

**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.

I am 37 years old and I have lived in North Salt Lake since 2004. I have been married for 17 years and have three children. I was born and raised in Price, Utah. I graduated from the College of Eastern Utah in 1992, from the University of Utah with a Political Science degree in 1995 and from the University of Utah School of Law in 1998. I am currently a partner at the law firm of Holme Roberts & Owen.

As a part of my undergraduate degree, I worked as a legislative intern at the Utah legislature during the 1993 session. While I was there, I was very impressed with the power of the legislature to make a positive difference in the lives of the people of Utah. During my time, I helped the Senator I was working for with several worth-while causes. I am now in a position in my life where I hope to get a chance to serve in the legislature and hopefully fight for the same causes.

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?

No. I have two children currently attending public school in North Salt Lake, and although we have been very happy with the education they have received, I credit most of this to the dedicated and talented teachers we have had. However, I would rather have my children in a class with a great teacher and only 18 other students. Therefore, I support smaller class sizes. As to the changes that should be made, we

need to make funding education the top priority and find ways to cut spending in other areas to provide more money for our schools.

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 it.

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

First, we need to raise the base salary we pay for our teachers. Second, I believe we lose talented educators because they feel overwhelmed and frustrated with the system. We need to encourage good teaching and listen to teachers and work to remove the things that frustrate their teaching efforts.

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?

I think the state will suffer for this decision, as well as multiple decisions over the years that weaken the position of a teacher. If you pay a competitive salary and you clear the way for the teachers to teach, I believe more qualified people will decide to become teachers. This would not be one decision but an overall philosophy that education improvement should be a goal of every legislative session.

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

This is a half-a-loaf type of debate. I applaud the bill that was passed and think it is a step in the right direction, but I think that more should be done to provide the public with greater confidence in the legislative process.

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

My biggest disappointment was the decision to divert 3 million dollars from the School Trust Lands Administration budget to fund future litigation with the Federal government challenging its overall right to own and control public lands in Utah. The law is well settled

on this issue. We should not be funding irrational legislation with funds that could be used to help our schools.