

Dear Cache County Council,

With gratitude and humility, I would like to announce my resignation from the office of Cache County Attorney, effective 30 days from today, on February 8, 2026. I make this decision with deep contemplation and a desire to ease the transition to my successor in this position, who will be chosen this year by the voters. Further, I am still a young man, with two children at home to support. I do not have retirement income or a stake in a business in town to fall back on. I am required to work to earn my income, and I have found employment that allows me to stay in Cache County, so I will take it now rather than wait until the end of the year and ignore a good opportunity. I am so grateful for the deep honor the voters saw fit to place upon me to serve my community in this position, and to my family and especially my wife who has made my service possible. Our Republic is built on the principle of the Rule of Law and not of Men, and it has been my pleasure to uphold the Constitutional rights of Cache County citizens, the laws of the State of Utah, and the ordinances of Cache County.

I hold this position as a sacred trust, and when selected to serve in this position by the People, I promised all the blood, sweat, and tears I could muster on their behalf and I can say with firm resolve that I have given my all to the improvement of the organization and administration of this County government. At that time of selection, there were still many lingering questions regarding the vacancy in this office created in 2021, instability, and high turnover among attorney employees who would leave for better pay and working conditions.

In the two years since, the office morale, performance, and culture are now better than they have been in decades. During my time as County Attorney, I was able to shepherd the creation of the Cache Open Space Advisory Board, negotiate and assist in the acquisition of a crown jewel—the Sardine Canyon Open Space, complete an overhaul of the structure of the Bear River Health Department, get the Cache airport on solid footing renegotiating leases with tenants and Union Pacific Railroad and increasing compliance with FAA regulations, renegotiate the agreement governing BRAG, develop and implement policy to safeguard county funds and contracts, resolve suits against the County, prevent waste, fraud and abuse, fight for public access on our mountain roads, reestablish a relationship between the CCAO and CAPSA, get the Victim Advocates back on track and in compliance with grants, bring county departments into compliance with State Law, review and resolve numerous officer involved uses of force giving due respect to our officers, overhaul personnel policy, and ensure the orderly administration of justice. The County Attorney's office and the County as a whole are now on a solid foundation to continue to mature and develop as the population grows and the needs of our community continue to increase.

The County Attorney under state statute is an independent elected official to act as counsel for the County as an entity, obligated to advocate for the best interests of the County as a whole, rather than serving the Council or Executive as their employee. Through the years I have tried to advocate for those policies that will best serve everyone. As I leave this position, I want you to know that my concern for the well-being of Cache County isn't only professional, and it won't end when I step down. I love Cache County and I am a citizen of this special place. I would therefore

take this opportunity to offer a few pieces of advice for you to consider. These insights come from my time serving as your County Attorney and, in my view, are crucial for our shared future. Please take these as the sincere concerns of a friend who has nothing to gain personally from the advice. I feel comfortable being this candid because of the respect, openness, and willingness to “hear me out” you have each shown me throughout my tenure in this office.

