



CANDIDATES' FORUM

PRE-ELECTION QUESTIONS to PONDER – October 6, 2014

1) HEALTH CARE

a) Medicaid

Many states are seeing a significant drop in the number of parents without health insurance, but Utah isn't one of them. There's a stark contrast between the results in states that have opted to expand Medicaid as part of the *Affordable Care Act*, compared to those that have not. If Utah had expanded Medicaid, 15,000 more adults would likely have health coverage today. Instead, Gov. Herbert is attempting to acquire federal approval for his *Healthy Utah* plan, a three-year pilot program, in lieu of Medicaid expansion. Utah would use its \$258 million in federal Medicaid expansion funding to provide subsidies that individuals within the coverage gap could use to purchase private health insurance. The requirement that able-bodied adults utilize the state Department of Workforce Services' help in looking for work in order to receive health insurance has been a chief sticking point in slowing the deal.

What is your stance on Medicaid expansion to low-income adults? Do you support Gov. Herbert's Healthy Utah plan as opposed to the Medicaid expansion plan? How would you help insure that health care is provided to those who fall into the coverage gap in the Affordable Care Act?

b) Women's Reproductive Health Care & Family Planning

As far back as 1968, The United Nations International Conference on Human Rights recognized that family planning is a basic human right, that "parents have a right to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children." But that right cannot be exercised without access to affordable contraceptive care and other reproductive health care services that are an essential part of basic health care for women. Family planning saves lives by ensuring that every pregnancy is wanted. The continued use of family planning also means that a woman is able to plan for her future, complete her education and

find decent employment. Education and the opportunity to earn a living empowers women, and brings a host of incidental benefits for society.

In the U.S. politicians are introducing bills that would take away women's birth control coverage under health care laws, giving away women's health care decisions about whether or not to access birth control services based on their own beliefs. Opponents see these bills as part of a broader attack on a woman's ability to make her own reproductive health care decisions. Today health care coverage is overwhelmingly tied to employment status, allowing an employer to refuse to cover certain forms of contraception, thereby reducing women's access to these health services. Women already have less disposable income to spend on health care services because of the gender pay gap, and college-educated women are especially burdened by high levels of student loan debt.

What is your stance on reproductive health services and family planning for women and their families? How would you help ensure that the services offered through Title X in Utah and those of other family planning agencies are available to the women of Utah and that women have access to necessary health care services through insurance?

2) THE ECONOMY

a) The Wage Gap & Economic Security? The Paycheck Fairness Act

The just-released (9/18/14) U.S. Census Bureau report, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2013*, showed that the gender wage gap narrowed only slightly in 2013, leaving a gap that still undermines women's and families' efforts to make ends meet. Median earnings of women working full time, year-round in the US in 2013 were just 78% of men's earnings, compared with 77% in 2012. The wage gap isn't just a number but represents real dollars and cents that translate into less money for food, gas, housing, utilities, education, child care, etc. Women face a gender pay gap at every education level and in every occupation, and the gap is worse for mothers and women of color. Even when controlling for all factors known to affect earnings, AAUW researchers still found a 7% unexplainable pay gap between men and women just one year out of college. In every state, women make a fraction of what men make.

Women in Utah have it the worst. Utah had the fourth largest wage gap in the nation in 2012. The US Senate failed to move to a vote on the Paycheck Fairness Act that would address male–female

income disparity. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 makes it illegal for employers to pay unequal wages to men and women who perform substantially equal work. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 amended the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by extending the statute of limitations for filing an equal-pay lawsuit regarding pay discrimination. The Paycheck Fairness Act would create incentives for employers to follow the law, empower women to negotiate for equal pay, and strengthen federal outreach and enforcement efforts.

