

Voter Information Guide, November 5, 2024

Iron County, Utah General Election

About this guide:

This voter information guide has been created by Real Impact Cedar City. We are a local Christian volunteer organization that encourages citizens to be involved in the political process within our community, state and country. We've provided questionnaires to all of the candidates appearing on the November 5, 2024 General Election Ballot for Iron County, Utah. Below is the compilation of their responses. We provided the response text as we received them. This document is publically available and we encourage you to share with the citizens of Iron County and the surrounding area. We are a non-partisan group and our hope is that this Voter Information Guide will help citizens make more informed decisions in the election process. Please note that all the school board races may not apply to you, the applicable candidates for your district will appear on your ballot. We strongly urge you to vote in person, or at least drop off your ballot at your designated polling station on November 5, 2024. Over 1,400 mail in ballots were disqualified in the Republican primary due to failures of the USPS. Please take this into account as you plan how you will vote.

Utah Governor

Phil Lyman & Charlie Tautuaa are the only respondents to our survey. Both are write-in candidates.

1. What are your top three priorities to improve the lives of everyday Utahns?

Charlie Tautuaa Response: a. Reduce the influence religion has on government laws and policies. We are a Christian state, not Mormon or Catholic or protestant etc, but a Christian state, and should function as such.
b. Enable the state to function as an individual and not an entity. Investing and generating income on its own so as to relieve citizens of tax burdens.
c. Front loading Utah Citizens when it comes to home buying and ownership. Containing residential property for residents and commercial properties for business. No foreign entity or individual may own real estate in Utah.

Phil Lyman Response: a. Lanes: Keep the federal Government in its proper lane as outlined by the 10th amendment. Keep the state government in its proper lane by empowering the legislative branch to fulfill its responsibility to the people they are supposed to represent. Keep the Executive branch in its lane, the judicial branch in its lane, and empower County government to manage the resources and affairs of their respective counties. Respect Personhood and Parenthood by staying out of the lane of families and individuals.
b. Economy. Reliable, dispatchable, affordable energy is the most powerful economic driver. Utah is blessed with an abundance of energy resources, yet we are plagued with regulation and restrictions. Statehood authorized Utah to act and not to be acted upon. It is time we throw off the chains of federal domination and stop deferring to artificial authority of federal agencies. The time is right. With the overturn of Chevron, states are foolish to continue under the guise of vassal equivocation.
c. Illegal immigration is having a devastating effect and will get much worse before it gets better unless we stop it now. We need to declare a state of invasion and respond decisively to end illegal immigration and to deport those who are here illegally.



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2. What is the state's role in managing illegal immigration to Utah and illegal immigrants within the state of Utah?

Charlie Tautuaa Response: The only role the state should play, is to protect its citizens from losing opportunities, rights and privileges to illegal immigrants. Enforce the law and push back on illegal immigrants by increasing the difficulty of survivability.

Phil Lyman Response: If Utah is complicit in illegal immigration, they are guilty of human trafficking. There is not a silver lining to human trafficking. It hurts everyone but the cartels and government agencies who make money from it. It is an industry or organized crime and those who condone it are either profiting from it or extremely gullible to the narrative being promulgated by those profiting from it. Mass deportation is in order.

3. What do you see as the governor's role in distribution of water rights between Utah landowners? Does the state own the water or do the people own the water in Utah?

Charlie Tautuaa Response: If it is on state property, it is the states. If it is on private property, it belongs to the individual who owns that property. The governor needs to allow the people to own their own water source without control.

Phil Lyman Response: It is alarming to see Utah consolidating water management at the state level. When the 10th amendment says that rights not delegated to the federal government are reserved to the states or to the people, it is not an either/or proposition. The "state" IS the people. The water belongs to the people of Utah, as a state. Nowhere is disbursed control more important than in how we handle our water in the West. For generation, farmers, ditch companies, and counties have been stewards of our water. The role of the state is to keep the federal government, special interest groups, and other states, from encroaching on our water and the right of the people to use it.

4. What do you see as the governor's role regarding the regulation of foreign-owned farmland and foreign-owned land near U.S. military bases and sensitive/strategic locations in Utah?

Charlie Tautuaa Response: As previously stated, no foreign entity of individual should be permitted to own property in Utah unless they are a Utah resident with an address. Any company or property in the state that is owned by foreign entity or persons, should immediately transfer ownership to a Utah citizen or lose all rights to that property.

Phil Lyman Response: Foreign government should have no ownership of US land. The problem is the large investment companies like blackrock who are equivalent to foreign governments in many respect. When it comes to our military assets, Utah should be the watchdog and make it perfectly clear that we will not permit ownership that could compromise our national security.

5. The Utah State budget has grown from \$19 Billion in 2019 to \$29.4 Billion in 2024/25. Do you see this as excessive or normal/necessary spending growth? What will you do as Governor regarding state government spending?

Charlie Tautuaa Response: I consider it excessive and I would definitely be introducing budget cuts throughout the state public offices. Our State needs to learn to live within their means.

Phil Lyman Response: Utah has an out of control spending problem. We should be willing to give up federal dollars, cut state programs, cut taxes, and outsource much more of our government operations than we are doing currently. The executive branch has exploded with task



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forces, think tanks, commissions, boards, etc. The employees directly employed by the executive branch have more than doubled in the past 4 years, and it was massively bloated 4 years ago. We need to reduce executive workforce by more than 50%. In fact we need to cut the state budget by 50% to 70%. It could be done with the net effect being an improvement in services.

6. How do you feel SB 54 has altered the political landscape in Utah? What parts do you like, what parts don't you like? If you were able, would you make any changes to that law and what would they be?

Charlie Tautuaa Response: Revoke it. Our ancestors did not need it, neither do we. Let the work ethics of potential politician, win the votes of the people.

Phil Lyman Response: The legislature should never dictate political party affairs. SB54 was a scam and the legislature fell for it. It was done under threat and coercion by scheming people who were set on creating a political syndicate in Utah that could never be replaced. We should repeal SB54 and replace the syndicate with honest local government empowered to do their duty.

US Senate

Caroline Gleich did not respond to our survey.

1. If elected, what do you believe are the most important issues to address first?

John Curtis Response: This depends on committee assignment.

Carlton Bowen Response: I am running on a platform of traditional values, traditional money, and our tradition of freedom. As part of the "traditional money" platform pillar, I will support "Audit the Fed" legislation which has to do with auditing the Federal Reserve. This institution that handles so much of our money has never been audited by congress. I will introduce legislation encouraging the use of U.S. minted gold and silver coins (Eagles) by requiring their exchange with paper money at fair market value in our banking system. Our current money system is a root cause of inflation and of our "out of control" federal spending, which we must begin to address! I will also introduce legislation to repeal or significantly modify the Antiquities Act, which has been abused by multiple presidents to lock up millions of acres of Utah Land without any federal or state congressional input.

Laird Hamblin Response: Healthcare accessible to all! Replace Lies, Fear, Hate and Violence with Truth, Hope, Love and Kindness.

2. Do you support U.S. taxpayer funding for the war in Ukraine and/or Israel? If yes, do you believe in any limits to the U.S. funding of Ukraine and/or Israel?

John Curtis Response: I've voted in favor of supporting Israel and stopping Putin by helping Ukraine.

Carlton Bowen Response: I am for the U.S. Constitution. I am therefore opposed to using U.S. taxpayer dollars to fund the wars of other nations. The U.S. Constitution only authorizes federal taxes to be used for the "common defence" and "general welfare" of the UNITED STATES. I'm saddened that Ukraine was invaded by Russia and horrified by the violence against Israel on October 7, 2023. There are Constitutional ways we can assist these countries without directly funding their governments and wars.

Laird Hamblin Response: I support some funding to Ukraine to defend itself against Russian invasion. I don't support weaponizing Israel to commit genocide against Palestinians. I would never hand weapons and ammunition to any nation, including our own, to commit genocide in



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the false assertion that they or we are protecting themselves or ourselves by brutally murdering infants and children, parents, brothers and sisters in their homes, hospitals, schools, offices, workshops and places of refuge. If Israel was peaceful and needed assistance to defend their peaceful existence then I would support some funding to assist them in their efforts to maintain peace. We are only safe from invasion when we have the most powerful military on Earth and don't use that military to perpetrate violence on other nations to get gain or upon anyone within our nation. If we cause our nation to be an enemy to someone without or within by our actions, then even having the most powerful military on Earth can't protect us from invasion or insurrection and eventual collapse. Human history has many lessons available to guide us if we are willing to read and abide them.

3. What policies would you advocate regarding the situation at the U.S. southern border and illegal migration to the U.S. in general?

John Curtis Response: I've voted in favor of HR 2 which funds more agents and barriers like the wall.

Carlton Bowen Response: I am the only pro-Trump U.S. Senate candidate. My GOP opponent, who has been a lifelong Democrat until 6 years ago, has refused to endorse Trump for president and actually called for president Trump's censure! President Trump enforced our existing immigration laws. We need to enforce existing U.S. Laws regarding immigration. The surge in illegal immigration isn't because our laws are defective; rather it's because those who have been responsible for enforcing our immigration laws since 2020 and before Trump have been willfully negligent, even intentionally violating and bypassing our own laws! I also support vigorous criminal prosecution of organizations and government officials who have conspired to bypass and break our immigration laws. In many cases these organizations and officials have likely participated in a conspiracy to human traffick and drug traffick. In some cases there may be government officials and organizations that knowingly and intentionally aided and abetted enemies of the United States. We must enforce our own laws to have accountability and a workable system of government.

Laird Hamblin Response: The families fleeing violence and arriving at our borders are not carrying drugs! They are carrying children! They are not perpetrating violence! They are escaping from violence! They are further subjected to violence en route to our nation and often met with hatred and violence upon their arrival here! We are all just travelers on this planet, stopping by for a moment, sent here as brothers and sisters; children of Heavenly Parents who intend for us to care for each other here. Many of the situations people are fleeing from are a result of our capitalist pursuits to obtain resources from their lands and therewith our efforts to manipulate their governments. We need a meticulous, methodical process to allow anyone fleeing violence and anyone wishing to apply their God-given gifts along with us in a peaceable pursuit of happy, liberated life to come and do so, just as all of our ancestors recently or long ago did in the constant, eternal flow of humans in search of a place to call home.

4. What are your proposals for National Energy Policy? Please include your thoughts on oil drilling, fracking, alternative energy, and EVs?

