

**Davis Education Association
2010 Utah State House of Representatives
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.

As a native Utahn and 32-year resident of Layton, I have always been interested in the political process and have given of my time and energies in public service in numerous capacities including two terms on the Layton City Council. I have served nearly 10 years on the Layton High Community Council. Professionally, I have worked in the marketing and public relations industry for 35 years and currently have my own company preparing and implementing marketing and advertising for a variety of clients. With bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Utah in English and Human Resources Management respectively, I believe strongly in the value of education. My wife, Holly, is a curriculum supervisor in the Davis School District. We have six children, each of whom has been educated in the Davis School District; our youngest child is set to graduate from Layton High this spring. As you can see, education is paramount in our household. I decided to run because I want to restore integrity and respect to our legislature. Citizens do and should require high moral ethics from their elected officials and they expect them to serve without conflicts of interest. My time is my own and I am my own man. I look forward to this challenging and exciting opportunity to serve my district and state and help ensure that our children and grandchildren will continue to enjoy a high quality of life.

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?

Utah's Public Schools are clearly not adequately funded and it is embarrassing to continually see our ranking as at or near the bottom in the nation. High birth rates are a large part of the challenge, of course. I believe the key to achieving greater funding levels is to grow our economy. We can't tax and tax and tax, but must have a strong and vibrant economy in order to raise critical funds for our teachers and the facilities where education is delivered. We must allow the free market to generate more jobs and hence greater tax revenue that can be directed to education.

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 believe that we should look at all creative and innovative ways to fund education but don't think vouchers or tuition tax credits are the answer at this time.

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

In addition to the obvious need to increase compensation for teachers, I believe we as a society must give more respect to the teaching profession. Holly and I will always be grateful for the dedicated, prepared, and professional teachers in the Davis School District who have helped educate our children. When we respect teachers and provide them with family-sustaining compensation and benefits, individuals will want to make education their career. One thing's for sure, we need to stop blaming teachers for all the ills of society!

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?

Again, the teaching profession must be respected and teachers must be more adequately compensated including healthcare and benefits that are critical in my household. Parents, educators, the legislature, and society as a whole all have a stake in the development of quality, well-trained and enthusiastic teachers. Compensation, respect, and programs that expose students to the teaching profession will all be helpful. The retirement issue is difficult and I am hopeful this reduction is temporary and that as the economy improves, retirement benefits will be increased. I will work to that end if elected.

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

This should be simple shouldn't it? But the answer is no. We demand integrity and transparency from our elected officials. Lobbyists can and do in many instances provide valuable assistance to legislators but huge gifts, trips, and elaborate entertaining just don't pass the "smell test" in my book. I am running on a platform of ethics and integrity and there shouldn't be any gray areas in this regard. I like the idea of an independent ethics commission.

7. How would you evaluate the Utah State legislature's overall performance and leadership this year?

I am mostly pleased by what occurred given the tremendous challenges of a down economy. I am more concerned about 2011 when I hope to be in a position to give my all in representing my constituents. It may be an even tougher session because many rainy-day funds were expended. I wish that legislative leadership would not have talked so much about holding education harmless when they really didn't adequately address growth with some 11,000 kindergartners entering the classrooms this fall. I understand that the Davis School District alone will be down some \$25 million, devastating! Regrettably, evaluating the legislature's performance is somewhat clouded by distractions at the beginning and conclusion of the session. High moral standards guide my personal, professional, and political life and I promise to be worthy of my constituents' trust.