How would you help reduce the disparity between male and female workers, support pay equity to provide much-needed income to Utah's women whose salaries are of critical importance to them and their families, improve and advance equal opportunity for women in the work force and, further, to ensure that women are paid fairly and that they have the legal tools they need to fight pay discrimination when it occurs?

b) Women in High Level Occupations, Leadership Positions in Politics and Business

In 1900, 13 % of Utah women worked outside the home. In 2012, roughly 61 percent of Utah women over the age of 16 were in the labor market. While notable numbers of women have moved into several nontraditional occupations over the past fifty years, women account for about the same share of clerical employment now as they did in 1960. Occupations where Utah women comprise a much smaller share of employment than U.S. women include management, business/financial, computer/mathematical, life/physical/social science, community/social services, legal, and healthcare practitioners/technical personnel.

Utah women are much less likely to be employed in occupations requiring higher education than are U.S. women. In business, just 31.8% of management jobs were held by women, the third lowest portion in the nation. In politics, Utah is one of just five states that have no women in Congress or statewide office, and female members make up just 16.3 percent of the state legislature (although it does have a female House speaker). These occupations also tend to be among the highest paying occupations. The comparative shortage of Utah women in higher-paying occupations undoubtedly contributes to Utah's higher-than-average male/female wage gap.

Do you see any need to change this situation and, if so what would you suggest?

c) Utah's Middle Class & Income Equality

Most people think they are middle class. Members of the middle class belong to diverse groups which overlap with each other. Although there is no definitive standard, one metric is household income between two-thirds and twice the median household income (\$59,127 in 2010 from the Pew Report, for a range of \$39,400 to \$118,000.) The median for St. George is the lowest of Utah's five major metro areas. The chief economist at Utah's Department of Workforce Services thinks entry into the middle class in Utah probably starts around \$40,000 a year, enough to afford a house and a family, but little else.

Data and recent poll results show Utah's middle class is struggling, has lost ground and is slipping backward, having lost middle class security. Median income peaked in 2007/2008. Many people lost their positions or went from solid middle-class jobs to minimum-wage employment. They feel that their financial foundations are eroding because wages have stagnated for more than a decade for many reasons, including insufficient education for higher paying jobs, lack of adequate health insurance, company closings, moves, insufficient work, low minimum wage, the decline of unions' power (Utah is a "Right to Work" state), the shift of jobs overseas and the increasing use of technology in the workplace. They believe income is slipping, that they lack political clout, and the rich-poor gap is widening. Most doubt that their elected officials have the ability to fix the economy.

What would be your call to action to create conditions that will help and grow Utah's middle class? What measures would you support to insure that working families can earn a living wage, that we have a strong and vibrant labor community, and education for higher-paying jobs?

3) EDUCATION

a) The Education Gap & Utah's Women

Utah shows the largest gap in the nation between male and female college-graduation rates. While prior to 1990 Utah women showed a higher rate of college graduation than U.S. women, by 2000, Utah women had lost their "bachelor's degree or higher" educational edge. In 2012, the gap between men and women attaining four-year degrees in Utah had grown to 6%, a disparity from the rest of the U.S. that resulted in Utah ranking 26th for higher education completion by women. Utah is last in terms of the percentage of female students enrolled in post-secondary institutions. College is a "great equalizer;" with higher education, students increase their chances of improving their lives and succeeding financially.

Because of the rising cost of higher education and other deterrents, it's not always easy to navigate the college road. A variety of reasons influence women to succeed in their higher education careers, including implementing the focus on higher education at younger ages and surrounding young women with positive education role models and abundant leadership opportunities.

Other than Utah's 529 Educational Savings Plan that offers tax-advantaged savings vehicles designed to encourage individuals to begin to save for the future costs of higher education, what would you propose that would aid women in their struggle to get college degrees?

b) STEM Education

Utah women graduate from business and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs at rates substantially below their national peers. Utah women are far behind men in STEM education and the higher-paying jobs in those areas. About 17% of Utah jobs in STEM professions are held by women, compared to 24% nationally. The Utah STEM Action Center, whose Board consists of 10 men and 1 woman, is directed to prioritize STEM education to develop Utah's workforce of the future by increasing the number and quality of STEM educators and professionals. The Center will drive research and implementation of STEM education best practices across Utah.

