

The purpose of this publication is to provide accurate current information about actions of government at the city, county, state and federal levels which affect citizens of Davis County Utah. We welcome the free sharing of our articles by all readers on any media so long as the publication and author are recognized. If you would like to volunteer to report on an organization of government, please email our editor at DavisCorrespondence@outlook.com.

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Professional Development and Training in Davis District

By Jennifer Brooks

Davis School District recently offered a few days of Summer Teacher Training. At this conference, professional development classes could be used toward required relicensure hours. Here is a description of the topics of the two-day professional development conference for Davis District educators and administrators. Decide for yourself if this professional training will improve educational outcomes. *"This conference is available to all Davis educators, both certified and classified, at all grade levels. The conference will focus on five strands: PCBL (personalized, competency-based learning), technology, SEL (social and emotional learning) equity, and leadership.*

The five training strands listed above are offered instead of proven, professional education trainings. They have little to do with effective education or improving outcomes. These are ideological topics, marketed from global initiatives to our taxpayer funded local district. They are not clearly defined, they cannot be taught or actioned by professionals, they cannot be effectively measured. These are tax dollars and teacher time wasted. Let's review a few of these training ideas.

PCBL (personalized, competency-based learning) Aggressively marketed by Big Tech care of Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg to public education entities starting in 2010 through social media, conferences, trainings, lobbyists, federal grant dollars and policies. Utah coded PCBL into law in 2021 through HB 181. PCBL switches the focus from professional educators intentionally teaching content to the unproven idea of learners making choices where, how and what they learn. PCBL offers a series of claims, without evidence, that students can teach themselves in many ways, seat time does

not matter, there will be individualized instruction, this will be more equitable, and learning now includes controlling attitudes and managing emotions. PCBL means schools, teachers and computers are doing far more than teaching academic content. Here's Utah's overreaching PBCL framework https://schools.utah.gov/curr/pcbl/_pcbl_/UtahPCBLFramework.pdf

SEL (social and emotional learning) Aggressively marketed and expanded by the World Health Organization and UNESCO is overreach into the role of parents and families. Schools can now establish global values and beliefs over family values. The school and teachers control and ensure learners are offered opportunities to apply and acquire knowledge, attitudes, and skills for understanding and managing emotions, goals setting, feeling and showing empathy toward others, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, making responsible decisions, and self-advocating. But it all comes at the cost of teaching academic content to students.

Equity has come to mean forced equality of outcomes, usually by redistribution of resources or lowering the standards, and a rejection of equality of opportunity. Equity in education can only be achieved by ensuring all students master the same content and skills per subject and grade. This requires quality instruction, quality practice, effective curriculum, reteaching and effectively assessing knowledge and skills of all students. You can't train teachers in equity, you can train teachers in effective pedagogy, improve reteaching and feedback and the quality of curriculum materials and assessments. That training leads to equal learning opportunity for all students

Davis District will not improve academic outcomes, teaching or instruction until it focuses resources on proven training and effective professional development over unproven political ideas.

To be most effective, professional training should fully align with the goals of the professional organization, well-trained employees create better outcomes.

Promises, Predators, and Priorities: A Commissioner's Stand

By Davis County Commissioner, John Crofts

Many residents are surprised to learn that county government accounting is not like personal or business accounting. Davis County's finances are managed through a series of restricted funds, or "pots of money," each designated for specific uses. For example, tourism receives its funding primarily through sales taxes – taxes that are mostly paid by local residents. Property taxes, on the other hand, are collected through your annual property tax bill and provide the most flexible source of funding for the County. These flexible property taxes are what primarily support services the County is legally required to provide by state statute – such as law enforcement, courts, the Attorney's Office, and other vital county government operations.

This means that even if the County has large fund balances in certain areas, funding for essential services may still be limited. One such example is the Davis County Attorney's Office. In the past few years, this office has removed more than 1,000 sexual predators from our streets. Led by elected County Attorney Troy Rawlings, the office and its dedicated staff are working every day to protect our children and communities. This is money well spent, and it must remain a funding priority.