John Curtis Response: We need an all-of-the-above approach. Our energy demands are increasing and we'll need fossil fuels, renewables, and nuclear.

Carlton Bowen Response: I support President Trump's goal of energy dominance as our national energy policy. I support drilling and fracking to access the plentiful resources of the



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United States and of Utah, which is a wealth creator for our nation and state. Voluntary non-government subsidized development of alternative energy is great too. There needs to be enough baseload power though from reliable electric sources such as coal and natural gas fired power plants to ensure a cheap and reliable electric grid. EV use should be voluntary, not mandated or subsidized by the government. Having a reliable electric grid with plentiful and cheap electricity actually benefits the EV industry without directly subsidizing it.

Laird Hamblin Response: We've accomplished incredible things using the elements of Earth. We've created machines and devices to allow us to travel quickly about and communicate with each other from anywhere on Earth. In our hasty efforts to extract these elements and manufacture these machines and devices we have left debris which is toxic to our bodies and God's other magnificent creations; sometimes despoiling our beautiful planet home which God provided for us and expects us be careful, dutiful caretakers of. God expects us to utilize the elements of Earth in our life endeavors. Humans in times past have despoiled and contaminated Earth in their vicinity but we are doing so now at a scale unprecedented by our ancestors. Christ through his prophets predicted such a time when our actions would disrupt the balance of Earth's systems so severely that seasons would no longer occur as they had; oceans would rise beyond the levels we're accustomed to; rivers drying; pastures, fields and wilderness burning (Joel 1:20); ... I own two Chevy Bolt electric vehicles, made from elements from Earth. They are all we drive. Most of our charging has been from Solar panel based chargers.

5. Do you believe the federal government has a role in protecting life at all stages, including in the womb, or is that solely an issue reserved for each state?

John Curtis Response: I like where we've sent these decisions back to states.

Carlton Bowen Response: One of the primary purposes of both State and Federal government is the protection of life. I'm 100% pro-Life. Before Roe v Wade, Right to Life was a state issue because it was in state criminal law that the personhood of the unborn was largely recognized. For example, if a pregnant woman was killed, in most if not all states, it was considered a double homicide. It should be that way still. At the federal level, I support similar language in the criminal code for federal jurisdictions, such as Washington D.C. recognizing the personhood of the unborn. I also support the "Mexico policy", which refers to prohibiting U.S. tax dollars from being used to fund abortions in other countries. I support prohibiting abortions from being performed or paid for by the military, including prohibiting paying for military members to travel to other states or countries for the purpose of obtaining an abortion.

Laird Hamblin Response: Life is sacred and precious. God granted us each the ability to create life and the ability to destroy life. Any time we undertake to do either we must be meticulous in our motives and we are accountable for the resultant birth or death. We already decided as a nation that every person has the right to life, liberty and the peaceable pursuit of happiness. We have since had a relentless struggle to convince everyone that every human of any heritage or age is equally a person. Once a fetus has reached viability, this person has equal rights with all of us. Many fetus' fail before birth and such a failure is physically life threatening to the mother. Immediate, careful removal of a failing or failed fetus is necessary to protect the life of the mother. Such an event is also emotionally, mentally devastating to the mother and to the hopeful father. We live in a culture which often promotes and condones assault, especially of women. THIS MUST END! When such assaults occur, the perpetrators, even famous politicians, must be held liable for such crimes! Victims of assault must, at no financial or social cost to themselves,



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be protected from further assault; have access to physical, emotional and mental treatment; and immediate ability to remove any pregnancy resulting from such abuse.

6. What solutions would you advocate for regarding the annual budget deficit, the \$34.6 trillion national debt, and \$215 trillion in unfunded liabilities?

John Curtis Response: We need to adopt what Utah has done with its baseline budget. This avoids shutdowns and forces people to the table. If we don't start talking about Social Security and Medicare then our attempts at balancing the budget is a fool's errand. No one close to retirement age needs to be impacted but we can't keep punting this to the next generation to solve.

Carlton Bowen Response: I am for "traditional money" which includes "a fiscally responsible federal government, with balanced budgets and reducing the national debt." I have made a commitment to not increase the national debt ceiling, unless we are in a congressionally declared war (i.e. World War III). I am also committed to a balanced federal budget and have pledged to only vote for spending packages if they are part of a balanced budget. We take in over a trillion dollars a year in federal tax revenue, which is more than enough to fund our federal government. I support President Trump's plan to use revenue tariffs on foreign trade to fund our federal government, which is how the founding fathers intended for our federal government to be funded. I am for a free market capitalist economy, not crony capitalism, nor socialism nor communism, but a true free market where consumers, not government, choose the winners and losers. Getting back to this will help reduce unfunded liabilities.

Laird Hamblin Response: We must begin to live within our means, as individuals, families, municipalities and nations. Government of the people of a nation by the people of that nation requires funding for social and physical infrastructure. We are failing financially because we have relinquished the functioning of our government to capitalists whose motive is lucrative income for their self, not the necessary functioning of our government. When we recognize the lies of greedy capitalists who've persuaded many of us that they should be running our government and reinstate federal employees to manage all affairs of our government then we will readily function within a budget. When we value education and healthcare for all, provided by we the people instead the capitalists, and when we stop funding warfare on behalf of capitalists we will also have sufficient funds to accomplish our needs.

7. What is your belief when it comes to protecting religious freedoms for every individual?

John Curtis Response: We should always protect the freedom to believe and think as we want. Freedom of religion is designed to protect people's deepest, innermost beliefs.

Carlton Bowen Response: I am for our tradition of Freedom! America was founded by people seeking religious freedom and better economic opportunity. The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth in 1620 fleeing religious persecution in Europe, and seeking religious freedom in America! The Right to free exercise of religion and freedom of conscience are God given rights protected by the 1st Amendment. George Washington issued a proclamation for a national day of prayer and Thanksgiving, which is the origin of our Thanksgiving holiday. There is no prohibition on discussing religion in the public square; rather, it should be encouraged to recognize God and His hand in establishing our country! The only prohibition is against establishing a state sponsored church, which is what England had with the Church of England. That is actually what the Pilgrims were fleeing, because if you didn't belong to or follow the state sponsored church, you were persecuted. Rather than sponsoring a state church, the proper role of government is



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protecting the individuals Right to the free exercise of religion and religious expression which is part of free speech.

Laird Hamblin Response: Freedom of religion is enshrined in our constitution's "bill of rights." As long as actions caused by a religion don't infringe upon the rights of others to their life, liberty, and peaceable pursuit of happiness it is protected by the laws of our nation.

8. Do you believe that biological males competing against biological females in women's sports should be legislated at the state or federal levels? Why?

John Curtis Response: The federalist in me wants each state to determine for itself. That said, our women deserve to compete against one another and NOT biological males. If the chance to vote on this came up on a federal level, I would absolutely support it.

Carlton Bowen Response: Freedom of religion is enshrined in our constitution's "bill of rights." As long as actions caused by a religion don't infringe upon the rights of others to their life, liberty, and peaceable pursuit of happiness it is protected by the laws of our nation.

Laird Hamblin Response: Our culture puts too much emphasis on sports. They should be an occasional peripheral past time to promote neighborliness and health. Not a lucrative, divisive, waste of our time and resources. We didn't come to Earth to compete, compare or contest with each other in anything! We came to compliment, console and companion each other!

9. How would you advocate using the power of the purse to enforce the separation of powers as defined by the U.S. Constitution?

John Curtis Response: Congress needs to do its job. Because it can't, leaders in both parties have taken to executive orders. They're wrong.

Carlton Bowen Response: I am for the U.S. Constitution. I have twice taken an oath to support and defend the U.S. Constitution, as a member of the U.S. Air Force, and as an elected city councilman for American Fork City. Ultimately we must elect individuals who will honor their oath to the Constitution. That is the root cause and solution as "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people" and "is wholly inadequate to the government of any other" -- John Adams.

One problem with separation of powers is actually political parties, because congress is unlikely to check a president of the same party and vice versa. An even bigger problem though is the "uni-party", where party leadership from both parties conspire with each other to undermine the values and priorities of the American people, often for the leaders own personal enrichment or power. The ever increasing national debt and out of control federal spending are because of the Uni-party, where congressional leadership has controlled debt ceiling increases and the budgeting process, rather than the congress as a whole, leading to the never ending debt ceiling and government funding crises rather than regular order in congress, where funding proposals can be debated and amended. The uni-party often tried to block President Trump from implementing his America First agenda. I will be an ally for Senator Mike Lee in the Senate, who has called out the "uniparty" as being a problem in our national politics. My campaign logo is "Break the Uni-party"! Put simply, congress can agree to not fund any part of government that it feels is not following the Constitution and the law, thereby using the "power of the purse" to enforce "separation of powers". In practice though, congress must get these measures past their own party leadership, who as mentioned is often conspiring with the other party to not have true accountability and separation of powers. To have true separation of powers and reclaim our Constitutional Republic, we MUST Break the Uni-party!



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Laird Hamblin Response: Many fragile democracies have fallen to dictators, tyrants, authoritarians and such. Our nation teetered in 2020 while we watched to see if the legislature and judicial branches of our nation would uphold their duties to ensure the peaceful transfer of the executive position to our new administration as chosen by we the people participating in our democracy. The president of our nation merely presides. It is purposeful that we don't allow one person unlimited power. Our US President selects people for his or her cabinet positions and selects people to be supreme court judges, all selections must be vetted by our US Senate. The legislation of our nation is accomplished by our Senate and House. All members therein are sent by their neighbors to represent the views ideas and ideals and needs of their neighborhood. The judicial branch of our government, in resolving conflicts amongst us, interprets the laws set by we the people through our legislature. Term limits in every branch are critical. I would set one three year term for US President, they currently spend their first four years campaigning as US President and thereafter four years serving as US President. Both House and Senate should be three year terms with a maximum of twelve years. Twelve years limit for judges. Limiting funding in campaigns will allow we the people to more readily chose our legislators and presidents based on character and kindness, intelligence and conscientiousness; rather than connections, crassness and corruption. Full disclosure of all contributions to persons in all three branches must be mandatory. All three must be curtailed from receiving anything financial or otherwise which may impact a judge's judgment; A legislators legislation; A President's presiding. Since our founding as a nation some have advocated the lie that we are a disparate group of states in a tentative republic agreement, each state constantly vying for supremacy and threatening secession backed by alliances with other nations. We once decided this question with a deadly Civil War, yet there are some who still challenge that decision of nationhood. We will only survive as a nation if we are in every aspect one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

10. How do you manage holding onto your principles when they contradict your party's agenda?

John Curtis Response: I've been lobbied for years to support spending bills I haven't agreed with. I have a record and it's been a relief knowing Utahns support me in voting against large spending packages.

