



Utah Republican Party

117 E South Temple St Salt Lake City, UT 84111 | (801) 533-9777 | www.utgop.org

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING Proposed Minutes

February 6th, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Provo City Council Chambers

Chaired by James Evans, Chair; recorded by Bryce Christensen, Secretary. The meeting was called to order by James Evans at 10:02am. Tifanie Fitzgerald offered a prayer
Kendra Seeley led the pledge.

Duane Shepherd made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded. The motion to adopt the agenda passed.

Bryce Christensen moved to approve the minutes. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

The Officers gave their reports. Abram discussed the party's finances. Bryce discussed the upcoming caucuses and told members to reach out to him with any questions. Phill read the neutrality clause of the bylaws regarding party neutrality, noting that an exception is made for the United States Presidential Election. Phill is the Chairman of the Ted Cruz campaign in Utah, and each of our officers have their preferences for President; as a party, however, we remain unbiased. Phill also discussed his participation in various meetings regarding SB54, and he wrote an op-ed on the topic. Phill pointed out that Republican candidates sign a disclosure stating that they will abide by our rules; we commend candidates who choose to be vetted through the caucus system and follow the procedures outlined in our governing documents. Phill stated that there is legal precedence for Utah to win the SB54 lawsuit. He has also engaged services to redesign the UTGOP website, which is now utah.gop. The site offers quick and easy access to voter registration, party documents, caucus training information, and more. Thank you to Joe Levi for all his help making the new website possible.

James echoed the point Phill made about the party's neutrality in elections, regardless of the individual views of our officers on Presidential candidates. James also stated that this State Central Committee (SCC) meeting will include votes regarding our party's direction on SB54. Our legal challenge is a fight for what is right, and thus we will continue to press forward. James has done his best to keep the politics surrounding the lawsuit about the issue, and not about the personalities involved. We have a tight timeline; Attorney General Sean Reyes has stated that he will expedite this legal process to the best of his ability. We are challenging the signature gathering threshold, which we believe to be unconstitutional. We are also seeking clarification on whether it is the party, or the candidate, that has the ability to select the path to the primary ballot under SB54. Ultimately, we are challenging the state's position that it has the authority to determine membership in our party; because the UTGOP is a private organization, the state has no right to control our membership. We hope to have all these questions answered by the second week of March. The lawsuit will determine whether candidates can gain access to



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the ballot via the convention route only, or via both the convention route and the signature route. We are confident in our lawsuit and want certainty moving forward. James then moved on to a brief discussion on the Republican National Committee (RNC) and our Presidential Caucus. The RNC wants to be involved and help us be successful, and we welcome their assistance. James also stated that he is going to battleground states at the request of Reince Priebus to help us win the Presidency, and will continue to do so as long as it doesn't interfere with his duties here in Utah. All hands are on deck to make sure we win the Presidency.

National Committeeman Bruce Hough and National Committeewoman Enid Mickelsen are both excused from this meeting.

There were 105 credentialed SCC members as of 10:17am. The Chair stated that we would hear from the Governor before hearing the Committee reports.

Governor Gary Herbert gave his report. He thanked everyone and stated how he tries to be present at every SCC meeting. Governor Herbert gave a presentation at a congressional retreat four weeks ago at the request of Speaker Paul Ryan. He discussed Arthur Brooks, a man who was the 7th best horn player in the world before he went back to school and became an economist. Brooks is now President of the American Enterprise Institute, and wrote a book called *The Conservative Heart* that Governor Herbert highly recommends. In Utah, we help to lift people out of poverty – we believe in the concept of teaching people how to fish rather than giving them fish. Herbert discussed how the anti-poverty programs instigated by President Lyndon B. Johnson have cost over 20 trillion dollars, but they have not decreased poverty; the poverty rate has stayed at roughly 14.9%. In Utah, the poverty rate is only 10%. This is because we focus on creating economic opportunity. The average length of time for a person on Medicaid in Utah is only nine months. We focus on helping people get off of government programs and back into the work force.

State Auditor John Dougall gave his report. He stated that accountability breeds responsibility and that we need to hold the government responsible to us. He helps officials to understand the triangle that leads to fraud: the opportunity to take money, the pressure to do so, and the rationalization that a person uses to convince themselves that stealing is okay. By understanding this triangle, it is easier to hold government accountable and keep it responsible to the people.