First, I am deeply concerned about the recent decisions to cut hundreds of thousands of dollars from the public safety budget of this County, especially with more cuts to public safety promised to take place this year. While I understand the pressure to save money, cutting the public safety budget in the already lowest taxing County in the State of Utah is a dangerous mistake. We are already at the bottom, we should not start digging to see how low we can go, cutting at a whim half a million dollars from the County Attorney’s Office budget alone and potentially millions from the Sheriff’s Office. It is a two pronged problem, defunding our deputies on the road and the prosecutors who finish the job at Court. Every other county in Utah of similar size is doing the exact opposite, because they recognize that lawlessness is not a winning strategy. Our sister counties of the third class, instead of slashing, are fortifying their County Attorney budgets by hundreds of thousands of dollars this fiscal year alone because they recognize that workload is increasing, not shrinking. Neighbor counties are making it a priority to give raises to their deputies to ensure they can keep and recruit the best performing officers. The cream of our law enforcement is actively being skimmed by Box Elder and Weber Counties, drawn away by higher pay, better conditions, and more reasonable workloads. By moving in the opposite direction, Cache County is becoming a risky outlier. The recent SWAT callout in Hyrum this summer is a cautionary example. One single incident stretched the resources of Cache County, even with extensive assistance of municipalities and other counties, to the breaking point. If we have two incidents, even of smaller size, at the same time, there is simply not the capacity to handle it, even with help from every other agency in this region. You cannot expect to maintain an appropriate level of safety while continuously stripping away the resources needed to provide it. If we continue down this path as is, or worse make more cuts to public safety, it is only a matter of time before it leads to a tragedy or a major failure in our system. I urge the Council, and the Executive who proposed this policy, to rethink these cuts. Public safety is the foundation of everything else we do. The ability to conduct business, live in peaceful neighborhoods, attend safe schools, enjoy this special valley, depend on public safety at the root. Saving money in the short term is not worth the long-term problems and additional victims these cuts will cause. For the sake of the people who live here, invest and reinvest in the men and women who keep this county safe and just.

Second, beyond the budget, I want to address the vital importance of institutional integrity. Cache County is best served when its elected offices of the Executive, Sheriff, Clerk, Auditor, Treasurer, Recorder, Assessor, and County Attorney, are allowed to operate within their specific roles per Utah Code 17-53-10. Our system was designed this way on purpose. Centralizing too much power or blurring the lines between these offices doesn't create efficiency; it creates opportunities for mismanagement and errors. The saying that 'good fences make good neighbors' applies perfectly here. When each office understands its specific boundaries and respects the independence of the others, it actually makes cooperation easier. By maintaining these clear divisions, we ensure the checks and balances necessary to protect the People’s interests. I urge the

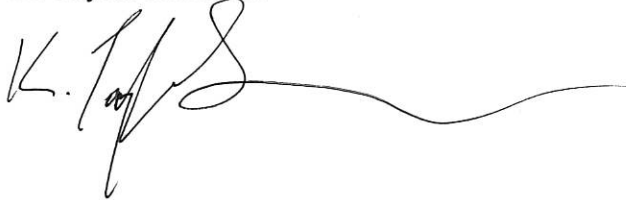
Council and the Executive to respect these boundaries and avoid the temptation to over-reach into the independent spheres of these offices. A county where every official can do their job without interference is a county that functions with honesty and transparency.

Finally, I would appeal to the People of this County and urge each of them to participate in our shared County government. Good faith participation and making your voice heard will improve outcomes. As the People are sovereign in Cache County, it is therefore their responsibility and obligation to select wise and able public servants and provide them the information the County needs to be successful. Like any good sovereign, the People should engage with issues thoughtfully, patiently, and with an eye to the public good and what is best for all people in the County. Elected officers are more likely to listen to their constituents when that feedback is reasoned, principled, and given in good faith. It is easy to criticize and difficult to contribute. I know that I am not perfect, but I have given my all for the best interests of the County. Other elected officers are also just people, doing what they believe to be best in the circumstances in which they are placed. I have heard of numerous municipalities around this County which struggle to find citizens willing to serve. This is a troubling trend. We have a duty to each other and our children to offer ourselves in service and participate in our government. 250 years ago our founding fathers declared independence and gave us the opportunity to govern ourselves. We are poor custodians of that gift when we refuse the call to serve in our own cities and towns and govern ourselves appropriately.

In closing, I am ready to step down and return to my life as a private citizen. I look forward to living as your neighbor under the very laws I have spent the last several years upholding. I hope you will accept the advice I've shared today in the spirit it was intended, as the honest reflections of a friend who cares deeply about Cache County. I am committed to making sure the transition to my successor is as smooth as possible for the sake of the office and the public. It has been a true honor to serve the people of Cache County, and I wish you all nothing but the best.

Yours,

K. Taylor Sorensen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Taylor Sorensen', followed by a long, wavy horizontal line that extends across the page.