Carlton Bowen Response: I'm a lifelong Republican but ran as an Independent American for U.S. Senate to ensure there would be a Pro-Trump option on the final ballot. The Independent American Party is a great party with 15 principles most conservatives would enthusiastically welcome (<https://iaputah.org/iaps-15-principles-of>). I intend to remain an Independent American after this election and try to build up this party. Whether Republican or Independent American, we should put true and correct principles first. Principles over politics and over party. I will strive to honor and uphold my oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies. The Constitution is the solution and with God's help, we can remain a free and prosperous nation and people!

Laird Hamblin Response: I would never be a part of any party which would require it's participants to place party agenda above basic human principles or commitment and allegiance to the laws and mandates of a legitimate and wisely constructed constitution of any level of government.



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11. Do you believe that emergency power declarations by elected officials or international organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), should override the personal rights and freedoms of citizens (for example, mandating medical treatments)?

John Curtis Response: No.

Carlton Bowen Response: No, I don't believe that emergency power declarations by our own elected officials or by foreign officials that are part of international bodies such as the U.N. or W.H.O. override personal rights. Rights come from God, not government and no matter the emergency, governments are obligated to protect their citizens' rights, not infringe them! I disagreed with the "lockdowns" and the "mandates". They weren't authorized by our Utah or U.S. Constitutions. Any laws purporting to enable the lockdowns and mandates were in conflict with our Constitutions, which take precedence. Laws in violation of Constitutions are void of any legitimacy or legality, and are therefore null. I appreciate the patriots who stood up for everyone's rights by not going along with the insanity.

Laird Hamblin Response: We don't allow people to wander in public spaces randomly firing weapons, injuring and killing bystanders. Deleterious microbes randomly spread to bystanders from persons infected are as damaging and deadly as projectiles from weapons are. Because we can't see the microbes and because the impact is delayed, some people are apt to pretend that they don't exist or that the persons inadvertently maiming and killing others are not responsible for their actions.

12. Do you support the U.S. government implementing a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)? Why or why not?

John Curtis Response: No.

Carlton Bowen Response: I support traditional and Constitutional money, meaning the Gold and Silver coin our founding father's envisioned and used, and that the Constitution still requires (Article 1 Section 10). Gold and Silver coin enforces fiscal discipline on the federal government because they can't just print additional money. Gold and Silver coin as our money also helps curb and prevent inflation. It is a root cause solution. I am opposed to a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) because it would enable a global tyranny! With a CBDC the government would not only have visibility of every financial transaction, it would also be able to prevent or block financial transactions between individuals. I believe the "mark of the beast" spoken of in the Bible is part of a future currency such as a CBDC that will be destructive to the privacy and freedom of all nations and people. We must oppose implementation of a CBDC and we should promote alternative currencies such as U.S. minted gold and silver coin or even Goldbacks.

Laird Hamblin Response: We utilize digital transfer of money in most of our transactions. To have it based on a digital currency would be a logical next step. I currently conclude that all would be well therewith.

13. Do you support the use of mRNA vaccines in the national food supply? Why or why not?

John Curtis Response: I need to do more research.

Carlton Bowen Response: mRNA vaccines have never been proven safe or effective. They were tested for 20 years before Covid and never had a successful test. The mRNA vaccines used during Covid were approved on an emergency basis and so weren't thoroughly tested. What testing they did revealed problems, such as myocarditis, but they were approved anyway for "emergency use". Since then many people have died from myocarditis and other complications, leading some European nations to ban mRNA vaccines. Some groups have tracked and reported



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a spike in deaths among young athletes and others who have "died suddenly", which many attribute to the mRNA vaccines. No, I don't support the use of mRNA vaccines in the national food supply.

Laird Hamblin Response: We all know that DNA somehow indicates who we are, yet most of us don't know how. Some people, for fame, fortune, followers or fun are quick to exploit our limited understanding. Pharmaceutical company executives as well as individuals on media and social media are quick to pacify or terrify us for their personal gain. The structure of every living thing is created by mRNA directing construction according to information in DNA. With every breath, we inhale and exhale tiny particles including fragments of DNA and mRNA.

14. Do you think the federal government has a role in the country's education system?

John Curtis Response: No.

Carlton Bowen Response: The U.S. Constitution doesn't envision or authorize a federal role in local education. Education has always been a local, not a national, issue. I support ending the Department of Education and applying its yearly budget to reducing the national debt or for a tax cut.

Laird Hamblin Response: I recently moved back to the community where my kind parents wisely raised us seven children and taught in public schools. I moved my parents from their small dilapidated farm home into a townhome where I could adequately assist them in their many healthcare needs. Immediately three neighbors said they remembered with great respect and appreciation that my mother had taught them for six months nearly six decades ago in the public junior high school. My father taught for 38 years in public elementary, middle and junior high schools. Constantly, people tell me that they remember with great admiration and appreciation that my father taught them. They may no longer remember "what" he taught them but they remember "that" he taught them. Dad always said his intent was to encourage children to "love learning." We don't go to school just to learn letters and comprehend numbers; we attend school to perceive new perspectives and to commune and cooperate with fellow human travelers from diverse demographics and unique cultures. Learning is inherent to our survival and our joy. We crave learning. Yet sometimes our systems of schooling make learning meaningless and turn it into drudgery. We make it competitive so to train capitalists in selfishness and unscrupulousness! Schooling hidden carefully away in the hallways of a home and schooling in pretty, pompous, private schools does not introduce us to the vast demographic of humanity with which we share our existence. It is no wonder that so many are so easily persuaded by lies to fear, hate and hurt their neighbor whom they have never met.

Government is government whether it is federal, state, county, municipality or something else. If we truly have government of the people by the people then it is we the people who are setting up the laws which we agree to abide. We mustn't allow people to persuade us that there is some "government" entity or group of "elites" who are controlling our government. Every person in our United States legislature was sent there by their neighbors. If there is some condition we dislike in our democratic governments at any level then it is because of who we are sending to represent us. Too often, currently, legislators are sent with a mandate to take apart the laws which we the people put in place and to stifle or stop any meaningful discourse and dialogue in the legislature of our government. We, as our government on every level including federal, must insist that every child has access to education and we must set basic parameters of what an education must include, such as math, language and arts.



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US House Congressional District 2

Nathaniel Woodward, and Celeste Maloy did not respond to our survey.

1. If elected, what do you believe are the most important issues to address first?

Cassie Easley Response: Inflation is one of the most important issues facing the country right now. Illegal immigration is also an important issue that needs to be addressed.

Tyler Murset Response: I don't believe the people are represented by their government anymore which is why I'm creating an app (VotingAct.com) that will allow voters in my district to tell me how to vote. Bills will come up in Congress and I will vote with the majority. All my answers to policy questions follow with the knowledge that I'd vote however the majority in my district votes.

2. Do you support U.S. taxpayer funding for the war in Ukraine and/or Israel? If yes, do you believe in any limits to the U.S. funding of Ukraine and/or Israel?

Cassie Easley Response: I do not support the United States supporting wars in other countries.

Tyler Murset Response: No. The United States needs to get its financial house in order before we help any other country.

3. What policies would you advocate regarding the situation at the U.S. southern border and illegal migration to the U.S. in general?

Cassie Easley Response: I would advocate securing the border and stopping all immigration until we can get the illegal immigration situation under control.

Tyler Murset Response: The border wall needs to be finished and immigration law strictly enforced. Violent criminal illegal aliens need to be deported.

4. What are your proposals for National Energy Policy? Please include your thoughts on oil drilling, fracking, alternative energy, and EVs.

Cassie Easley Response: The United States has the capability of being energy independent. We "need" fossil fuels, therefore drilling and fracking are necessary. Alternative energy sources are available and people may "choose" to use them. Utah has many alternative energy sites for solar, wind and geothermal energy, but our power is still provided by fossil fuels. Renewable energy would be ideal, but we are not there yet. As to Electric Vehicles, if you want one get one, but the government has no authority to demand that you must have one.

Tyler Murset Response: I believe that nuclear energy should be the main driver of our electrical grid and that the government should make it easier to build nuclear plants. The technology has come a long way and is very safe and clean. Renewables are fine on an individual basis, but should not be subsidized. I'm in favor of allowing drilling and fracking. EVs are fine but should not be subsidized either.

5. Do you believe the federal government has a role in protecting life at all stages, including in the womb, or is that solely an issue reserved for each state?

Cassie Easley Response: The federal government has no role in this issue. This issue would fall under the ninth and tenth amendments and are reserved to the States.

Tyler Murset Response: I believe the U.S. Supreme Court ruled correctly to overturn Roe vs. Wade.



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6. What solutions would you advocate for regarding the annual budget deficit, the \$35+ trillion national debt, and the \$215+ trillion in unfunded liabilities?

Unfortunately all responses were corrupted fore this question. Our sincere apologies.

7. What is your belief when it comes to protecting religious freedoms for every individual?

Cassie Easley Response: As stated in the first amendment, the government has no place in religion. As a people we have the inherent right to choose our own religion and the freedom to practice it without government interference.

Tyler Murset Response: I believe religious freedom should be protected.

8. Do you believe that biological males competing against biological females in women's sports should be legislated at the state or federal levels? Why?

Cassie Easley Response: First of all, I do not believe biological males should be in women's sports. Women fought long and hard to be able to compete against other women. When it comes to legislation, I think it should start at the State level. The problem is that it crosses into conflict when competing against other states. If there is to be legislation at the Federal level it should be focused not on allowing men to compete with women, but by creating a something that would allow transgender to compete against each other where they wouldn't have the physiological advantage over women.

Tyler Murset Response: Yes, biological males should not be able to compete against biological females in sports.

9. How would you advocate using the power of the purse to enforce the separation of powers as defined by the U.S. Constitution?

Cassie Easley Response: Since most of the budget goes to funding the multiple executive departments, the first step is getting rid of omnibus bills for the budget. Each department would need to justify their budgets to determine where cuts need to be made. That would essentially put the legislative checks and balances back in place with the executive department.

Tyler Murset Response: The power of the purse lies with Congress.

