



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

November 21, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

North Salt Lake City Hall

Chaired by James Evans, Chair; recorded by Bryce Christensen, Secretary. The meeting was called to order by James Evans at 10:03am. Pam Clinch offered a prayer and Kevin Braddy led the pledge.

The Chair moved to amend the agenda to have the first round of balloting for the State Treasurer Selection immediately follow the approval of the minutes. The amendment passed without objection, and the agenda was adopted as amended.

Bryce Christensen made a correction to the minutes to show Kristen Chevrier as having attended the September 19th, 2015 State Central Committee (SCC) meeting. The minutes were adopted as corrected.

A motion to adopt the rules for the State Treasurer Selection was made and passed. Each candidate for the race was allotted 6 minutes for speeches. Committee members were informed that the red ballot would be used first, and that marking more than three names would spoil their ballot. A majority vote was required for each name in order for the candidate to be selected.

The candidates gave their speeches. The order of the speeches was Merrill Cook, Phil Condor, Neil Walter, Lane Ronnow, David Damschen, and Kathleen Bailey. The final credentials report was 123 credentialed members. Members were informed that if they spoiled their ballot they could turn in their spoiled ballot for a new one. The Chair declared balloting to be open at 10:51am. Balloting was declared closed at 10:59am.

The Officers gave their reports. Abram discussed the party's finances. Bryce told members to reach out to him with requests for information and updates that need to be made. Phill thanked North Salt Lake for letting us use the building, reported on attending meetings regarding SB54, and pointed out how the delegates are the real "party bosses." James stated that his comments will be saved for other parts of meeting, and that Senator Hatch and Governor Herbert would speak as we waited for the results from the State Treasurer Selection.

Governor Herbert thanked everyone and spoke about how great Utah is doing. Republicans and Republican governors have the solutions that facilitate successful businesses and a strong economy; Utah is looked to nation-wide due to our success in how we facilitate opportunities for the free market. We have a very efficient government and are one of only eight states in America with a triple A bond rating. Forbes named us number one for business and careers. Utah is doing well with graduation rates and



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academic achievement. Governor Herbert expressed how grateful he is for Lieutenant Governor Spencer Cox before introducing him to speak.

Spencer Cox briefly discussed some of his experiences as Lieutenant Governor before moving to a discussion on SB54. He stated his opposition to CMV and said that he supports the caucus system. Cox stated that he might have said no to becoming the Lieutenant Governor had he known that he'd be put in the middle of the battle over SB54. However, he said that he takes his position seriously and believes in enforcing laws as they are written. He believes the party must allow members access to the primary ballot via gathering signatures under SB54. Cox also believes the uncertainty surrounding this fight is detrimental and that it needs to be solved by the courts as quickly as possible. He wants this to go away so we can focus on getting Republicans elected. Discussion between the Lieutenant Governor and several members of the SCC on the topic of SB54 ensued.

The Chair stated that he and Lieutenant Governor Cox disagree on this issue, but that it is important that we engage in discussion on the matter and that both sides have the opportunity to be heard. James stressed how important it is that the state not pronounce one thing in public while saying something else entirely in private; starting December 1st, 2015, he stated that he will start responding aggressively if this does not happen. The UTGOP needs to defend its rights; we are not simply going to sit back and allow our constitutional rights to be tread upon. The idea that we should simply stand down is not acceptable. Moreover, it is inappropriate for elected officials to attack the party due to a difference in opinion over this matter – Senator Todd Weiler in particular has stated falsehoods regarding the party over this subject and has attempted to tarnish our reputation. The Chair stated that we will not tolerate this. If anyone believes our nominating procedures should be changed, we have a democratic process in place that can be used to do so. We will not be intimidated or bullied into changing how we govern our organization.

Senator Hatch gave his report. He stated how happy he was to be with all of us, thanked us for participating, and thanked Lieutenant Governor Cox specifically. Utah is respected all over the country. The Senator discussed the Senate Finance Committee – he reported that they have passed some landmark legislation and that they are returning power to the states. Senator Hatch stated that it has been a privilege to serve all of these years. He expressed his support for both Paul Ryan and John Boehner and the work they have done in the House. The Senator ended by stating that we have some great Presidential candidates, that we need to beat Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, and that if we take the Senate in 2016 we will also take the Presidency.

The results for the first ballot for the State Treasurer Selection were read. 122 ballots were cast and a majority (62 votes) were needed in order to be selected. Merrill Cook received 36 votes (29.5%), Phil Conder received 61 votes (50.0%), Neil Walter received 94 votes (77.0%), Lane Ronnow received 24 votes (19.7%), David Damschen received



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64 votes (52.5%), and Kathleen Bailey received 44 votes (36.1%). Neil Walter and David Damschen received majorities and were selected, and Lane Ronnow was eliminated.

