

**Davis Education Association
2010 Davis School District Board of Education
Candidate Questionnaire**

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1. Please tell us a little about yourself and why you have filed to run for the Davis School District Board of Education.

I am a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel. I served 3 years on the city council of Cedar Hills in Utah County. I worked 2 years as a national instructor for a Utah county software company. I worked 4 years managing 7 buildings and a fleet of 26 school buses for a non-profit company providing Head Start services under Federal grants in the rural areas of Utah. After a 2 year LDS senior mission, I returned to serve one year as a substitute teacher in Davis county secondary schools.

I filed to run for the school board because I feel an obligation to continue to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. I believe we can improve our school district by applying free market principles in education. We can and should better teach why America is exceptional among all forms of government in the history of the world. I want to help streamline the rewarding of excellent teachers and simplify the due process for terminating poor teachers. I want to work to enhance efficiency in district administration and empower school principals to innovate. I hope to strengthen the acceptance of the idea that teachers unions represent the interests of teachers and parents represent the interests of their children.

2. What kinds of experiences have you had with the schools in the Davis School District? (children in school, volunteering, etc.)

I bring the uncommon experience of having observed and participated in a wide variety of schools around the U.S. and the world. I attended schools from Salt Lake City public schools to Department of Defense schools in overseas areas; from Texas and Oklahoma to Alaska. I raised my children in schools from California to Virginia and in Catholic schools in Rome, Italy and Department of Defense schools in Germany. I bring a breadth of experience in good innovative ways to improve an already excellent system. My wife and I have 9 adult children.

3. What, in your opinion, is the main mission of public education?

Public education should prepare children to achieve their highest potential by teaching them the skills and moral values necessary to succeed in a constitutional republic and a free economic market. If we fail to teach them the founding principles that made America so successful, we fail to give them the tools to perpetuate that success. Public education must produce excellence in the core subjects of literacy, math, history and science while providing essential exposure and excellent opportunities in the areas of physical education, arts and vocational skills.

4. Do you believe that public schools are adequately funded? If you do not believe they are adequately funded, what changes should be made to provide appropriate financial support for quality public schools?

Public schools are adequately funded. Higher tax rates are not needed and cannot be supported by Utah citizens who rank 49th in the nation in terms of per capita income. If we will apply the forces of free market competition to education and promote innovation from within, we will reach the levels of proficiency we need.

5. What do you see as the three most critical need/issues facing the Davis School District in the next five years? How would you begin to address these issues?

A. We need to release the power of the free market to work in education. I would begin by encouraging the creation of more charter schools, empowering school principals to innovate within their schools, and simplifying the process for terminating poor teachers and rewarding excellent teachers.

B. America will cease to exist as the foundation of freedom and prosperity in the world if the next generation does not learn the principles that made America great. I would ensure our curriculum at all levels thoroughly teaches the greatness of America and the founding principles which undergird the Constitution.

C. Spending on administration at the school and district levels has grown faster than spending on teachers. I will support streamlining administration in order to provide rewards for superior teachers.

6. What would you do to retain quality educators in the Davis District?

I will seek to provide differential rewards for the best teachers. I will also seek to enhance teachers' authority to maintain discipline in the classroom.

7. What would you do to attract new teachers in the Davis District, considering the fact that the legislature this year significantly reduced the retirement benefit for future teachers?

I propose to flatten the standard pay scale to provide higher pay for starting teachers and reduce the rate of increase with years of experience. This will attract higher quality university graduates. I will also use some of the money that does not go to fund future retirement obligations to increase teacher pay. Combining this with rewards for high performing teachers, we can hire the best young teachers while retaining the best experienced teachers.

I also propose to simplify the provisional hiring of new teachers without teaching certificates when they have significant and meaningful success in fields outside of education.

8. If another voucher or tuition tax credit bill is introduced in the legislature, would you support another such effort, or would you oppose it? Why?

I would support either vouchers or tuition tax credits as a real world way of implementing free market competitive principles in our education system. I sincerely believe there is no reason public schools cannot successfully compete head-to-head with private schools. This is especially true if public schools keep a portion of the funding for a student who attends a private school. Furthermore, competition in the non-government world has produced astounding advances and efficiencies and will have the same result in education.

9. In 2010 Sen. Margaret Dayton sponsored a bill (S.B. 77) that would prevent school districts from providing Association leave (paid substitutes) for teachers who serve during the school day on district committees such as negotiations. It would also prevent the school district from paying 50% of the DEA President's salary. Would you favor the continuation of the current Association leave policy between the school district and the DEA, or would you oppose it?

I would support Sen. Dayton's legislation and oppose the current Association leave policy. No company in a free market would pay an employee while they work for another entity. For example: Rio Tinto would not pay union leaders while they perform union duties. Justice requires that the entity receiving the service pay for the service.

10. In your opinion, is there anything the Davis School Board and District Administration could do better?

Judging by the very excellent results the school district produces, there are thousands of things the Board and District Administration do well. I will be alert to ways we can improve in keeping with the principles I have outlined. I do believe the District needs to improve its internal control procedures to avoid the loss of millions of dollars to text book scandals and Russian Club slush funds. At the same time I am determined not to reverse our progress in the many things the district does well while further improving our system.

11. Is the Davis School District too large to be responsive to its patrons and the community? Would you support splitting the school district? Why or why not?

No. We achieve economies of scale by having a single school district. In some ways we need more consolidated school districts because modern communications and transportation methods allow a single school district to interact with more schools over a larger area than in the days when school districts were first established. If we really believed we needed more responsiveness to patrons and communities, we would consider pushing the power of the district down to the individual schools.