10. How do you manage holding onto your principles when they contradict your party's agenda?

Cassie Easley Response: My principles have a foundation in God and the United States Constitution. I have a firm foundation to stand on. The Constitution Party has the same principles. Should their agenda change, my foundation will hold firm.

Tyler Murset Response: My one campaign promise is to vote with the majority of voters in my district. I have conservative principles which largely line up with those same people. I'll go with the people over the party every time.

11. Do you believe that emergency power declarations by elected officials or international organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), should override the personal rights and freedoms of citizens (for example, mandating medical treatments)?

Cassie Easley Response: Nothing should ever override personal rights and freedom. The United States Constitution does not give the Federal Government the authority to mandate what the people must do.



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Tyler Murset Response: Absolutely not. Personal rights and freedoms must be maintained especially when those in power stand to gain from pushing untested medical treatments.

12. Why do you support or why do you not support the U.S. government implementing a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)?

Cassie Easley Response: I do not support digital currency. If a Central Bank is in responsible for all currency it could take away our financial freedom with the press of a button and therefore control the people.

Tyler Murset Response: No. A CBDC would be used to control the populace. Bitcoin on the other hand has no central authority and cannot be controlled by any government nor can it be used to control the citizens.

13. Why do you support or why do you not support the use of mRNA vaccines in the national food supply?

Cassie Easley Response: I do not support the use of anything being added to the food supply, it would take away our freedom to choose what is going into our bodies. This could be detrimental to the nation's health and economy. If people can't trust what is in their food they would have to find alternate sources and it would affect people's ability to get proper nutrition. Economically producers and suppliers could lose consumers and affect our gross domestic product as a country.

Tyler Murset Response: Absolutely not. Pushing medical treatments unknowingly or knowingly upon the populace is wrong. mRNA vaccines have not been proven to be effective or safe.

14. What do you believe the federal government's role in the country's education system should be?

Cassie Easley Response: The only role the Federal government has in education is to ensure that by the time a person graduates that they could pass a citizenship test to ensure that they understand their civic responsibility as an American.

Tyler Murset Response: The federal government should have no regulatory role in education and that should be left to the states.

Utah Treasurer

Marlo Oaks was the only respondent to our survey.

1. What is your experience with managing large-scale public investments?

Marlo Oaks Response: I have over 20 years of experience in managing large-scale public and private investments. Before serving as Utah's State Treasurer, I worked in institutional investment management, focusing on asset allocation, risk management, investment policy, and related portfolio oversight activities. My expertise in managing multi-billion dollar portfolios helps me safeguard taxpayer money and ensure responsible financial stewardship for the state. This experience gives me a strong foundation in protecting and growing Utah's financial assets.

2. What are your thoughts on Utah's current public debt load? How will you ensure the state's debt remains manageable?



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Marlo Oaks Response: As state treasurer, I am dedicated to maintaining our state's strong fiscal health. Utah has a long history of prudent financial management and conservative budgeting practices. I believe that keeping our debt levels manageable is essential for sustaining economic stability and preserving our AAA credit rating. In pursuit of this goal, I released Utah's first-ever, annual Debt Affordability Study in 2022. The study is intended to inform the legislature, investors, rating agencies, and all Utahns on the state's outstanding tax-supported debt obligations, debt practices, and my perspectives on the prudent use of debt. The study is designed to assist in maintaining Utah's legacy of conservative debt use, while also being pragmatic about the role of debt in financing capital needs that are critical to Utah's growing economy. Along the same vein, the State Finance Review Commission was established under my leadership. The proliferation of state entities with bonding authority created the need for a body to review borrowing proposals to ensure the state's credit is protected.

3. What is your approach to balancing safety, liquidity, and return in managing public funds?

Marlo Oaks Response: My approach to managing public funds depends on the portfolio and its goals. In terms of the Public Treasurers' Investment Fund (PTIF), a \$34 billion investment portfolio that provides daily liquidity to state agencies and over 800 local government entities across Utah, my approach prioritizes safety, liquidity, and return in that order. First and foremost, I focus on protecting taxpayer money by ensuring the investments we make are secure. Liquidity is the next priority, as we must have access to funds when needed for state operations. Finally, I seek to maximize returns within the constraints of safety and liquidity. This balanced approach helps safeguard Utah's financial resources while ensuring they are available and growing. In 2022, I positioned the PTIF to better navigate potential economic uncertainties by reducing corporate bond exposure to shield it from financial sector risks. Since taking office, I have also focused on strengthening the management of the state's \$1.2 billion long-horizon investment portfolios. By collaborating with an external investment group, we have successfully augmented our internal resources and are building out more diversified portfolios.

4. How do you plan to maintain and improve transparency and accountability in the Treasurer's office?

Marlo Oaks Response: As state treasurer, I'm committed to maintaining and improving transparency and accountability in several key ways. First, my office ensures the prudent management of taxpayer dollars. To increase accountability, we've implemented strategic measures to reduce risk, such as cutting back corporate bond exposure in the PTIF from 85% to 20% since 2022. This move enhances the fund's resilience in uncertain economic conditions. In addition, we've developed Utah's first-ever Debt Affordability Study, aimed at keeping the public informed on the state's financial health. This report also supports the legislature, investors, and rating agencies by providing clear, accessible information about the state's debt obligations. We also work closely with agencies like the Utah School Bond Guaranty Program and the Charter School Finance Authority to ensure that schools can access the funding they need at the lowest possible cost to taxpayers. My office is also committed to returning unclaimed property to Utahns, having reunited over \$95 million with rightful owners since I took office. We leverage technology to streamline this process, automatically issuing checks to individuals through our MyCash Now program. Ultimately, transparency and accountability are central to how I manage Utah's finances.



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5. What are your strategies for improving Utah's credit rating?

Marlo Oaks Response: While Utah already holds the highest possible credit rating of AAA, my strategy for maintaining and safeguarding this rating focuses on mitigating risks and reinforcing our conservative fiscal practices. One key component is continuing to reduce risks in our investment portfolios. For example, I have strategically reduced corporate bond exposure in the Public Treasurers' Investment Fund (PTIF) from 85% to 20%. This adjustment ensures that the state's funds are positioned to withstand potential economic challenges, which further assures credit rating agencies of our financial prudence. Additionally, I actively work as a member of the State Finance Review Commission to review and monitor the state's financial health. This body provides critical oversight to ensure that Utah's debt practices are both transparent and aligned with long-term stability. We ensure that any borrowing actions taken by various entities are carefully evaluated to maintain our strong financial position. Moreover, I will continue to advocate against any legislative or fiscal proposals that could jeopardize Utah's credit rating. Whether it's unfunded liabilities or excessive debt issuance, I work closely with state lawmakers to ensure that Utah remains fiscally conservative and financially responsible. By opposing risky financial policies and maintaining rigorous oversight, I ensure that Utah remains at the pinnacle of financial health.

6. What steps will you take to enhance the state's Unclaimed Property Program?

Marlo Oaks Response: As state treasurer, I'm dedicated to improving the state's Unclaimed Property Program to ensure that more Utahns are reunited with their lost funds. Since I took office, we've returned over \$95 million in unclaimed property to its rightful owners, but there's still more we can do. Under my leadership, we launched the MyCash Now program. Using data from the Utah Tax Commission and the Unclaimed Property Division, we automatically match individuals with amounts owed to them and issue checks for up to \$2,000 without requiring them to file a claim. This streamlined process is one of the most significant advancements in the program since its inception. Moving forward, I plan to enhance customer service ensuring appropriate staffing levels and continue to build upon and improve the MyCash Now program to more securely and easily reunite lost money with rightful owners.

7. How do you plan to manage Utah's pension liabilities?

Marlo Oaks Response: As state treasurer, I am one of seven trustees on the board overseeing the retirement system. In my capacity, I prioritize the long-term sustainability of our pension system while supporting policies that will help the plan become fully funded and capable of meeting its obligations to current and future retirees. Utah's public pension system, managed by Utah Retirement Systems (URS), is one of the best funded in the nation, and my goal is to maintain that legacy of prudent financial management. The liability structure was changed in 2011 and those reductions continue to save the state money and contribute to the healthy funded position of the plan.

8. How would you handle Utah's state finances in the case of a significant economic downturn or recession?

Marlo Oaks Response: In the event of a significant economic downturn or recession, my top priority as Utah's State Treasurer would be to ensure the stability and protection of the state's financial resources. Utah's conservative fiscal policies have prepared us well for such scenarios, but there are several key steps I would take to safeguard our finances during tough times. I would



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focus on maintaining liquidity within the state's investment portfolios. The Public Treasurers' Investment Fund (PTIF), which I oversee, provides daily liquidity to over 800 local and state government entities. During an economic downturn, ensuring that we have enough liquid assets allows us to meet financial obligations. Our strategic approach to managing risk has positioned us well for an economic downturn. We have already reduced corporate bond exposure in the PTIF from 85% to 20%, which limits our exposure to financial sector volatility. By minimizing risks in our investment portfolio, we can better navigate potential market instability. We are also positioned well on the debt front. Utah's low debt levels give us the flexibility to weather downturns without needing to resort to excessive borrowing, which could jeopardize our credit rating or future financial stability. We've also instituted the state's first Debt Affordability Study to guide policymakers in making informed decisions about debt management. Additionally, I would ensure that we continue funding essential services while managing costs effectively, working with the State Finance Review Commission and other stakeholders to make prudent financial decisions.

Finally, during the last legislative session I worked with the state legislature to pass a bill that allows the state treasurer to invest up to 10% of the state's rainy-day funds in precious metals. Gold provides a hedge against inflation and economic instability, helping to diversify the state's portfolio and protect taxpayer funds. By maintaining a balanced approach, Utah can continue to thrive even in challenging economic conditions.

9. What role should the State Treasurer play in advising the Legislature and Governor on fiscal policy?

Marlo Oaks Response: The state treasurer is the custodian of public funds and plays a critical role in managing the state's investments, banking relationships, and debt issuance. I sit on 20 boards and commissions of the state to help ensure our financial well-being. Because of my responsibilities and exposure to many key financial functions of the state, I am well positioned to advise the governor and legislature on fiscal policy. I work closely with lawmakers to ensure that the state's investment strategies align with our broader fiscal goals. By overseeing the Public Treasurers' Investment Fund and other state funds, I provide expert advice on managing risk and generating returns that support state operations, even in volatile markets. Sharing information and projections helps the legislature and governor when crafting budgets and determining how to allocate resources. I also advise on debt management and borrowing practices. Through the state's Debt Affordability Study, we've been able to give policymakers a clear understanding of Utah's debt obligations and borrowing capacity. This helps ensure that any new debt issued is done so responsibly, without jeopardizing the state's top-tier credit rating or financial stability. Lastly, I believe it's my duty to advocate for conservative fiscal policies that protect Utah's financial future. I collaborate with the legislature and the governor to oppose policies or spending initiatives that could harm the state's fiscal health or burden future generations. By providing informed, data-driven recommendations, I ensure that Utah remains fiscally responsible while meeting the needs of its citizens.