National Committeewoman Enid Mickelsen gave her report. The RNC has been fundraising at record levels. Enid stated that Reince Priebus is doing a good job and spending money wisely. The RNC is moving away from all volunteer based campaigning and putting millions of dollars into social media. Republican debates have been altered to be more substantive. Enid also discussed the RNC national convention – the RNC is prepared for a brokered convention if it should occur. Utah will have 40 delegates and 40 alternate delegates representing us at convention. Enid ended by commenting on SB54 – she said that we need to be cordial with each other and realize that we are all fighting for Republican principles. We need to make sure the Democrats do not win in 2016. National Committeeman Bruce Hough is excused.

The body moved to the second round of balloting for the State Treasurer Selection. SCC members were informed that the blue ballots would be used for this round. Candidates were allotted 1 minute each for speeches. Merrill Cook spoke first, followed by Phil Condor, and then Kathleen Bailey. Merrill Cook withdrew from the race and threw his support behind Phil Condor, but announced that he would be running for State Treasurer next year. There were 127 credentialed members for the second round of voting. Balloting opened at 12:03pm. Balloting closed at 12:07pm.

Peter Greathouse reported for the Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) Committee. The Committee has organized and elected Peter Greathouse as Chair and Willie Billings as Vice-Chair. Peter requested that any SCC members with ideas for changes get it to the C&B Committee so they can submit them back to the SCC. The C&B Committee did not submit any changes for this meeting.

Helen Redd reported for the Audit Committee. The group met and organized this morning. Helen Redd was elected Chair of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee meets one hour before every SCC meeting, and any SCC members are welcome to come, participate, and give comments.

The body moved to a discussion on falsehoods stated about the party. Senator Todd Weiler has been harming the party's fundraising efforts. He has stated that general funds that the party raises are going towards the lawsuit, despite the party having been abundantly clear that this is not true: funds that go toward the lawsuit are completely separate from general funds. Money that goes towards the lawsuit is raised and donated specifically for litigation purposes. We most certainly do NOT have a budget shortfall due to the lawsuit as Senator Weiler has claimed.

Senator Weiler responded by stating that he loves the party and has been a member for his entire life. He believes the party is making a mistake by pursuing this lawsuit and that it is his duty to call the party out. Senator Weiler says that he voted for SB54 in order to preserve the caucus system. He said he was not aware that the general funds for the party



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did not go towards the lawsuit, and that he is simply trying to make sure we don't lose our status as a Qualified Political Party under SB54.

The body moved to a question and answer session with Lieutenant Governor Cox and UTGOP attorney Marcus Mumford. The discussion ensued for an extended period of time. At the conclusion of the session, a motion was formulated to authorize the UTGOP to proceed to court. The question we want to have answered is as follows: As a Qualified Political Party, can we decide that Republican candidates may only use the convention route to access the primary ballot? The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

The results for the 2nd round of balloting for the State Treasurer Selection were read. 114 ballots were cast and 58 votes were needed for a majority. Phil Conder won with 68 votes (59.65%) versus Kathleen Bailey with 46 votes (40.35%). Phil Conder became the third candidate selected for the State Treasurer Selection.

The body moved to the business portion of the agenda. Discussion on the 2016 Neighborhood Caucus Rules ensued. The Presidential Caucus rules have already passed and have been sent to the RNC. The Chair explained that the rules are the same as in 2014 except for two changes: We are having a Presidential Caucus Selection, and those who vote in the Presidential Caucus must be 18 years old as of caucus night. All of traditional voting occurs as normal, with participants only needing to be 18 by November 8th, 2016.

Nick Lang made a motion to allow online voting by caucus attendees for delegates and precinct leadership in addition to the GOP candidates for president. Elaine Oaks seconded the motion. Michelle Mumford moved to amend the motion to include "if the county so allows", meaning that the county would be able to determine whether to allow online voting for delegates and precinct leadership. The motion to amend was seconded. The motion to amend failed. A vote on the original motion was held and the Chair ruled that the motion failed.

Peter Greathouse moved that a correction to the Caucus Rules on the last paragraph under the elections section on page 4 be made, changing the word "may" to "shall". Peter's motion was assumed because it is mandated by law.

Don Guymon made a motion that the 4th paragraph under elections of the Caucus Rules state that "precincts may determine whether to use a majority or plurality vote". A vote was held with 45 in favor and 33 opposed. The Chair ruled that the motion passed.