Do you support the Utah STEM Action Center and how will you help insure that young women have the same opportunities in education, jobs and improved income as their male counterparts?

c) Common Core Standards

The Common Core State Standards for Math and English language arts were adopted by Utah in 2010, making the Common Core standards for Math and English language arts part of the Utah Core Standards. The Common Core is not a program, assessment system, data collection system, a curriculum, nor a federalization of state education programs. Utah's core educational standards, including the Common Core standards adopted for math and English language arts, are a set of standards, i.e., Utah State Board of Education's expectations for grade-level appropriate knowledge in core subjects. In Utah, the Common Core Standards are not attached to federal funding or common assessments. Standards are tools for individual

teachers and individual students. The Utah core standards are intended to help students become innovative, to excel and to compete with their peers.

Governor Herbert is concerned that the term "Common Core" has become so contentious that it is dividing us on things we all actually agree on, like the need for local control, reducing the need for post-high school remediation, setting high standards and preparing our students to succeed. He has called for a variety of actions to resolve the issues, including a legal review and a standards review committee, consisting of parents, teachers and experts who will review the current Utah standards in all subject areas, make sure our teachers have the training that they need to teach effectively and that facilitation of parental involvement is improved.

How would you help the governor to resolve the discord and misunderstanding ... and to put our focus back on helping Utah's 600,000 public and charter school students to succeed, to optimize learning for each student, to make sure our existing standards truly prepare our students for college and careers so they can compete in the global marketplace, at a college or university, or in occupational certificate programs after high school and reach their full potential?

d) Privacy in the Schools

Privacy issues are of critical importance to all of us. Today we use phones, tablets and computers to generate significant amounts of personal data, and we are just beginning to recognize the power of data collection and data mining. The Governor pointed out that, of course, some data is critical to evaluation and improvement. He shares the concerns of many about the types of data being collected, the use of those data and, critically, the security of those data.

Over a year ago, the State Board of Education passed two resolutions regarding the appropriate use of testing and adequate protection of a student's personal information and requested specific legislation to address their concerns. The Governor has asked legislative leadership to work with his Office and the State Board of Education to address these issues.

How would you promote this process of working with the applicable agencies to keep the focus on the success of our students, while guaranteeing that we have the necessary protections in place while appropriately using testing and information to improve educational outcomes for our students?

4) CIVIL RIGHTS

a) Discrimination

Workplace and housing discrimination is seen by many as a real and pervasive problem in Utah. Everyone should be treated the same by the laws of our state. Today in our state, Utahns who are gay and transgender still can be unfairly fired from their jobs or evicted from their homes simply because of sexual orientation or gender identity, because of who they are. They live in fear that they can be fired for reasons that have nothing to do with their job performance. Current Utah laws include protections for race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age and disability. Suggested laws would update the existing laws to prohibit job discrimination based on factors unrelated to a person's performance, workplace conduct, or qualifications.

Would you support civil rights for all Americans, including LGBT Americans, by supporting an amendment to Utah's statewide non-discrimination statute to include sexual orientation and gender identity?

b) Amendment 3 – the Gay Marriage Ban

In 2004, Utah approved Utah Constitutional Amendment 3, a constitutional amendment that excludes same-sex couples from marriage and prohibits same-sex couples from any other form of legal family status. To say that people hold divergent views about marriage is an understatement. As with other issues of domestic-relations law, choosing a definition of marriage in today's world presents a clash between deeply held interests and values.

On one hand are the interests of Utah citizens who have formed intimate, committed relationships with someone of the same sex —and in some cases are raising or wish to raise children together—and who want the state to confer on them the benefits of marriage. They wish to be valued and respected as both equal before the law and fully entitled to order their private lives in the manner they have chosen. Opponents say there is no fundamental due-process right to marry someone of the same sex, that gay marriage would reduce fertility rates, and that marriage is an optimal social structure for bearing, raising, educating, socializing, and preparing its future citizens to become productive participants in civil society.

