



History of Salt Lake County

Settlement of the area now known as Salt Lake County began July 24, 1847 as Brigham Young and a party of Mormon pioneers entered the Salt Lake Valley after journeying 1,500 miles west. Within a few years the Salt Lake Valley became a major center for trade and commerce as wagon trains and railroads.

Salt Lake City became the Capital City of the Utah Territory and the County Seat on January 6th, 1851. The County became a corporate and political entity when the State of Utah was admitted to the Union on January 4th, 1896.

With continuous economic and population growth, Salt Lake County is now a large metropolitan area covering 764 square miles and has upwards of 1,000,000 residents, comprising more than 40% of Utah's total population.

Form of Government

In January 2001, Salt Lake County entered the new century with a new form of government. The voters chose to have an elected mayor and a nine-member council to represent them. The mayor and council are now charged with running Salt Lake County government. Mayor Peter Corroon, Salt Lake County's second mayor, has the responsibility of managing the County's four major departments: Administrative Services, Community Services, Human Services, and Public Works. The nine-member Salt Lake County Council sets the budget and performs legislative duties for the County.

Centennial

In 1997 Salt Lake County celebrated its centennial by honoring five of its citizens as countywide 'Once in 100 Award Winners.' Those recognized were Arch Madsen, the Eccles Family, Judge Raymond Uno, Alf Engen, and Dr. Kristin Reis.