A motion was made to adopt the caucus rules as amended. The motion was seconded. The motion passed and the 2016 Caucus Rules were adopted.

The next item on the agenda was the 2016 Election and Caucus Preview. Registration to participate online begins on January 15th and ends on March 15th. We want as many



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people to register online as possible. Presidential campaigns will likely help get the word out, as they will want their supporters to participate. We are anticipating a very high turnout. The caucus system is connected to voters and encourages high participation.

After a Republican registers to participate online they will receive a pin number. The party does not have access to these pin numbers – they are for the voters alone. Once a voter registers to participate online, they *must* do their voting online; they will not be able to switch back to paper balloting on caucus night. Online voters will be able to select candidates and click for additional information. After they have voted they will receive a receipt stating exactly who they voted for. We have the option of placing an advertisement on this receipt to bring in additional funds for the UTGOP. Voters who do not register to participate online will be able to vote in person on caucus night.

The UTGOP is hiring temporary staff that will be placed throughout the state to work with county parties for caucus training purposes. The State Party and the Governor are both willing to help county parties get schools for caucus night. The UTGOP is also here to help county parties should schools attempt to charge too much for use of their facilities; the schools are only allowed to charge reasonable fees for janitorial expenses.

The next item on the agenda was Delegation Reports. Congressman Rob Bishop and Congressman Jason Chaffetz both were present at this meeting but had to leave. Marcus Jessop spoke on behalf of Senator Mike Lee. He thanked everyone involved in the SB54 fight, and explained that the Senator's office just wants consistency in the election process. Senator Lee's goal is to follow the party's lead going into 2016, getting good Republicans elected.

Casey Voeks spoke on behalf of Congressman Chris Stewart. The Congressman has been trying to make sure people are educated on the threat Syrian refugees pose if there is not a proper vetting process. Casey encouraged SCC members to learn more about the position the Congressman is taking. Chris Stewart is not planning on gathering signatures for his campaign and intends to go through convention; he says that he wouldn't even be in office if it weren't for the caucus system.

State Auditor John Dougall gave a report. He believes that when it comes to government, we should start from the "presumption of liberty". Whether it comes to how we educate our children, what businesses we start, or what medical treatments we seek, we should start from the position that we are free to make whatever decisions we choose. Dougall also spoke on being both secure and being that "shining city on a hill" setting an example to world.

Tifanie Fitzgerald reported for Utah's Young Republicans (UTYR's). The group just had elections in October and Tifanie was elected as the organization's Chair. They now have a great team of people and she is excited to work with them. The UTYR's are hosting a Legislative Policy Summit in January and will invite county party officials and elected officials to the event. The National Young Republican convention is being held in April –



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Tifanie asked that county parties please sponsor individual Young Republicans in order to help them afford the cost of attending.

Collin Pace spoke on behalf of the Utah Federation of College Republicans (UFCR). He now serves as the organization's Vice-Chair. UFCR Chair Natalie Callahan is currently attending the College Republican National Committee (CRNC) Fall Board Meeting in Miami, Florida. The UFCR is continuing the legacy of Bryce Christensen in how he set up Utah's College Republicans. The UFCR is doing canvassing in different states and is constantly being complimented for their work. Utah's College Republicans are being asked to work on campaigns across nation. Collin encouraged people who are in need of volunteers to contact the UFCR, as they have students who want to learn about the legislative process and about campaigns. Collin also stated that the UFCR appreciates help that is sent their way. He offered a special thanks to all parties involved in questions surrounding the caucus/convention system; the UFCR wants to move forward, get out the vote, and help get good conservative Republicans elected.

Isaac Robison reported on behalf of the Teenage Republicans. He thanked everyone for their support and expressed his desire to get more active clubs going.

The Chair introduced Cindie Quintana as the new Political and Communications Director for the UTGOP. Val Christensen works as the UTGOP Executive Assistant, and Bryan Smith is our Executive Director. We will also have a number of temporary employees for getting Republicans involved.

The results for the pass-the-bucket fundraiser was announced: \$1742.00 were raised. North Rim Consulting in Uintah county was a major donor and we appreciate their support.

The Chair reminded people of the importance of renewing their sustaining membership for the year. The cost is \$50 to renew.

A motion to adjourn was made at 2:33pm. The motion passed without objection.

Bryce Christensen, Secretary

Excused Members: Bruce Hough, Mike Edwards, Janice Legler, Janene Burton, Kraig Thorne, Jacqueline Smith, Rick Votaw, Robert Craig, Noall Knighton, Willie Billings, Nancy Lord, and Grace Sperry.

Attendees: See attendance records.