

**Davis Education Association
2010 Utah State Senate
Candidate Questionnaire**

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1. Please tell us about yourself and why you have decided to run for the Utah House of Representatives.

My name is Sarah Schofield and a life long Utah resident with pioneer roots. I have been married for almost nine years to my husband Jared Schofield. Together, my husband and I have three beautiful little girls.

I am running for the Utah state senate in district 21 because I have seen our Utah state government fall short on meeting the needs of our Utah residents through the years. For years, legislatures have put their own pocketbooks in front of the needs of our Utah residents. I can bring fresh ideas for our district and with the help of Utah residents; we can turn Utah towards a brighter looking tomorrow.

2. 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?

Our Utah schools are not being funded adequately. Utah ranks last in the nation for per pupil spending, it is time to quit cutting from education and look at ways to fund schooling beyond taxes.

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

I would oppose another voucher or tuition tax credit bill.

4. What would you do to retain quality educators in Utah?

I would offer incentives, higher paying wages, lower class sizes, better retirement benefits, and better accessibility for supplies.

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

We would need to re-instate the retirement benefits, increase wages, lowering class sizes, and introduce the idea of having class room aids to assist teachers and facilitators.

6. Did the legislature go far enough in enacting ethical reforms this session? If not, what is left to be done?

No, we have a long ways to go for ethics reform in Utah. One example is Lobbyist can still be Legislatures. Legislatures can also become paid Lobbyist as soon as they leave the Legislature, as long as they do not join a firm. There are absolutely no limits to campaign contributions from corporations, individuals, or Political Action Committees. Utah currently is one out of only four states that has not established limits on campaign contributions.

7. Do you believe that public education employees have the right to organize in support of their profession and to participate in the political process?

Yes

8. 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 favor the continuation of the current Association leave policy.

9. Should tax incentives be used to attract industry to move or expand into Utah be monitored and publicly reported on the effectiveness?

Yes

10. Would you favor a reevaluation of the current state tax structure and support tax reform that will provide stable, long term-term growth in funding for education?

Yes

11. How would you evaluate Utah State legislatures overall performance and leadership this year?

Poorly