In recognition that Utahns live in a broad and diverse range of family circumstances, what is your stand on Utah's State Constitutional Amendment 3,

otherwise known as the Gay Marriage Ban that sought to define marriage as a union exclusively between a man and woman and what would you do to support your beliefs?

c) Election Laws

About half of the nation has tighter voting restrictions today than 4 years ago. Proponents of such policies say they boost election integrity and reduce voter fraud. Opponents argue that they discourage turnout and disenfranchise the poor, disadvantaged, minorities, and people with no fixed address. Academic studies have found that voter fraud is incredibly rare and are mixed on the impact such policies have on turnout. The arguments settle on voter ID laws, voter registration purges, absentee ballot applications, early voting, voting hours and online voter registration, student voters, and proof of citizenship requirements.

In 2012 Utah passed expansions to voter access. How would you protect Utah's laws to prevent discrimination and guarantee access to voting for every eligible Utahn?

5) IMMIGRATION REFORM

Utah is a place that understands the value of immigration and the value of peoples coming to find a better life. We cherish our unique culture, history and spirit of inclusion. Immigration is a complex issue that has polarized the country and is an issue that needs to balance immigration concerns with compassion for those involved. Solutions have ranged from the so-called "show me your papers" law to guest worker laws to those that would guarantee a pathway to citizenship. The issues are complex and all sides must understand that no interested party will get everything it wants from a compromise solution.

The **Utah Compact**, precursor to Utah's immigration laws and a "guide for Utah's immigration discussion," was signed by business, law enforcement, religious leaders, and other community leaders and individuals in 2010. Supporters see the Compact not as a policy, but a thoughtful declaration of principles that elevates core values — a free, humane and prosperous society; respect for the rule of law; respect for families; respect for individual liberty; and respect for the dignity and humanity of each individual — above all other considerations. It recognizes that immigrants are part of society and valued as workers and taxpayers. Opponents allege that it contains deliberately misleading language intended subtly to promote tolerance of illegal immigration, opposition to enforcement of immigration law, and amnesty for illegal aliens.

Two years ago, the Utah legislature passed bills that would establish a unique sponsored guest worker program and provide a way for currently undocumented immigrants to be employed in Utah without creating a path to citizenship, and “would weed out dangerous criminals without overburdening local law enforcement.” These laws were to go in effect this past summer, however, their enactment dates were pushed back to July 1, 2015. Another immigration enforcement measure passed in 2011 remains under review in U.S. District Court as civil rights organizations filed a federal lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the Utah law.

What kind of legislation would you support to provide the basic framework for revised immigration laws?

6) THE ENVIRONMENT & QUALITY OF LIFE

a) Energy Independence

Governor Herbert’s call to action on affordable, reliable and sustainable energy independence in his 10-Year Strategic Energy Plan, resulted in the formation of the Office of Energy Development. The OED is dedicated solely to advancing all forms of responsible energy development in the state. The OED is tasked with implementing the state energy policy, facilitating the development of the state’s conventional, advanced and alternative resources, promoting energy education and outreach, preserving public lands, developing renewable energy, advancing economic development, addressing air quality and greenhouse gas concerns, hedging against fluctuations in fuel costs and expanding the diversity of the energy mix.

What do you believe are the best long-term solutions to meet our country’s and Utah’s energy needs and how would you act upon them?

b) Public Ownership and the Future of Federal Lands Stewardship

Stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. “Land grab” is the term used by both sides in the argument over the future of federal lands in Utah. SJR13 is a joint resolution “to work to obtain from the federal government the transfer of [federal] lands to this state.” The resolution follows **The Transfer of Public Lands Act** that demands the federal government hand over 30 million acres of public land to the state by December 31, 2014. A second bill, HB142, requires the state to set up a permanent process for taking title to the land and to detail ways to increase revenue from those

lands.

Those who oppose the two bills challenge Gov. Herbert's efforts to assert state ownership over Utah's federally-owned public lands and the roads and routes that crisscross them, believing that the bills will cause irreparable damage to landscapes that belong to all Americans and make profits for the few at the expense of generations to come and, further, that litigation and increased management costs will lose rather than generate money for the state. Others see the state ownership of the lands as a liberty issue that touches on federalism and home rule. They believe that state and local governments are better at managing lands than the Federal agencies are, and thus should retain control over the pristine wilderness areas within their borders.