10. How do you view the state's current bond and borrowing strategy, and would you propose any changes?

Marlo Oaks Response: Utah's current bond and borrowing strategy is one of the strongest in the nation, and I believe it reflects our commitment to conservative fiscal management. We have one of the lowest debt levels per capita in the country, and our AAA credit rating allows us to



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issue bonds at the lowest possible cost to taxpayers. This careful approach ensures that we only take on debt when it's truly necessary and that we manage it in a way that protects the state's financial health long-term. The Debt Affordability Study we introduced offers a comprehensive overview of Utah's debt practices, helping policymakers make informed decisions about borrowing. This tool has already proven valuable, and I would continue to use it to guide future borrowing decisions, ensuring that Utah maintains its strong fiscal position. Under my leadership, the State Finance Review Commission was created to address the growing number of state entities with bonding authority. This increase highlighted the need for a centralized body to review borrowing proposals and ensure that each one is separate from and has no recourse to the state. The Commission plays a critical role in safeguarding Utah's credit rating by thoroughly evaluating all proposals and making sure they do not compromise the state's financial stability. Should the body see a trend in problematic activities arise with entities outside of its authority, it may recommend policy changes or otherwise shine light on the issues.

Utah State House District 70 & 71

Zeno Parry did not respond to our survey. This section covers (2) districts within Iron County. You can only vote in one or the other based on your address.

1. What are your top priorities for economic development in the district you represent? What do you feel the State's role vs the private sector is in economic development?

Carl Albercht Response (70): My district represents four very different counties - Sevier, Piute, Beaver and part of Iron. The Inland Port has established "spoke" ports in Iron and Beaver Counties, both within my district. Because of I-15 and the Railroad, these two ports will benefit the counties of Iron and Beaver tremendously. Sevier and Piute Counties are a bit different. I have passed several bills through the past few years to help all of Rural Utah. To mention a few: Rural Economic Development Tax Incentive Fund (REDTIF); High Cost Infrastructure Tax Credits (HCITC); Rural Co-working Innovation Centers; Changes to the Transient Room Tax (TRT); Made Grazing a "Right" in the State; Agritourism; and Construction Trade Amendments to help Handymen, to mention a few.

Steve Merrill Response (71): Economic development shouldn't be up to the government. The state's role should be to ensure safety and security for its citizens - which may mean regulations as necessary to protect our people - but only as necessary. E.g. given our limited water resources, there may be a limit on certain industries in certain areas without providing a water plan. At times, working with local governments and residents, there may be opportunities for the state to encourage economic expansion through short-term tax incentives. This should only be done, however, with the support of the people in that area - as attempting to force economic development in an area that will not support it will turn into a lot of run down and abandoned factories and store-fronts.

Rex Shipp Response (71): I believe we need to let the free market be the driver of economic growth! We need to not overregulate so that we can stay out of the way of economic growth. Basically, government needs to stay out of the way.

2. The Utah State budget has grown from \$19 Billion in 2019 to \$29.4 Billion in 2024/25. Do you see this as excessive or normal/necessary spending growth? What will you do as a representative regarding state government spending?



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Carl Albercht Response (70): I always carefully review bills that have appropriation requests attached. The Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC), which is made up of Leadership in both the Senate and the House, make the final decisions concerning the budget. The budget increase is substantial. However, we must also remember that the state's population has grown significantly as well. The state has invested a lot of dollars in recent years in water projects and wildfire protection and mitigation projects. I consider myself a strong conservative and will continue to watch closely, the budget that is recommended to us by EAC and our Budget Directors.

Steve Merrill Response (71): Our population has increased 10% in that time, and inflation has gone up a total of just over 22%. If we multiply \$19B by 1.1, then by 1.22, we get \$25.5. While it seems we're up 50%, in real dollars per person we're only up 15%. Utah being one of the fastest growing states in the nation, I can see investments into both creating the infrastructure for the growth and investments to encourage continued growth moving us up 15%, and that being necessary with those goals in mind. The question then becomes one of "what do we really want?" Do we want to continue investing in growth? Do we want to invest in drawing the tech industry into Utah? Do we want to connect our more rural areas with our more urban areas through infrastructure, which may cost a lot now, but will provide services for many years? If so, spending may be necessary. The state needs to do a better job of outlining what the money is going toward and, when there is pushback on the spending, listen to the people and be willing to adapt - even if it means going against donors and lobbyists who are pushing their own agenda.

Rex Shipp Response (71): The population growth of the state over that time period has been approximately 7.5% and the growth of our spending has been 55%. I will do my best to prioritize spending to those things that are most important to District 71 constituents. I will be careful avoid unnecessary spending.

3. What is your stance on public lands and natural resource management while ensuring private land rights?

Carl Albercht Response (70): Private land ownership is a God given Constitutional right and must be protected at all costs. I would like to see the State's lawsuit before the Supreme Court on BLM Lands held by the Feds be successful. Over 67% of the State is controlled by the Federal Government. This suit seeks 18.5 million acres of BLM lands. These lands will remain "public," but will be managed by the State of Utah if the lawsuit is successful.

Steve Merrill Response (71): Public lands are a crucial part of Utah's personality and tourism draw. Efforts to privatize those lands for private profit can lead to reckless decisions and must be met with extreme caution. We must listen to those who live nearby, who have experienced the joy of undeveloped land, and who have an eye toward the future. The last thing my district needs is to see Cedar Breaks become a giant amusement park because there was an opportunity to make some money. With that said, if there *is* an eye to the future, the locals are on board, and the potential privatization provides a positive for the area (e.g. small cutouts to help with our unhoused population), utilizing our land for the good of our people needs to be an option. It is simply one that cannot be undone, so we must be careful.

Rex Shipp Response (71): Public lands and natural resources are for multiple use purposes. It is important to maintain public access to these resources for recreation, but we also need to be able to use them for grazing, mining, timbering etc. Protecting private property rights is a must!



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4. How will you address the growing water crisis in southern Utah? How will your policies balance commercial, agricultural and residential demands for water?

Carl Albercht Response (70): Water is the absolute essential of life. There is currently a study being performed on the West Desert with funding Senator Vickers and myself requested to study the aquifer between Beaver and Iron Counties on the proposed water development project by the Iron County Water Conservancy District. Cedar City and the Iron County Water Conservancy District (ICWCD) have done great work to recharge the aquifer west of Cedar City. Agriculture has done amazing work in water conservation practices as well. The Agriculture Water Optimization Program has been very successful throughout our area. We all need to make conservation a priority as we grow and our children build homes and move back to the state.

Steve Merrill Response (71): Unfortunately, there is no great solution for the water crisis in southern Utah. If there were, we would have implemented it. We must be working with local bodies to ensure water is used as necessary, while encouraging systems that re-use water (e.g. vertical farming where possible, xeriscaping - especially on public properties, etc.). We should also be working with states that are not struggling through a water crisis to determine ways to move water here.

Rex Shipp Response (71): The water crisis is being addressed. We have received money in our area over the years to help with aquifer recharging efforts as well as the Pine Valley Water Project focused on getting our aquifer to safe yield. I will continue to advocate for resources to sure up our water situation as I have done in the past.

5. What are your proposals to support and reform education, while balancing budgetary constraints and managing the level of taxes on Utah residents?

Carl Albercht Response (70): I would like to see results on the effectiveness of the School Choice Program (Utah Fits All Scholarship) that was implemented two years ago. We need to be fiscally prudent in all the school districts, eliminating programs that don't work. As Utah grows, it takes more dollars to educate. In my district, school taxes make up a huge share of the local property taxes. However, there are only so many dollars to go around, and I don't want the senior folks to be taxed out of their homes. There are bills being filed for next Session to protect Seniors as their property values rise and their taxes go up. Hopefully, we can put in place some protections for them.

Steve Merrill Response (71): Our state's education system is second-to-last in the nation in per-pupil funding. As education evolves with technological improvements, including AI integration to provide more targeted and adaptable instruction, we **must** increase that funding in order to get the right programs and specialists in place to best serve our children. We must ensure our teachers are getting the right trainings to work with the new programs to help our kids excel. We simply cannot afford to keep cutting our school funding and expect anything to change for the positive. In the last 3 years, our income tax has been cut 0.4%. That is \$4 for every \$1000 brought in. If someone is making \$26,000/year (which is just above Iron County's median individual income, that amounts to \$2 in a week - enough to buy a king size candy bar. That has cost our public schools and higher education system \$700,000,000 **every year**. The governor has suggested going another 0.6% down - up to \$5/week, or one happy meal from McDonald's - and it would go up to \$1,750,000,000 per year taken away from developing our kids. To compete, I would look into increasing our taxes - just back to where they were during the last presidency would be enough. Moving our income tax back to 5% would put over \$850 MILLION dollars back into our schools EVERY YEAR, and would only cost that same median-



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income individual \$2.50/week. That's a significant budgetary bump without a significant tax impact.

Rex Shipp Response (71): I have been in strong support of funding our public schools! As a legislature we have created an education stabilization fund with over \$400 million dollars in it to protect public education. I have supported funding growth and inflation for our public schools going forward.

6. How do you plan to strengthen infrastructure, including roads, broadband access, and public services while managing public spending?

Carl Albercht Response (70): There are several federal grant programs that are being used to expand broadband in Rural Areas. In Utah, most of our fiber optic companies are doing a decent job. Roads are just as important in Rural areas as in the Wasatch Front. Eventually, we will need a third lane on I-15 from St. George to Payson. This will have to be done in steps, within budget constraints. Rural legislators did get some B and C Road funds for the Rural Counties last year. We need these to keep up with maintenance, as a lot of Wasatch Front folks use our roads, when they come to recreate in Rural Utah.

Steve Merrill Response (71): With the infrastructure act that's currently in place, each of these should be supplemented by the federal government - limiting our cost at the state and local level. Investments need to be made with an eye to the future to make sure the money spent isn't just a waste in 5 years.

