



GENERAL SESSION

October 20, 2010

Program Topic: *Meet the Candidates*

Presented by: Utah/National Issues
Co-Chairs: Melanie Bowen & Ruby Hammel

Candidates for First Congressional District:

Rep. Rob Bishop (R)
Morgan Bowen (D)

Candidates for Second Congressional District:

Rep. Jim Matheson (D) - Mike Reberg, proxy
Morgan Philpot (R) – Lyall Swim, proxy

Candidates for Third Congressional District:

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R) - Deidre Henderson, proxy
Karen Hyer (D)

Candidates for United States Senate:

Sam Granato (D)
Mike Lee (R)

QUESTION for each candidate: *The latest Dan Jones poll indicates the country's greatest concerns are: Jobs, the economy, government spending, healthcare, taxes, education, illegal immigration. If elected, what will be your priorities in regard to these issues for your constituents?*

Rep. Rob Bishop (R) said he would consider himself to be a successful legislator if he reaches one goal – that being to actually lose legislative power. He would like to return from Washington D.C. “being able

to do less to you” than when he arrived there. Our form of government requires more than a horizontal separation of powers between the executive, legislative and judicial branches. There also needs to be a

vertical balance between federal and state powers. Rep. Bishop believes that vertical balance is now in jeopardy and that the federal government has dramatically overreached, threatening individual liberty.

For example, the Arizona border is mostly federal land. He said U.S. border security is often actually undermined by federal regulations that impede the efforts of state enforcement officers. As Chairman of the Western Caucus, Rep. Bishop introduced **HB5016**, which is intended to empower the border patrol to more effectively carry out its duties on federal lands.

Morgan Bowen (D), who ran a business in Chili for a time in the 1990s, said voter turnout there was regularly over 90%, which is a good example for us. However, Chili's "culture of corruption" finally drove his business out of the country. He is concerned that our own political culture is also becoming one of "pay to play." Lobbyist money and campaign finance money at local, state and federal levels are "creating a system of legalized corruption."

Legislative earmarks can be similarly fraudulent when used as payback for political support, Mr. Bowen said. He generally supports the national healthcare reform process. However, he believes powerful pharmaceutical and insurance companies were given too much input into the crafting of the bill. Further reform could include regional co-operative insurance organizations.

Mike Reberg, speaking for **Rep. Jim Matheson (D)**, noted a recent poll indicating 57% of voters favor the congressman over his challenger. He knows many Americans are frustrated with the government. The stock and housing markets are down and the economy is sluggish. Most Americans want politicians to work together, rather than blaming each other.

Rep. Matheson voted against the national healthcare bill because, ultimately, it will not control healthcare costs. However, he believes the bill should be carefully reformed, rather than being outright repealed.

The congressman's campaign slogan for this election year is: "He Puts Utah First." Demonstrating that focus, he is currently gathering bi-partisan support on land use and nuclear waste issues.

Lyall Swim, speaking for **Morgan Philpot (R)**, began by paying tribute to the women who influence policymakers and, increasingly, make policy as leaders themselves.

He said Morgan Philpot is being outspent in this campaign by 10-1, but has 1,000 dedicated volunteers across the state that could make the difference.

Mr. Philpot believes federal legislators must act aggressively to: (1) stop out-of-control federal spending (2) restore their rightful governing authority to the states, particularly with regard to control over their natural resources and (3) promote real job growth within a stable, business-supportive environment.

Mr. Swim spoke against Rep. Matheson's deciding vote (210-209) to close Washington's congressional session without addressing the extension of the Bush tax cuts. He called it surprising and disappointing.

Deidre Henderson, speaking for **Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R)**, said she had not been politically active before meeting him when he ran in 2008. It was their shared values of fiscal discipline, limited government and a strong national defense that initially interested her in his candidacy.

The fact that Rep. Chaffetz sleeps on a cot in his Washington office is drawing continued national interest. But it is no stunt, she said. The congressman simply practices the fiscal discipline he preaches.

The 9.6% unemployment rate, coupled with the specter of a huge national debt, is bringing many Americans to engage in a new political activism, which the congressman considers healthy and long overdue.

Rep. Chaffetz has sponsored 300 pieces of legislation as a minority party freshman, three of which have passed the House. He is a member of the Committee on Oversight & Government Reform, Committee on the Judiciary, and Committee on Natural Resources.

Karen Hyer (D) described herself as a lifelong Republican who agreed to accept a candidacy on the Democratic ticket because of her strong belief that there needs to be political renewal and reform in Washington.

A former teacher and researcher at a medical school, then a rancher, Ms. Hyer was also instrumental in establishing a law school for women in China. She also served at the BYU Women's Research Institute and, most recently, taught business ethics and public administration at BYU's Marriott School of Management.

Quipping that she "couldn't pass up the opportunity to teach some ethics in Washington," she said she would, if elected, promise to read all bills before voting on them. She believes term limits for legislators would help keep them honest.

Job growth and strengthening the economy also must be a high priority. Ms. Hyer favors immigration reform, with the stipulation that it be reasonable and humane. She believes the fact that 40% of immigrant workers in the U.S. have overstayed their visas is unacceptable. Citing her frequent

working trips to China, she said, "I know for a fact that any country that is truly serious about it can keep track of its immigrant population."

Sam Granato (D) introduced himself as "the son of an Italian/Catholic father who came to Utah to raise goats, make cheese and start a business."

He was raised in Leeds because his LDS mother accepted a call from Brigham Young for the family to settle there. Growing up, he learned to comfortably bridge the gap between the two diverse cultures around him. Gov. Huntsman sensed this ability in Mr. Granato when he appointed him to the Dept. of Alcohol. His job was to bring legislators into accord with the governor's wish list of policy changes that were meant to attract businesses to Utah.

Many federal agencies and entitlement programs need to be reformed rather than abolished, including Social Security. It could be indexed differently to keep it solvent, and the retirement age should not need to be raised. Both sides of the aisle can come together on these issues.

The Salt Lake Tribune, The Utah Education Association (UEA), as well as 64% of sitting county commissioners endorse Mr. Granato. Many mayors across the state also endorse him.

Mike Lee (R) said, "I'm running because the federal government is too big and too expensive. Practically speaking, we're living in indentured servitude. Philosophically speaking, it's tyranny."

Tyranny, he said, begins to form when government is allowed to expand its own power to control our money and regulate our activities. Mr. Lee believes that is happening now at the federal level.

He also spoke against Rep. Matheson's vote to adjourn the recent congressional session before a vote on the Bush tax cuts could be taken. Mr. Lee said if the current rates are allowed to expire, it will result in the largest tax increase in our history.

The Constitution grants the government only limited powers. "This Congress," Mr.

Lee said, "has run amok and the Supreme Court has stepped in only twice to stop them." Limited government power, granted by the consent of the governed, is a quintessentially American concept. If elected, he said it would be his top priority to protect it.

Reported by Pam Grange

NOTE: We regret to announce the recent passing of board members **Luella Finlinson** and **Millie Ashby**, and of previous member **Pat Nielsen**.

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