Recognizing that these resources support communities, sustain jobs and provide millions of people with recreation opportunities and an exceptional quality of life, how would you work to resolve the differences?

c) Open Space

Open space is broadly defined to include undeveloped land which retains most of its natural characteristics, such as forest, grazing and agricultural lands, and recreational areas. Utah is one of the fastest growing states, with current forecasts predicting our population to increase by 50% over the next 20 years. Our communities increasingly face difficult decisions regarding the protection of open space as rapid growth fuels strong development pressures that can irreversibly alter the long-term economic and social character of the areas. In response, residents are voicing their concerns over the loss of open space, higher taxes and city service fees, and increased crime and congestion.

Recognizing the need to protect the community and adjacent landowners from undesirable development and also to ensure that the development rights of landowners are not unduly restricted, what policy tools might you use to help communities protect open space lands and improve the quality of development?

d) The Clean Air Panel & the Alternative Energy Interlocal Entity Board

The Utah Air Quality Board enacts rules pertaining to Air Quality activities and develops state Implementation plans to attain and maintain National Ambient Air Quality Standards. However, in response

to protests about air pollution, the 2013 Legislature responded by passing SB275 to create an Alternative Energy Interlocal Entity Board to find ways to improve air quality including expanded use of cleaner fuels, especially natural gas. Governor Herbert announced the creation of the Clean Air Action Panel, an independent work group, facilitated by Envision Utah. This group of diverse individuals representing various perspectives on air quality, was to gather research, work with the public and recommend practical and effective strategies covering regulation, legislation, education, research and transportation to policymakers to improve Utah's air quality statewide. However, the Legislature set up the Board without a revenue source, so the Panel is disbanded.

In the face of the effects of air pollution on the public health and welfare, including injury to agricultural crops and livestock, damage to and the deterioration of property, and hazards to air and ground transportation, what measures would you propose to improve the air quality in Utah?

e) Population Growth

Many in Utah are concerned about the impact the 2.5 million new Utahns expected in the state by 2050 will have on air quality, water, energy, lands, economic development, education, transportation, crime, and housing. They feel that unlimited exponential growth is impossible with Utah's limited amount of resources. Others feel that population growth is required for economic growth and is the lifeblood of Utah's economy. They ask "How many people, living the lifestyle we all crave, can Utah's limited supply of water, clean air and farmable land support?"

How would you help to preserve the natural wonders of Utah that are key elements of the lifestyle we treasure here while also supporting communities, sustaining jobs, and improving the economy?

f) Lake Powell Pipeline & Water Independency

The Lake Powell Pipeline project spans 139 miles and would pump approximately 86,000 acre feet of water from Lake Powell to Washington and Kane Counties. Current cost estimates range from \$1.4 to \$2.4 billion with the repayment burden falling on Washington and Kane County residents. Some citizens believe that there is a lack of real need for the pipeline, urging conservation of water and other reforms as a way to

shore up the County's water needs while others feel that the pipeline is necessary for projected future population growth or the County will run out of water by about 2050. Utah is also facing a big price tag for supplying water to residents — \$31 billion to repair and replace current infrastructure, as well as build new facilities over the next 50 years.

Centering on cost and actual need, how would you engage and educate the public in order to find a comprehensive solution, one that would optimize how water is used, lead to responsible development of resources, that is fiscally responsible, will reliably meet current and future water needs for quality water in Washington County and allow us to live sustainably in the desert?

g) The Red Cliffs Desert Reserve

After 17 years of setting the standard for balancing landowners' rights with conservation efforts, the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve and cooperating agencies under the Washington County's Habitat Conservation Plan, must prepare for the impending expiration of its use permit in February 2016, and what the next step will be. The Red Cliffs Desert Reserve was created to achieve two main goals: Protecting the future of development in Washington County and ensuring the conservation of the endangered Mojave desert tortoise as well as many other area species. The reserve also provides outdoor recreation opportunities among the awe-inspiring scenery and unique natural offerings of Southern Utah.

Do you support continuing management of the Reserve as it has been since its inception or do you favor a different plan?