Rex Shipp Response (71): The gas tax is supposed to be enough to take care of the maintenance of our roads. However, because of more fuel-efficient cars the gas tax isn't keeping up with the need. UDOT is working on coming up with a solution for the roads. The legislature has already appropriated money to get broadband access to all areas of the state. This is important for the education of our children.

7. What is your position on tax policy, particularly regarding property and sales taxes in rural areas?

Carl Albercht Response (70): Hopefully, we can eliminate the sales tax on food this next year if the Constitutional Amendment is approved by the voters. We have gradually been reducing the Social Security tax and plan to eliminate it completely. Property taxes are difficult. There are bills being filed for next Session to protect Seniors as their property values rise and their taxes go up. Hopefully, we can put in place some protections for senior citizens.

Steve Merrill Response (71): Taxes are necessary to keep our infrastructure in place. Not only roads and utilities, but emergency services are critical to keeping our citizens safe. Taxes cannot be excessive, but they must exist to keep our society functioning.

Rex Shipp Response (71): I would like to see income tax eventually go away as it is taxing the citizens of the state. I much prefer consumption tax (sales tax) because the visitors to our state will help pay for our government. I believe we need to be sensitive to taxes of all kinds and work on being more efficient in all government settings.

8. What are your views on housing affordability and availability in the district you represent? What chances would you propose?

Carl Albercht Response (70): I prefer private enterprise to help solve this issue or public/private partnerships. There are shortages in some counties in my district, but progress is being made. I'll continue to work for common-sense solutions that help Rural Utah. The Six-



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county Association and Five-County Association of Governments have both made progress in this area.

Steve Merrill Response (71): Housing is not affordable in Iron County for many first-time home buyers. We have a significant population living without housing security, especially among our youngest citizens. I do not have an answer to this, but I think the solution needs to come from a collaboration of our home builders, realtors, employers, and homeless councils working together and coming up with a working solution - as they are the ones most closely tied to both affordability and availability. The solutions they come up with need to be supported by the legislature to find a way to empower our citizens to get into homes they can consistently afford.

Rex Shipp Response (71): Housing is not affordable in Iron County for many first-time home buyers. We have a significant population living without housing security, especially among our youngest citizens. I do not have an answer to this, but I think the solution needs to come from a collaboration of our home builders, realtors, employers, and homeless councils working together and coming up with a working solution - as they are the ones most closely tied to both affordability and availability. The solutions they come up with need to be supported by the legislature to find a way to empower our citizens to get into homes they can consistently afford.

9. What is your plan for engaging with constituents and ensuring their voices are heard at the state level?

Carl Albercht Response (70): I send a monthly newsletter each month, to all local newspapers in my district. During the Session, I send a weekly newsletter to each newspaper and engage on Facebook and Instagram. I encourage groups to come to the Capitol and visit with me during the Session and several groups have. I'm always available by phone, email or text message and freely share my personal phone number and email address. I return phone calls, emails and texts from my district the day I receive them.

Steve Merrill Response (71): I am intending to produce content explaining what's happening and how and why I'm voting. I am available for anyone at steve@vote4merrill.com. I will have a legislative email as well once I'm in the legislature. While a simple "thank you for contacting me" email may come back as a standard response (just so a constituent knows they got the right email address), I will be personally reading all correspondence and responding to whomever asks for a response. As a representative of our people, I must listen to all of my constituents. Successful legislation will come from blending all of our experiences and ideas to find the best possible way forward. Not "my idea" - even if my ideas are pretty amazing. I don't know everything, and I have not experienced anyone's life but my own. The only way to serve all is to listen to all. Please reach out. I'm here.

Rex Shipp Response (71): I try to do a newsletter that is published in the local paper each week of the general session and each month after interim meetings to let my constituents know what is happening. My phone number and email address are published so that I'm accessible.

10. How do you feel SB 54 has altered the political landscape in Utah? What parts do you like, what parts don't you like? If you were able, would you make any changes to that law and what would they be?

Carl Albercht Response (70): SB54 was a major compromise at the time. There is good and bad within it. It will be difficult to change; although, there are several election bills being filed for the 2025 Session. You always need 38 votes in the House, 15 in the Senate, and the



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Governor's Signature to pass a bill. This year's election has not been pretty. I'd like to see paper ballots and one day as "Election Day," except for those serving in the military or on service missions out of the country, or disabled. Voter ID Laws also need to be strengthened. However, we need to remember that this would undoubtedly reduce voter turnout. Mail-in ballots have increased voter returns considerably.

Steve Merrill Response (71): Until we can get enough publicity out to get as much engagement in our March caucuses as we do in our November ballots, we cannot truly say caucuses represent our population. We need to get every neighborhood, every household, every person involved in understanding how politics are affecting them. Until we do, we cannot truly trust any system to serve everyone. I would love to see an investment from the state level informing people of when they need to register to run for office, where and when precinct, county, and state meetings are happening, and when and how to register to vote. Let's make sure everyone is presented the information and can get engaged.

Rex Shipp Response (71): I would like to see SB 54 removed. It has hurt the caucus system because a lot of people don't see that it is necessary to attend caucus and be voted in as a delegate because the candidates can just pay someone to gather enough signatures for them to get on the primary ballot. So, it benefits those that have the money to pay for signatures and have the money to buy media. The delegates do a deep dive on the candidates and so they can decide who really aligns with the party platform and determine which ones they would prefer.

Utah Attorney General

Rudy Bautista, and Derek Brown did not respond to our survey.

1. How can you as the next Utah Attorney General shape or effect the future of Utah?

Austin Hepworth Response: Our country's foundations are weakening, and the Constitution is becoming something that lesser and lesser elected officials give much thought or concern to upholding. The Attorney General was designed to be a check and balance by simply enforcing the law and upholding the Constitution of Utah and the United States, independent of politics. The Attorney General represents the State in legal matters and helps to shape the course of how many legal issues play out in the State. As Attorney General, I would work hard to uphold the Constitution, including by holding the Federal Government accountable when it violates the Constitution and by actively advising and educating government officials on the Constitution and the rights it protects. By strengthening our foundation and ensuring that we have a strong legal system built on correct principles, our State can thrive and weather many storms that may come when it holds true to the principles that made us a nation.

Andrew McCullough Response: I can do my job fairly and evenly without political overtones. And I can implement my philosophy that government should tread lightly and not be overbearing.

Michelle Quist Response: As an independent attorney general, I can bring a sense of trust and decency back to an office that has been plagued by scandals for decades. Utah's top law enforcement officer should be above reproach. A partisan attorney general, though, can't help but be influenced and beholden to national party bosses and their purse strings. An independent attorney general, on the other hand, can enforce the rule of law while protecting individual rights without first serving a political party's interests. It doesn't make sense that our attorney general is a partisan office, and it's time we reform the Utah's Attorney General's Office with the most experienced - and independent - candidate on the ballot.



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2. As the highest law enforcement agency in Utah, how will you ensure that you will preserve the constitutional rights of ALL citizens?

Austin Hepworth Response: I am deeply committed to upholding the Constitution, but it would be a lie to pretend that the Attorney General can uphold constitutional rights for all citizens, all of the time. There are legal hurdles to bringing constitutional challenges in court, such as ripeness, standing, etc., and the Attorney General cannot act as the party in all lawsuits. Some of them have to be brought by citizens, as that is a basic requirement of the legal system. However, in all situations in which the Attorney General can be properly involved, I make the Constitution my starting point and seek to educate others to do the same. In addition, even if I cannot directly bring a case, I can advise government officials on the Constitution and what it requires and incorporate constitutional principles in all legal guidance provided to the State of Utah. Also, I would do the same for citizens and strive to educate them on the law and their rights as well so that they know more of how to defend their rights when it is their duty to do so. I strongly believe that the Attorney General should be working to educate citizens on the law and constitutional rights, as fully transparency and knowledge really help to protect rights for all.

Andrew McCullough Response: I consider the Bill of rights to be the most important legal framework we have. That means I will not seek to increase government power at the expense of the rights of individual citizens.

Michelle Quist Response: Preserving Utahns' constitutional rights has to be a priority. My approach as attorney general will be guided by two principles: the rule of law and the protection of individual rights. As an independent attorney general, I will represent ALL Utahns, and not one party's interests. I've been very vocal on social media over the last month with my opposition to the proposed Amendment D, which would have limited Utahns' constitutional rights to use the initiative power without government infringement. My opponent Derek Brown, on the other hand, signed the letter calling for the special session to bring Amendment D to the ballot. As attorney general, I will always work to protect Utahns' constitutional rights.

3. The Attorney General office's website states that it is committed to protecting all Utah citizens, and particularly children, which includes protecting them from human trafficking. How will you go about that?

Austin Hepworth Response: To accomplish this, the Attorney General must work closely with and support law enforcement in their efforts. Their needs to be strong and active communication and coordination. Additionally, the Attorney General should be a voice that helps to shine the light on areas that may help facilitate these practices. For example, I am deeply concerned about the Inland Port being a vehicle that makes it easier to engage in human trafficking or smuggling of illegal drugs or weapons. To me, the Attorney General plays a key role in proactively identifying potential or existing issues and working to help propose solutions that can help to stop the problems. To fully protect children though, we need to return to basic societal values of morality and work to eradicate pornography from our society. We also need to build communities. I am committed to taking a lead in speaking on legal and moral issues that threaten our children, families, homes, or nation, and I believe that protection comes as we shine light on issues and teach people a better way. When we weave legal solutions and enforcement into this as well, we create a strong foundation of liberty that enables us to do all that we can to protect some of the most vulnerable among us.



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Andrew McCullough Response: Human trafficking involves the holding and manipulating of people against their will. With children, there are many things to which they cannot legally consent. Those seeking to force others to do their will for profit or other improper purposes must be dealt with through steady enforcement of the law.

Michelle Quist Response: The Attorney General's Office has robust trafficking task forces I would continue in order to ensure women and children in Utah are protected.

4. What are your ideas and policies regarding the fight against the illegal drug trade (especially fentanyl/opioids) that is destroying many young lives?