State Treasurer David Damschen gave his report. He thanked everyone and stated that Utah is a leader in many ways. We are the only state utilizing budget stress testing; this is an example of how we think ahead, plan for the worst, and work together to plan for the future. A new Facebook page has been launched for the Utah Office of the State Treasurer and David encouraged SCC members to follow it. He has been meeting with legislators and staying on top of activities in the legislature. He urged SCC members to reach out to him with ways he can assist them.



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The next item on the agenda was the Committee Reports. Peter Greathouse reported for the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. He stated that there have been no proposals, so they have not met; there have been some preliminary discussions about things people want changed, but no submissions have been made at this time. Peter stated that the focus is on the 2016 elections and getting Republicans elected rather than fighting over bylaw changes. He urged members of the SCC to support the caucus system and contribute to both the legal fund to protect the caucus system, and to donate to help pay for the caucuses themselves.

Lane Beck reported for the Audit Committee; Helen Redd is excused because she had to attend a viewing. Lane stated that the Audit Committee met this morning. They anticipate having the full audit by the next SCC meeting. Lane thanked Abe Young and Bryan Smith for prodding the independent auditor along. Lane urged SCC members to help finance the party and commended James Evans for his efforts. He urged SCC members to renew their sustaining memberships, and to encourage precinct chairs to do so as well.

There was no report for the Budget Committee.

The body moved to the business portion of the agenda. The Random Alphabetical Draw for Presidential Caucus ballot order took place. SCC members drew the letters. The final order drawn is as follows: Q B O D T F A C S R I H G U P Y X W V M Z L E N K J Presidential candidate names will appear on the ballot in that order, based off of the candidate last names. Candidates who have officially notified the UTGOP that they have suspended their campaign will not appear on the ballot.

It was noted that the filing deadline to run to be a National Delegate is 30 days prior to the UTGOP Convention. This is March 23rd, the day after caucus night. If you would like to be a National Delegate, you must file to run by this date.

The next item on the agenda was the Caucus Rules Amendment – Ability to Participate. The RNC has clarified that as long as someone is 18 years of age by election day, they are eligible to participate in all parts of our caucus, including the Presidential Caucus vote. A motion was made to amend our Caucus Rules to make this clear. The motion passed.

The body moved to a discussion on a topic raised by Lowell Nelson. Lowell stated that he believes that the portion of the Caucus Rules allowing for a plurality vote may contradict the Party Constitution, because the Party Constitution discusses the use of multiple ballots. The body engaged in discussion on the topic for several minutes. In the end, it was concluded that because the constitution does not say anything about a majority vote, but instead only talks about the voting method, that the caucus rules can be used to clear up any ambiguity on this matter. Moreover, because a change to the caucus rules was not noticed for this SCC meeting, we would not be able to make a change to the rules anyway; a special SCC meeting would have to be called to do this.



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Congressman Stewart gave his report. He stated that he was honored to be with us and announced that his campaign would not be collecting signatures, to which Congressman Stewart received a standing ovation. The Congressman serves on the intelligence committee and read 29 of the emails on Hillary Clinton's server. In the emails, Ms. Clinton revealed classified methods and human assets, and in Stewart's opinion, for her to try and justify this as she has should unquestionably disqualify her from being Commander in Chief. Congressman Stewart then discussed an official hearing he attended down south several weeks ago regarding public lands, where the families of ranchers and business people in the area were able to tell their stories. Stewart believes public lands should be in local control and he appreciates the individuals who participated in that hearing. The Congressman also discussed town hall meetings he has held, and commented on the importance of Republicans uniting in the 2016 Presidential Election. Our nation will never be the same if we lose; democrats are running a corrupt politician and a self-described socialist, so shame on us if we do not win. We need a Republican in the White House to save our country. Stewart ended his report by thanking everyone for their support and stating "God Bless the USA."

Congressman Rob Bishop gave his report. He joked that he agrees with whatever Congressman Stewart said that earned him a standing ovation. Bishop stated that our federal delegation is working together extremely well. The Congressman specializes in areas having to do with the military; he stated that we have been underfunding our military significantly and that this needs to change. He is also working diligently to transfer control of federal lands to the states; we need local control and need to maintain high air quality standards, and it is possible to do both, despite what the opposition to local control may say. Bishop stated that he is a staunch believer in federalism, and that his goal is to leave Congress with less power than when he first arrived. He also believes that Congress needs to take power back from the Executive Branch, and that Congress needs to write the details into bills so that federal agencies do not have as much power. We need a Republican President elected in 2016. The Congressman thanked the members of the SCC for their dedication and commitment.