Recently, the Davis County Commission faced a decision on whether to approve funding for a new \$16 million animal shelter. I voted against it. The current shelter, built in 1987, the same year I graduated high school, is still functioning, and I did not consider it in such poor condition that replacement was urgent. I also opposed the plan to expand the shelter's role to include a veterinarian, which would compete with private businesses. Last year, before I was elected, the Commission voted for a tax increase to fund additional staff and a veterinarian at the shelter. I would not have supported that decision.

The project was initially set at \$16 million, but when estimates came back at \$18 million, I was aghast, not only at the high cost but at the request to approve an additional \$2 million beyond what had already been allocated. Chair Lorene Kamalu and the other Commissioner agreed to a scaled-down version, deciding to cap the project back at \$16 million. Still, in my opinion, it was a poor decision. It takes funding away from one of the few pots of money with true flexibility, one we could have used to avoid tax increases. This expenditure was premature and risks forcing a tax increase we could have delayed.

As one of three commissioners, I respect the votes of Chair Lorene Kamalu (who is running for reelection) and our other colleague (who will not seek reelection). But I stand by my vote. This decision has reduced our budget flexibility and forced us to ask county departments to undergo a financial stress test—cutting back on vital services we were otherwise able to provide.

I didn't support building a \$16 million animal shelter, and I don't support laying off vital staff or raising taxes. Our top priority must be protecting children and ensuring essential services are fully funded. Being in this position is frustrating, especially when there were better options. While I'm disappointed, I remain committed to doing what's right for Davis County. I'll keep fighting for fiscal responsibility, transparency, and leadership that puts families and taxpayers first.

Davis County Shooting Range : Good News & Bad News

(formerly WSA Range)

By Concerned Resident

The Good News

The Davis County Range might be opening soon, possibly by the time this is published. The County Commission has hired a skilled and competent range master. Some of the shooting bays have been extended (increased in length). They created a range layout that will better accommodate training for law enforcement agencies while allowing public use.

The Bad News

The shooting range will now require tax dollars to operate.

Testing the lead levels in the soil prior to excavation was likely not performed. In my opinion, testing should have been done before excavation. Without a soil test, how did they know what protocol to follow when handling this soil? The lead contaminated soil from the excavated bays was distributed in some of the berms that separate the bays. In other words, the contaminated soil will now be closer to the public.

The WSA Range had been in operation for 40+ years. It may be the Davis County Range has low levels of lead, and my concerns are unfounded – I hope so. I want to use the range safely. What would it hurt to test?

I encourage the Davis County Commission to act in the best interest of public health and have the soil tested. If the soil tests okay, great. If not, they could either clean it up or at least post a warning sign --- ***warning pregnant women and children use the range at their own risk.*** Unfortunately, the soil would likely test like a similar nearby range with similar history, the Parley's range. That range had some lead concentrations as high as 67,000 ppm. The safe limit for adults is around 1,200 ppm. For children and pregnant women, that limit is 400 ppm.

County Commissioners should follow – Utah Code 17-50-302(1)(a)(ii), which authorizes services or functions related to the safety, health, and welfare of county inhabitants, unless otherwise limited by statute.

Summary Table: Key Details of Parleys Shooting Range

Aspect	Details
Location	Parleys Canyon, Salt Lake City, 12 acres, half mile from Mountain Dell Reservoir
Operator (1969–2019)	Police Mutual Aid Association (PMAA), nonprofit, not city-affiliated
Closure Date	2019, lease ended
Closure Reasons	Lead contamination, lack of maintenance, fire risks, watershed protection
Cleanup Cost Estimates	\$1.25M to \$4M, depending on soil treatment
Soil Lead Levels	15–67,600 mg/kg, average 2,240 mg/kg, 21 samples >4,000 mg/kg (10x EPA std)
Cleanup Process	Excavate, treat on-site, dispose as non-hazardous waste, phased over years

Do You Know Where Your Property Taxes are Going?

By Jack Barrington

I’m sure you all are aware of the [sales](#) and [income](#) tax cuts from the legislature. While the people appreciate that, it appears the offset has been and is going to be our property tax. Is that a good trade off?