Austin Hepworth Response: I strongly believe that we need to continue to work to keep illegal drugs from being among us, but we also need to balance that with constitutional rights, as we do not want to institute a surveillance system that tracks all of our movements. To fully stop the illegal drug trade, I believe that we have to help people (especially criminals who are released from jail after serving their time) have a path forward to make an honest living. Our system heavily penalizes criminals, even after they served their time, by making it extremely difficult to find work, and many find themselves in desperate places again, making them turn to earning money illegally, often through selling drugs. If we do not work with the private sector to help find ways for a criminal that has served their time to reintegrate into society, I do not believe we will ever stop the illegal drug problem. If we remove the need for people to sell drugs to make money by finding solutions that enable them to have productive jobs, I believe that the drug problem will decrease significantly and law enforcement will be better able to find the remaining distributors as it becomes harder to hide when there are fewer distributors to get drugs from.

Andrew McCullough Response: The "war on drugs" is not something that seems to be winnable in its present form. While drug dealers must be treated as criminals, much more emphasis needs to be on prevention and treatment of those caught in illegal drug use. Drug use should be treated as a social problem and an illness rather than a crime. And in particular, the efforts to keep marijuana out of Utah when we are surrounded by "legal states" is a lost cause. The effort should be to regulate its sale in a way that does not enrich drug dealers or destroy the lives of users.

Michelle Quist Response: Utah has a drug problem. And it's not just destroying young lives - it's destroying old lives, and families, and fathers and mothers. No Utahn has been spared. Our county prosecutors are unable to prosecute the many cases of small quantity drugs that create most of our problem because they are underfunded. Our county prosecutors need more funding. With a partisan attorney general, Utah's drug problem becomes a border problem. But we can't solve a border problem, and in fact national party bosses refuse to solve the border issue in order to play politics. With a nonpartisan attorney general, our drug problem remains a drug problem that if properly funded, we can solve. I would reprioritize funding to county prosecutors so they could address the drug problem, and I would continue pursuing the national opioid litigation in order to pursue another avenue of additional funding.

5. What are your thoughts about the existence of monopolies in the state, such as medical monopolies (i.e. Intermountain Healthcare) that have a record of trying to restrict competition from independent doctors, thus driving up the cost of healthcare? Would you be willing to seriously investigate and prosecute such monopolies?

Austin Hepworth Response: I am very committed to working to reduce monopolies, especially in healthcare, and I have defended professionals in court when larger health companies tried to



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restrict their ability to practice and serve others in Utah. I have also worked on bills in Utah to restrict or ban non-compete agreements in healthcare. Lawyers cannot use non-compete agreements with other lawyers, and I do not believe that the medical world should be able to use it either. I am also a proponent of requiring that health practitioners and hospitals disclose and commit to their charges prior to rendering services, as transparency is a critical component of working to bring the healthcare industry back to a manageable and competitive space.

Andrew McCullough Response: Encouraging competition in providing services is a good thing. Medical services, however, involve education, equipment and facilities which are very expensive. Destroying major health companies is not a good policy unless we can arrive at a model that provides good service at reasonable cost. I am willing to listen and support such efforts where I can.

Michelle Quist Response: If monopolies exist that violate current law, I would be willing to investigate and prosecute. The entire premise of my campaign is that a partisan monopoly currently exists in Utah, to the detriment of the Utah Attorney General's Office, and it has led to decades of scandal and bad behavior. I'll start with the monopoly in our government first.

6. How do you feel SB 54 has altered the political landscape in Utah? What parts do you like, what parts don't you like? If you were able, would you make any changes to that law and what would they be?

Austin Hepworth Response: SB 54 has violated a fundamental constitutional right of association. Political parties should be free to decide their candidates and their processes, and I do not believe that it is appropriate or right for the government to tell the parties how they select candidates. If the government does not approve of a party's selection process, the government can work to ensure that third parties or independent candidates have a path to be on the ballot, but the government cannot conscript the name of a popular party and apply it to candidates that did not meet the selection process of the party. I would simply repeal the law if it were up to me, and I would respect the rights of association that enable groups to select and follow their own bylaws and rules, especially when determining who gets to wear that party's name.

Andrew McCullough Response: I am a Libertarian. SB 54 was aimed at problems mostly within the Republican Party where the most extreme candidates were nominated by that party at their conventions, and then rolled to victory because there are no effective alternatives. Most voters never actually exercised a real choice. The solution is to build a two (or more) party system. A good step in that direction is the current effort to prohibit "extreme partisan gerrymandering" which now has the support of the Utah Supreme court.

Michelle Quist Response: The attorney general doesn't legislate - she enforces the law. Assuming elections are secure, I support increasing voter participation, whether that includes early voting, vote by mail, a signature path to the ballot, ranked-choice voting, or even approval voting, I believe people should be allowed the opportunity to exercise their constitutional right to vote. I think SB54 has created more choice for Utahns in relation to the larger state-wide races while still allowing the caucus system to provide efficiencies in relation to some of the smaller city and county races.



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State Auditor

All candidates responded to our survey.

1. Given that your job will be overseeing the state's financial operations, the highest level of integrity is required. Where do your principles of integrity come from?

Tina Cannon Response: My belief and faith in God. The example of those beliefs that I set for my family and community. I believe in a God who knows all, cares about our actions in this life, and that we will answer to God for our actions in this life in the next life.

Catherine Voutaz Response: Government should operate with the highest standards of integrity and accountability. Born and raised in Bountiful, Utah, my parents' values and their examples influenced my attitudes toward education, acceptance and understanding of others, service, work ethic, honesty, accountability and integrity. My education includes a Bachelors in Accounting from Weber State University and further education in the Masters of Accountancy at UNR. My professional experience includes accounting, compliance, risk assessment, data analysis, implementation and review of internal controls, tax audit including 10 years with the Internal Revenue Service, designing audit standards, regulatory compliance, and financial audit. I have a proven track record in financial reporting, regulatory compliance, and driving financial transparency. I'm not afraid to confront hard issues and I bring the experience and work ethic Utahns can count on.

Jeffrey Ostler Response: The Constitution for the united states of America and Utah's Constitution and from God through the Scriptures.

2. Are you totally free of any conflicts of interest regarding the management of the Auditor's office?

Tina Cannon Response: Yes.

Catherine Voutaz Response: Yes

Jeffrey Ostler Response: Yes of course I ran for State Auditor in 2000 and got 2nd highest vote count. I do not receive money under the table like other candidates or government servants do, nor do I cover up fraud and graft like the some Auditors offices do. No matter who the next Elected Governor of the state of Utah is, I will owe NO alligance to him or her but rather owe alligance to the God and to the People of Utah.

3. How do you plan to combat governmental spending waste and fraud in Utah?

Tina Cannon Response: My specialization in taxation gives me a unique perspective on the many different aspects of state and local taxation policy and implementation within Utah. This includes how tax revenue and spending forecasts are done at the state and local levels, and how mistakes in the implementation of the taxation policy will impact individual taxpayers. Here is an example of this type of audit here:

<https://reporting.auditor.utah.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=0151K000007Pn4GQAS>

Spending: The office of the State Auditor will be an independent source for tax collection revenues and forecasting in order to minimize continual ""budget surpluses"" that indicate tax rates are being set too high. The transparent.utah.gov website is a great resource for the public to see and better understand the financial transactions of state and local governments.

Waste: The office of the State Auditor conducts performance audits of state and local government. These audits are designed to find areas for improvement in government operations.



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Fraud: The State Auditor Hotline where suspicions of waste and fraud can be reported and then investigated is a vital role of the State Auditor. These reports can uncover areas across state and local governments where both improvements in efficiencies can occur and also areas where increased security or controls should be put in place.

Catherine Voutaz Response: Promoting transparency, financial accountability, and efficient use of resources are my top priorities. If elected, I would improve audit quality by conducting reviews of current processes in order to determine how long it takes the Auditor's Office to conduct audits, how office staff hours are allocated, how the Auditor's office ensures the quality of audits, and how well the Auditor's office communicates with governmental groups, organizations and the public. I would also implement advanced workflow tools including data analysis and automation to increase collaboration with other state and local agencies, turning the audit process into a real-time continuous process improvement rather than the periodic publication of audits.

Jeffrey Ostler Response: Expose the moneys misappropriated to the Governors family company and other select businesses of COVID relief funds (almost 1 Billion fiat Dollars) that should have gone to the people and businesses that failed during COVID and expose all the waste that is given to select businesses and fraud of money not being used for the people of Utah. Utah is known as 2nd or 3rd most corrupt states in the USA. After all, The State of Utah Corporation is a Business Corporation and is not defending the Life, Liberty and Property of the People as it should. Also, the People need to know that The State of Utah Corporation has been violating Article 1, Section 10 of the Constitution for the United states of America for over 90 years now. The People of Utah believe (for the most part) that the US Constitution is divinely inspired by God as He said: "I, the Lord, have established this Constitution by the hands of wise men that I raised up and redeemed this Promised land by the shedding of blood." And God also said: "Let NOT that which I, the Lord God, have appointed be polluted by the consent of My People, for this is a Grievous Sin against Me". The People of Utah can be a credible force for good in this world if show that way to integrity and honesty by going back to an honest money system. And the fact that the good people of Utah are now going to pay a private individual (Ryan Smith) a lot of money to build sports stadiums for Olympics 3034, which he will then own and profit from with his teams is not what the people need right now - we need to pull back on spending in this economic downturn and tax the people much less. The County and City Governments already compete way too much with free enterprise private businesses with money taken from the people by force of Law. Let's stop government run businesses!!! Those who love Sports and Entertainment and the Arts can support with money those private businesses without Government Corporations taking half of that in exorbitant taxes from the People. And Charitable welfare services is much better and more efficiently done by the People, families, and churches themselves helping those around than can the State Corporation help those in need. Private Enterprise works a Lot better than bloated Government Corporations can. Charity must be done by choice, NOT by Force!!! The Auditor's job is to examine all things which take place in Utah and especially in the State of Utah Corporation, and REPORT that to the people, not just to the Corporation.

4. How would you increase government financial transparency at the state, county, and local levels?

Tina Cannon Response: The Office of the State Auditor does this by improving and increasing the reporting areas found at [Transparent.utah.gov](https://transparent.utah.gov). Some additional areas for reporting include:



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- a. the name, purpose for and amount of tax dollars given to charitable organizations within Utah.
- b. Recreational project grant funding sources, type of project, and timeline for completion, any cost overruns.
- c. Business economic development grant funding and awards given by state and local governments.

Catherine Voutaz Response: Encourage the adoption of open data standards so financial data can be easily analyzed, shared, and compared. Increase disclosure information on contracts, the procurement processes, awarded contracts, and vendor details. Ensure audit reports easily accessible to the public through websites. Encourage government employees to report financial mismanagement or corruption without fear of retribution. Provide easy-to-understand summaries of the audit processes and financial reports so the general public can quickly grasp the key points.

