



GENERAL SESSION

Oct 24, 2012

Program: Utah Candidates/National Issues

Presented by: National Issues

Chair: Melanie Bowen

Speakers: Candidates for U.S. Senate

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R) – represented by Michael Kennedy

Scott Howell (D) – represented by Carmon Simone

Candidates for U.S. House District 1

Donna McAleer (D)

Rep. Rob Bishop (R)

Candidates for U.S. House District 4

Rep. Jim Matheson (D)

Mayor Mia Love (R)

Candidates for U.S. House District 3

Soren Simonsen (D)

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R) – represented by Jennifer Scott

Candidates for U.S. House District 2

Chris Stewart (R)

Jay Seegmiller (D) – represented by Nick Holland

U.S. SENATE:

Michael Kennedy, speaking for Sen. Hatch (R), said although the senator is 78 years old and has served in the Senate for 36 years, he is still vigorous. His seniority gives him influence as the ranking Republican member of the Senate Finance Committee, which controls approximately 60% of the budget.

Sen. Hatch believes the country is on the wrong path with regards to national spending and debt. He will work to bring them both under control. They must be contained if we are to grow the economy. He will also work to address national healthcare costs, and believes the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) is

in need of drastic reform to be viable. The senator is committed to preserving Social Security and Medicare.

Free trade is important for jobs in Utah. Sen. Hatch has worked on trade agreements between the U.S. and South Korea, Panama, and Colombia. He is committed to reforming the tax code, and to a Balanced Budget Amendment (which he has proposed for much of his tenure in the Senate). He is also committed to protecting Utah's Hill Air Force Base.

Carmon Simone, speaking for Scott Howell (D), said she has been impressed with him since he was a freshmen state senator. He is a fiscal conservative whose voting record was consistent with his promises. He took time to ensure that constituents understood his positions. Mr. Howell had a three-part criterion for deciding how to vote: His conscience, his constituents, and the Constitution. He had the ability to reach across the aisle and was respected by both parties.

Scott Howell, having worked at IBM, believes we can use technology to streamline government rather than grow it. Ms. Simone said he favors reforming the tax code and reducing taxes on the middle class. If this requires increasing taxes on the wealthy, that would be fair. Steps should also be taken at the federal level to reduce regulation of small businesses and bring back offshore jobs.

Although Mr. Howell is committed to reforming Social Security, he doesn't favor privatizing it. Ms. Simone noted that Social Security and Medicare are not entitlements, since, unlike Medicaid, we pay into them. A voucher system will not work for Medicare, she said. Mr. Howell believes The PPACA should be improved rather than repealed.

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 1

Donna McAleer (D) began by noting that the new 1st District that was created after the 2010 census covers ten divergent counties. Introducing herself, Ms. McAleer said she was a child of Italian immigrants. As a young woman, she received a West Point appointment, an army commission, and an assignment to Germany. Upon her honorable release from the military,

she began a career in strategic and operational consulting. She went on to head the global division of a technology firm, and currently serves on the advisory council of the Women's Business Institute at Salt Lake Community College.

She acknowledged her candidacy to be something of an uphill battle, as 85% of incumbents in congress are re-elected. However, she affirmed "nothing will change in Washington until we stop sending the same people there." Ms. McAleer also believes Congress would benefit from more representation from women. She looks forward to using her collaborative skill set to make a positive difference there.

Responding to questions, she explained that as Executive Director of a non-profit organization that provides medical and health care to the uninsured, she brings a unique perspective to the healthcare issue. As a veteran, she understands the importance of defense issues. On Sen. Hatch's and Rep. Bishop's watch, Hill Air Force Base was downgraded from a 2-star to a 1-star command.

Rep. Rob Bishop (R) spoke of three areas he will be assigned to, should he return to the U.S. House for the 2013 session. First, he will work on comprehensive immigration reform. Most points of entry illegal entry to the U.S. are found on federal land. He said his pending bill (HR1505 National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act) will "give the Border Patrol the authority they need to do their job."

Second, he will continue to focus on federal lands. He believes the federal government has failed in its stewardship over Utah's lands. One of every three square miles of our land is federally owned. There is, he said, a direct cause/effect relationship between public land states and enough funding for education.

Third, Rep. Bishop wants to protect Utah military bases. Hill Air Force Base lost jobs because Congress recently cut \$500B from military funding. Responding to questions, he said 50% of all money Utah receives from Washington for our federal lands goes back to Washington in taxes.

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 4

Congressman Matheson (D) said our national issues are complex and require careful thought. The Congressman affirmed he has approached issues with an open mind in the past and will continue to do so. The Congressman believes in a well-educated work force. He said his opponent wants to eliminate the Dept. of Education, while he supports it.

Without Social Security, half our seniors would live below the poverty level, he said. We must embrace the foundation of Social Security, recognizing that it will take work to solve its long-term sustainability. In 1983, Pres. Reagan and Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill worked together to solve Social Security's immediate problem and made it sustainable for another 30 years.