I’d argue it is not. When you purchase a fridge, or couch, or washer and dryer, those are yours. There is no tax past the sales tax you pay at the time of purchase. Your house is usually your largest purchase and your best financial investment. You pay sales tax and more when purchasing a home. At that point it really should be yours. Now, we all understand that to have police, firefighters, nice roads etc, the money must come from somewhere. There was a time when that was more localized and decided by those closest to the people. Meaning the city or county paid for most of these things. Even to this day cities/counties us state sometimes split the costs etc. [This historical outline of Utah’s property taxes](#) should be helpful to further define what has happened over time to our actual property ownership. If you would like to see each cities breakdown you can [view them here](#).

It is important to understand that special districts often use property taxes to function. These can be for water districts, burial, animal control, recreation centers and more. You can view Utah’s [special districts here](#). I will remind you that HB22/77 from 2023 changed all local districts to special districts. This was not just a code clean-up as they say, it was far more than that. The public at large doesn’t realize the special SERVICE districts are a shadow government of sorts, even [Desert News](#) used to acknowledge this. To quote this article from 1998:

“They tax you, bill you, represent you and spend your money to provide you with useful services that range from water and sewer to mosquito abatement.

But most folks only have a vague idea of what the 400-plus special service districts scattered throughout Utah are, how they operate or who the people are who run them. Special districts do make their presence felt, however, on your property tax statements or billings for certain services.”

Utah has, as I mentioned in last month's article, been creating hydra governments like authority districts, quasi-governmental entities and more that make special districts look like child's play. It is really important that Utahns get a very thorough grasp and full understanding of these things quickly. Utah is moving at breakneck speed to fundamentally change our form of government. The public needs to be able to respond just as quickly.

I would argue our money has not been properly used. For example, our roads are in bad shape. Money is being spent on installing questionable smart meters (electric and water) and fiber, while roads fall into disrepair. There is not a city in Utah where I don't hear complaints about this issue. In most cities/counties around 60% of the property taxes go to [school districts](#). Frankly, that needs a thorough forensic audit, but also, do you think the education being provided currently is a good return on investment? Utah has lost students not gained. Many want to pull their kids out of public schools but can't afford it. So, again I ask, are we getting our money's worth out of public schools? If you would like to see what the approved budget for property taxes is for your city you can [view that here](#). This last session the [legislature voted to change](#) your education property tax allocation. To quote:

*"In the future, under [SB37](#), it will instead go into the state's General Fund. The state will still give money to school districts, but changing the pot it goes into gives lawmakers **more budgeting flexibility**."*

I bring this up so you, the public are aware a pretty big change just occurred to how and where your property taxes will be used. I also bring this up because when they cut sales and income taxes your property taxes usually take the hit and increase.

Property ownership is critical to the success of our great nation; we are losing that ability rapidly. There needs to be a serious review and audit of where all property tax money is going and how it is being used. There likely then needs to be a very real and honest conversation about what the people of Utah can afford. Recreation centers for example, who charge membership fees to have access to the building, should maybe be cut from being given property taxes. The people are essentially charged twice every month for using the facility, or once a month not to use it at all. An example of this is pressure from the South Davis Recreation District to once again [increase property taxes](#).

Do you think it's okay for your home to be taken from you at any time because you are unable to pay an increasing property tax? When is it enough, be it 10 years or 40 years, no matter if the house is paid off or not? I think it's time the public had a serious conversation about our property ownership rights and what that really means.

OPINION

No Paper, No Watchdog: Why Davis County Needs Local Journalism

By Davis County Commissioner John Crofts

In Davis County, Utah, the disappearance of consistent local newspaper coverage has created a vacuum—one that threatens accountability, civic engagement, and public trust. Without regular reporting on County Commission meetings, budget discussions, and policy debates, residents are left in the dark. As a result, major decisions—such as tax increases or reallocation of public funds—can move forward without meaningful public input.

Local newspapers once served as the eyes and ears of the people. They reported on ethics concerns, spending plans, and conflicts of interest. Now, without dedicated local reporters in the room, some officials craft their own narrative—through controlled messaging on social media, selective press releases, or no communication at all. Facebook is not journalism.

The Davis County Clipper and later the Davis Journal once filled this role, providing balanced coverage of community meetings, events, and obituaries. Their decline, due in part to financial struggles and shrinking subscriber bases, has left a void that no blog or algorithm can fill. Families pay thousands annually in property taxes to schools and taxing entities—yet few pay even \$10 a month to support local news.