Jeffrey Ostler Response: Question EVERYTHING and Report to the People!!! The Auditor's responsibility is to examine everything (Not just money) and report to the People what is happening in Utah and especially the State of Utah Corporation and Salt Lake City Corporation and Ogden and Provo City Corporation and all City and County Corporations, and to report to the People if that is being operated by honest upright servants of the People, or if there is graft and bribery or under the table deals with other businessmen and corporate entities - whether those are based nationally or other countries or within Utah state. Utah is a great place to live and serve others, and most of us do not appreciate the corruption that has been going on over the past 35 years. Ezra Taft Benson said: "The ONLY Function of "Government" is to Defend Life, Liberty, and Property (of the People), and everything else is Usurpation and Oppression!" That means that we really should NOT call it "GOVERNMENT" but rather a "Defensement" and not tyrannically rule over the People, but to serve and protect and defend our God Gifted Rights. Elected people are representative under a Constitutional Republic to Serve the People and NOT rule over nor "Govern" over them. There are way too many restrictive laws on the books of the State of Utah Corporation that need to be eliminated and repealed so the people can go about serving and helping others. Now, money wise, we MUST stop using fraudulent fiat paper currency imposed upon us by the illegal and Un-Constitutional Federal Reserve Private Corporation Bank over 90 years ago and go back to Constitutional Honest Money of Gold and Silver as stipulated in Article 1, Section 10 of the Constitution - "NO STATE shall make anything but Gold and Silver a Tender in payment of Debts, nor emit bills of Credit (US DOLLAR FIAT CURRENCY (a debt note owed to the Federal Reserve) and NOT backed by Gold and Silver. The Founders in Constitution convention spent almost one half of the time in convention over this issue because of the worthless colonial scrip (debt notes) imposed upon them by England which caused economic depression throughout the latter half of the 1700's in the colonies. The Secrets of the Federal Reserve and Paper money must be taught in our schools and exposed for the fraud that it is, so that the good people of Utah can get back to a robust healthy economy where we have plenty to help who cannot help themselves and teach true principles of honesty and integrity to all peoples of the beautiful world we were gifted by God. It is time to go back to an honest "Defensement" of our lives, liberty and property - OF the people, BY the people, FOR the People!!!! REAL MONEY IS NOT GREEN!!! IT IS GOLD AND SILVER!!!! This election 2024 is our last chance to go back to a Constitutional Honest state of Utah and we must lead the way for many other states of this great Nation!



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Iron County Commission “C”

Kenneth Robinson is running unopposed.

1. Do you support or oppose the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries in Iron County?

Kenneth Robinson Response: I support the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries under the guidance of medical professionals, especially when it helps individuals transition off more dangerous substances like opioids. However, I strongly oppose any recreational use or abuse of marijuana and any government facilitation of such activities.

2. Do you support or oppose the continued practice of beginning commission meetings with prayers or invocations?

Kenneth Robinson Response: I definitely support beginning commission meetings with prayers. It is essential to remember that our rights are endowed upon us by our Creator, not granted by the government.

3. Do you support or oppose voter identification laws requiring individuals to show government-issued photo identification in order to vote?

Kenneth Robinson Response: I am strongly in favor of ensuring our elections are secure. Requiring voters to show government-issued photo identification helps guarantee that only eligible voters participate in the electoral process.

4. Considering the sentiment of Iron County citizens regarding the previous jail proposal, how would you proceed on this issue?

Kenneth Robinson Response: The residents of Iron County have clearly indicated their opposition to funding a jail through property taxes, and I support that decision. Any future jail project must share the cost with visitors to our county, not just property owners. Even then, we must proceed cautiously to ensure the facility meets our needs without burdening our residents.

5. Previous county commissioners have stated that there are 10 years of research on jail proposals. Will you make this information available to the public?

Kenneth Robinson Response: Yes, I will. Although these records are public, they are often difficult to find. I will work with our county staff and IT professionals to make studies and important public records more accessible on the county website.

State School Board District 15

Joann Brinton is running unopposed.

1. Do you support or oppose the ability for employee unions to automatically deduct money from their members' paychecks to finance political activities?

Joann Brinton Response: I oppose automatic deductions.

2. Do you support or oppose the growth of Utah charter schools in Iron County and the rest of the state?



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Joann Brinton Response: I support the growth of charter schools. I taught at charter schools, parents should have the access to schooling of their choice for their children.

3. Do you support or oppose the right of parents to opt their students out of curriculum to which they object?

Joann Brinton Response: I support this. I support full transparency of curriculum - which we do not have currently. Many vendors do not allow access to their curriculum unless you go to the school to view it due to copyright infringements. I think all curriculum taught to our children should be available to parents online to view- it could be password protected so parents could log in through power school or some other means.

4. Do you support or oppose policies that would permit males and females to share the same public restrooms, locker rooms, and showers based on their self-identified gender instead of their biological sex? In view of the newest Title IX rules that may promote such policies, would any opposition you have be strong enough to face withdrawal of federal funding of the school districts you oversee?

Joann Brinton Response: I support all efforts to block federal mandates that leave our girls unprotected. This is a hill to die on for me- we must protect our girls' sports and private spaces.

5. Do you support or oppose the school board's role in supporting traditional social and family values in Utah or Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)?

Joann Brinton Response: I support traditional roles and values. All children and students should be treated with equality and safety. The new DEI measures actually exclude and divide students. I will be a strong voice in support of conservative reforms that restore traditional family values. Martin Luther King's vision of judging on the content of character and not on skin color, gender, or race.

6. Do you support or oppose policies allowing teachers or school staff to refer students for abortion services or transgender "affirming" medications/surgeries without parental notice?

Joann Brinton Response: I DO NOT support any policies that undermine parents. Parents are the experts in their children's lives and schools should only seek to support that role.

7. Do you support or oppose forced speech requiring school employees to observe preferred genders of individuals in the district?

Joann Brinton Response: I do not support forced speech, I fully support the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the right of all to follow the dictates of their conscience. I believe there are so many forces seeking to divide and distract us from the true role of an educator. All students should be welcomed with equality and love. The role of education is to teach reading, writing, arithmetic, history....and I would love to see a restoration of teaching students how to think, not what to think. We should be preparing our students to face the world knowing how to decipher truth so they are not left to the whims of the written word, or every idea presented in the media to be truth.



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Iron County School District 1

John Taylor is running unopposed.

1. How can you as the next ICSD representative from your district shape or effect the future of Iron County?

John Taylor Response: I have spent the last 25 years of my life devoted to K-16 education, particularly in STEM education. I've been deeply involved in STEM education at local, State, and National levels, and such I bring to ICSD up-to-date information regarding the status and trends in STEM education. My hope would be to provide all of our students the very best instructional environment that is supported by best practices and research.

2. Why do you support or oppose the right of parents to opt their students out of curriculum to which they object?

John Taylor Response: I think parents should have the right to opt their students out of curricula that they find objectionable. However, I'm not sure that it is necessarily the best for the student in the long run and parents should carefully research subjects that they are troubled with. Speak with teachers, administrators, etc. Researching online communities is often not the best way to gather information unless care is taken to find balanced perspectives.

3. Why do you support or oppose policies that would permit males and females to share the same public restrooms, locker rooms, and showers based on their self-identified gender instead of their biological sex? In view of the newest Title IX rules that may promote such policies, would any opposition you were to have be strong enough to withstand withdrawal of funding of the ICSD?

John Taylor Response: I support the idea of restrooms/locker rooms to be safe for every student in the facility, regardless of gender identity. Kids shouldn't have to worry about issues like this when in school.

4. Why do you support or oppose the school board's role in either supporting traditional social and family values in the ICSD or Critical Theory and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) ideologies in the ICSD?

John Taylor Response: As much as one might hope, students often come to public classrooms thinking the world works in a very specific way. Part of education is introducing students to the greater world around them, other countries, cultures, and the traditions found in others. Teachers need to do this important job in a balanced way, using the best practices available to them, and in a way that assists all learners in the room.

5. Do you support or oppose policies allowing teachers or school staff to refer students for abortion services or transgender "affirming" medications/surgeries without parental notice?

John Taylor Response: No, I do not know feel that this topic is even remotely a responsibility of an educator.

6. Do you support or oppose forced speech requiring school employees to observe preferred genders of individuals in the district?

John Taylor Response: The language of the question uses the term "forced speech." I think educators need to be respectful to their students and the students should be respectful back. I'm



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assuming this question has to do with the use of gender-specific pronouns in the classroom. In this case, it would be better to use the actual name of the student as much as possible.

7. The ICSB has consistently sought to or increased local property taxes on the local citizens. How do you intend to balance budget needs with the financial burden on the tax paying residents of the county?

John Taylor Response: I feel the property tax increase should lag a touch behind the inflation rates observed in the State. The Founding Fathers of the U.S. created a government that relies on the general public to be properly educated. For the sake of the country, we need to ensure that teachers have the resources they need to meet the expectations we have placed on their shoulders. The cost of this education often falls on the teachers, who contribute from their own pockets, in some cases this dollar amount is in the thousands. This is unacceptable. ICSD often seeks these increases for clearly understood reasons. As long as they are sound investments, we should back the District. I find it alarming that ICSD has kicked the building of new schools down the road year after year because the public won't increase taxes to a few additional dollars. Now we've wasted money building numerous portables and the costs are being carried by the educators who are now trying to teach in a building with no running water. We can do better.

8. Many ICSD student test scores are below standard in math, reading (English) proficiency at science at all grade levels. Are you satisfied with these proficiency levels and if not, what are your plans to change this trend?

John Taylor Response: I'm satisfied to the point that I think ICSD teachers have the curricular support they need to work towards bettering these scores. However, more can be done, which requires additional investment. I do not think students do enough science in the classroom, but that is because most educators have difficulty meeting the current needs of reading and language arts. We need to work towards increasing reading and language arts and then we can reasonably address the math and science issues.

Iron County School District 2

Ben Johnson is running unopposed.

Iron County School District 3

Jim Johnson has withdrawn from the race. Therefore, Tyrell Eddy is running unopposed.

Iron County Recorder / Surveyor

Carri Jeffries is running unopposed.

Iron County Assessor

Karsten Reed is running unopposed.

Iron County Auditor

Lucas Little is running unopposed.

Iron County Treasurer

Nicole Rosenberg is running unopposed.