The body then watched a video about the Republican Leadership Institute (RLI). Utah was one of the states selected to do trainings, and we are helping the RNC in their effort to train people who are trusted in their communities to help us win in 2016. We are not ceding ground anywhere in the nation.

The next item on the agenda was the Caucus Training. We are hosting a Presidential Caucus this year, meaning Utah Republicans will vote for their choice for the GOP nomination for President on March 22nd this year online, or at the caucuses, rather than in June via a primary. Executive Director Bryan Smith took the body through an extensive training on this year's caucuses. We are using Eventbrite for online check-in and Smartmatic for online voting; all of the data is uploaded to GOP Data Center. Paper check-in and voting is available as well. The Caucus Training included a lengthy discussion between Bryan and members of the SCC, and questions from SCC members were answered. Options, including the possibility of administering surveys, advertising to



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raise money for the party (both online and on door hangers), etc., were all discussed. All training information is posted on the website for people to review. Further in-person trainings will be offered by the UTGOP.

There were 123 credentialed SCC members as of 11:41am. A typo in the election rules was corrected without objection. The Chair stated that the legal challenge is underway, but that Utah Republican Party's main focus is currently on training, promoting, and advertising for the caucus.

Caucus signs will be available as always to advertise the caucuses. Candidate names will NOT be put on the signs. Caucus packets should be sent out two weeks prior to the caucuses.

The next item on the agenda was auxiliary reports. Kathleen Anderson reported for the Utah Federation of Republican Women (UFRW). The Spring Conference is occurring on Friday, April 22nd – the day before the UTGOP Convention – from 10am to 2pm. The location is TBD. The UFRW has clubs throughout the state; if you would like to get affiliated with the UFRW, talk to Kathleen. She stated that women need to unify their voices and that every issue is a women's issue.

Heather Jackson then gave a report on behalf of Congressman Jason Chaffetz. Congressman Chaffetz is NOT gathering signatures, and is going the convention route alone. As his campaign manager, Jackson asked the Congressman more than once if he was sure about this, and Chaffetz responded that he was absolutely sure every time she asked. Congressman Chaffetz really values the caucus system – it is how he got elected to his position. He is doing some great things in Washington, and he will be present at the Utah County GOP Lincoln Day Dinner.

Jordan Hess gave a report on behalf of Senator Mike Lee. The Senator's Article I project is going very well. Lee is part of a think-tank in Congress that consists of eight Congressmen and two Senators – the think-tank is tasked with reclaiming authority that the Executive Branch has taken. Topics such as funding measures, executive actions, and more are all looked at by this group. Jordan mentioned that Mia Love is supportive of the Article I project as well, and that the project has a page on Facebook. Senator Lee's Criminal Justice reform package is moving through Congress as well; it passed out of committee via a 15-5 vote. Senator Lee will be present at the Utah County GOP Lincoln Day Dinner.

Daryl Acumen reported for the Black Republicans, and stated that it was Black History month.

Tifanie Fitzgerald reported for the Utah Young Republicans (YR's). They held their Legislative Summit last month, and it went very well. A special thanks to Senator Todd Weiler and Senator Ann Millner for their help with this event. Utah's YR's hope to hold a Legislative Summit like this one every year. They are also working diligently to build



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YR organizations around the state, and have an outreach committee working with county party chairs to do this. The YR's are involved in a number of amazing things, so please donate and help the organization be successful. Donations are especially needed to help YR's go to the national YR convention. Young Republicans are the future and appreciate your support.

The Chair reported that \$267.00 were raised during the meeting today. He also reminded the SCC members about the Utah County Lincoln Day Dinner occurring in the evening.

Ben Thompson made a motion to adjourn at 1:30pm. The motion passed without objection.

Bryce Christensen, Secretary

Excused Members: Bruce Hough, Enid Mickelsen, Helen Redd, Mike Edwards, Lonnie Crockett, Willie Billings, Kim Jones, Ryan Maddux, Byard Kershaw, Sue Pollard, Spencer White, Alice Smith, Rick Votaw, Jennie Hendricks, Trent Stirling, Clair Ellis, Tal Adair, Steven Stromness, and Orrin Hatch.

Attendees: See attendance records.