This newsletter (which I am grateful to contribute to) is one attempt to keep our community informed, but it is no replacement for a full, countywide newspaper. Local journalism, when rooted in facts and accountability, protects conservative values like limited government, transparency, and citizen-led oversight. Davis County deserves a newspaper again, and we hope this newsletter helps reignite that conversation.

Editor's Note: The Davis Correspondence welcomes 200–500 word articles by good Davis County citizens reporting on meetings of city councils, city planning commissions, County Commission, water district boards, Davis School District Board of Education, sewer districts, school community councils etc. We also welcome your opinion articles about government in Davis County. Our submission deadline is generally the second Monday of the month. Please email your articles to daviscorrespondence@outlook.com.

Upcoming Events

County Commission Meetings –6/17, 7/1, 7/8 2025 at 10:00 AM

On a trial basis the 6/10 meeting will be held at 6:00 PM

Commission Chambers Room 303 – 61 S. Main St. Farmington

Davis School Board Meetings – Tuesday 6/17 at 4:00 pm Workshop

Tuesday 7/15 at 4:00 pm Workshop

Tuesday 7/15 at 6:00 pm Meeting

Auditorium at 45 E State Street, Farmington, Utah

Davis County Conservatives Community Forum –

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Portrayals of Historic Revolutionary Patriots in costume

Bring the next generation with you.

Faith Baptist Church 2430 North Fairfield Road, Layton, UT

– No community forums in July

Thursday, August 14, 2025, 6:30–8:30 pm

Faith Baptist Church 2430 North Fairfield Road, Layton, UT



DAVIS COUNTY CONSERVATIVES
MOVIE FUNDRAISER

STAR WARS

In a theatre not that far away...
Join Us at Kaysville Theatre
on the following dates at 2PM
Movie begins at 2:20PM

- Feel free to dress up in a Star Wars costume!

A New Hope - Saturday, May 31st
The Empire Strikes Back - Saturday, June 14th
Return of the Jedi - Saturday, June 28th

Each movie ticket is \$7 which includes
1 entry into a raffle drawing.
Family discount for 4 or more!
Additional raffle tickets are \$1 each.
Scan QR code to purchase tickets,
raffle tickets and view more details!

Advertisement



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email: admin@libertyhills.orgPrivate School Kindergarten – 12th Grade**Restoring God, Family, and Country to the Classroom**

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Recent Events

This event was filled with facts and sources. It was stunning! You can watch the recording at:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/TT2Aqcp7x3Y?si=EPfauO9oEQKMww5u>

DCC DAVIS COUNTY CONSERVATIVES
Preserve, Protect and Defend the Constitution

COMMUNITY FORUM

ELECTION INTEGRITY UNDER FIRE

A PRESENTATION BY MICHAEL CLARA & NATALIE CLAWSON

Michael & Natalie will present their explosive findings based on firsthand experience, public records, and extensive GRAMA requests that expose the troubling inconsistencies in Utah's candidate signature gathering process and election oversight.

Concrete legislative solutions will also be shared along with ways for you to help get new laws passed to protect transparency and restore trust in Utah's elections.

Presentation topics will include:

- Conflicting audit results regarding Governor Cox's qualifying signatures
- Evidence of flawed chain of custody and verification procedures
- Barriers to public access of petition records and vote data
- Legislative inaction and loopholes that allow these problems to persist

6:30 PM • THURS, JUNE 12 • FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH | 2430 N. FAIRFIELD RD LAYTON, UTAH

Platform Plank of the Month

Regulation

We recognize that government regulation can be a major impediment to productivity and competitiveness. We must rely more on market forces and less on government. Regulatory power exercised by the federal government must be returned to state and local governments.

Economic Development

We believe in a strong diversified economy based on a positive work ethic and a business friendly environment. We support the Utah Right to Work law. We also support the idea of fair and free trade and deplore any trade agreement that compromises national sovereignty.

Fiscal Responsibility

We believe in paying our own way and as such decry deficit spending. We applaud the balanced budget approach required by Utah's Constitution and believe it encourages small government and good government. Financial transactions should be transparent, ethical and allow for appropriate accountability both to citizens and the governing body authorizing the transaction.

Constitutional Clip of the Month

Article III Section 2 Clause 2 – 3

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment; shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

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