Addressing federal spending and debt, the congressman noted The Secretary of Defense has recommended cuts in defense spending. This recommendation should be followed. We must also reform the tax code. Congressman Matheson does not believe the PPACA solves healthcare costs. He believes measures such as tort reform and addressing the practice of defensive medicine would be more effective.

Mia Love (R) spoke of her experiences as the daughter of immigrants and as Mayor of Saratoga Springs. Recent fires and subsequent rains caused a huge landslide within her city. She and 5,000 constituents showed up to actively address the crisis. As an example of federal restrictions, she said the land that burned near Saratoga Springs was federal land. After the fires, the city sought approval to seed the land for future protection. Federal red tape meant approval couldn't be negotiated before the rains came.

Mayor Love does not want to cut education. She is committed to repealing the PPACA and addressing tort reform. She supports Social Security and Medicare, but said both programs need reform. We need to grow our economy, which means allowing the private sector to grow jobs. She does not support raising taxes, believing federal spending to be out of control.

She quoted Governor Herbert as saying, "Give me 20% less in Medicaid and I can do a much better job. Mayor Love shares the view that most problems are better solved at the local level. As a Mayor considering city programs, she asks, "Is it sustainable, is it affordable, and is it my job." She believes Washington needs to ask itself the same questions.

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 3

Soren Simonsen (D) said the new 3rd District contains diverse geographic areas and populations. He was initially skeptical when redistricting occurred, but believes the result was a good one. It is good that most districts contain cities, wild lands, agricultural lands and small communities. As Chair of the Salt Lake City Council, he has developed the skills necessary to deal with problems specific to diverse communities and geographical areas.

Mr. Simonsen believes his candidacy brings "an independent voice" to Utah's conversation on the issues of the day. As a financial officer for several non-profits, he knows what much of congress seems to forget: You cannot spend more than you have. However, it is unwise to cut off legitimate revenue streams. Wise revenue management is needed.

Jennifer Scott, speaking for Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R), said he is committed to the same four core principles of his original campaign. The principles are fiscal discipline, limited government, accountability, and a strong national defense. As a U.S congressman, he introduced a seven-point plan to help keep Social Security solvent. He also co-founded the Sunset Caucus in order to do away with programs that have outlived their usefulness.

Congressman Chaffetz sponsored legislation (HR2560 Cut, Cap, and Balance Act) to address the federal debt. It passed the House, but stalled in the Senate. He was the first Republican congressman to call for withdrawal of U.S. troops in Afghanistan. He sits on the Budget Committee, the Judiciary Committee, Oversight & Government Reform Committee, and five additional subcommittees.

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 2

Chris Stewart (R) praised the WSLC for being able to draw so many candidates to speak. He noted that President Obama, running as a moderate, promised four years ago to cut the deficit and grow the economy. Unfortunately, he stated, the opposite has occurred.

Mr. Stewart talked about his upbringing on a milk farm, being poor and learning how to be frugal. He will apply these lessons to the federal budget. He also served in the military, and noted that the fundamental responsibility of our government is “to provide for the common defense.” The most significant cuts in the budget proposed by the current administration are in defense. Less than 20% of Congress has any military experience.

Only 8% of Congress has any business background. As the CEO of a small business, Mr. Stewart stated that small business has created 65% of American jobs in the last 20 years. He believes in, and has written several books about American exceptionalism.

Nick Holland, speaking for Jay Seegmiller (D), described the candidate’s Jobs Plan as “The 3-2-1 Plan.” It will bring 3 million jobs to the

economy by bringing home \$2 trillion that is overseas, which will create 1 great recovery. Corporations have made investments overseas because of the tax incentives. If we temporarily lower the tax rate on money earned overseas, it will give them an incentive to bring this money back.

Mr. Seegmiller ran in 2008 against the sitting Speaker of the House in Utah and won. He won by campaigning on the need for ethics reform. As the elected representative, he was able to pass several ethics reform bills.

On a personal note, Mr. Holland described himself as someone who tries to keep an open mind about political parties. Himself a Democrat, each election he looks for a Republican he can support. He encouraged those of both parties to consider doing the same. He also said Jay Seegmiller would support whoever is President if the proposed policies are good for Utah. Mr. Holland challenged the voters to ask other candidates if they would do the same.

Reported by Stuart Gygi & Pam Grange

**THIS BULLETIN IS A PUBLICATION OF
THE WOMEN’S STATE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF UTAH, INC.**

<http://www.wslcofutah.org>

**“CELEBRATING 92 YEARS OF SERVICE”
1920 - 2012**

President: Sylvia Rickard
Advisor: Bette Voorhees
Editor: Pam Grange
Assist. Editor: Eileen Hallet Stone

*Printed by AlphaGraphics
117 West 900 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101*