits their written report of proposal for Compliance Review to the County Attorney. If the written report is in compliance then San Juan County citizens would have an election on the optional plan at the next regular or municipal general election. If voters reject the optional plan, the process ends. If voters adopt the optional plan, the election of new officers will take place at the next regular general election.

If there are additional questions regarding this process, please refer to Title 17, Chapter 52a of Utah Code Annotated. Items in this document have been summarized in an attempt to simply provide additional information for the current ballot question. In doing so, it is not the intent of the County to formulate any position regarding the question on the ballot but to provide consistent education summarizing the overall process.