



2014 CANDIDATES' FORUM

October 6, 2014

Ken Anderson Candidate for Utah House, District 71 chose the following three topics:

The Economy

Utah's Middle Class & Income Equality

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?

District 71 and really all of Southwest Utah needs to concentrate on building the great potential of the tourist industry for all of the 20 plus communities in this region. Already tourism is our major economic activity yet the potential has not been scratched. Many tourists tell me they love SW Utah but find the communities very unattractive and uninviting. European and Asian communities thrive on tourists and they do not have the spectacular natural resources that are so abundant here. Tourism creates abundant well paying jobs, especially for women and youth. The Vision Dixie initiative of 2008 must be reactivated to stimulate the long term sustainable economy of the Region. We don't want in Southwest Utah another Wasatch Front that has become such an unlivable environment.

Just, fair and equal pay for all will certainly happen when more women are elected to every level of government. Term limits would help make this happen. Term limits were the law in Utah in the 1990's but were quietly rescinded in 2003.

Education

The Education Gap & Utah's Women

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?

The Utah State Legislature greatly under funds students. (2800 dollars per student, the lowest of all 50 states) Utah's teachers are paid 20% lower than the National average. The solution is truly valuing our students rather than pridefully claiming that Utah is the most efficiently managed state in the Union. SITLA needs to be audited and made transparent. Huge school funds are available from that source if it is properly managed. Tourism, in greatly increased sales, would substantially boost income for schools.

Civil Rights

Discrimination

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?

Absolutely, I support equal civil rights for every citizen of Utah, of course including all LGBT folks, and the needed statutes to guarantee complete non-discrimination.

Most sincerely and gratefully,

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