# Davis Correspondence

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 <a href="mailto:DavisCorrespondence@outlook.com">DavisCorrespondence@outlook.com</a>.

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### Davis's District-Wide Adoption of Supplementary Mathematics Curriculum

By Jennifer Brooks

National assessments show no growth or improvement in math scores in any state using the Common Core math standards. Underserved populations have seen the greatest learning loss, under Common Core standards, creating ever growing achievement gaps year over year. These two facts prove these standards cause rather than improve inequity. These standards incorrectly focus on big ideas, problem solving over learning, students teaching themselves math, poorly defined mathematical practices and justifying diverse, time-consuming methods to get a correct answer instead of the most efficient means to an answer. They fail to improve math proficiency. Utah follows Common Core math standards and practices and continues to show no growth in mathematics proficiency.

In 1986 California's Governor tasked two Stanford math professors with rewriting California's math standards because their state math scores had dropped form 4<sup>th</sup> best to 45<sup>th</sup> lowest in the nation in ten years. The professors took the highest performing math standards from European countries,

adjusting them back six months for American Students. This process took three months, the standards were coherent, vocabulary and symbol rich, and content and concept focused. Immediately, California public school districts began vetting, adopting and purchasing proven curriculum to align with these benchmarked standards. Results were carefully tracked year-over-year and by specific subgroups. In ten years, California was ranked 4th best in the nation again in mathematics. Most impactful, students in underserved populations; especially minority students and those with English as a second language were rapidly matching their upper and middle-class peers in mathematics outcomes, especially in algebra and college prep math. Underserved populations experienced the most growth with these standards using curriculum that aligned to benchmarked standards. Districts in California were approaching the exceptional math outcomes of Finland and Germany using the most effective math standards in America. But the growth ended in 2010 when California adopted the Common Core Math standards to receive millions in federal grant money.

On May 6th Davis District Board members unanimously voted to adopt "Bridges in Mathematics", a Common Core aligned, supplemental math curriculum to help students better learn math. The cost is \$160 thousand a year over eight years. The board stated "Bridges" will be used district wide in K-12th grade. Hopefully it only remains a supplemental program. "Bridges" promotes itself as "an excellent teaching tool, offering Inquiry-based and student-centered lessons, (meaning: "discovering" math by asking questions and students teaching themselves and others), with revised tasks that support equity. This develops mathematical reasoning: while creating inclusive, equitable learning communities for all, students develop respect for others' opinions and develop positive math identities."

There's a lot of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in that description with little about quality instruction, coherent knowledge building or mastery of content or concepts. Sadly, the current measure of an excellent math curriculum is how well it aligns to the Common Core standards, not if it improves math outcomes. Common Core Curriculum companies, like Bridges, market themselves on Common Core alignment, equity claims and improved attitudes toward math while evidence proves they create inequity in outcomes and leave learning gaps. No longer is curriculum coherently built and carefully organized with content mastery and effective learning in mind. The Common Core standards coupled with Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and DEI now drive curriculum. Everything aligns with those ideals and a focus on student and teacher success take a back seat. Davis District proves it continually aligns with these same ideals over improved performance or student and teacher success. This means we will continue with inequitable outcomes and lowered performance.

### KSL TV Series Designed to Stifle Support for Immigration Enforcement

Ronald Mortensen, Ph.D., FSO (retired)

Now that immigration enforcement is once again at the forefront, for six nights straight, in a series titled *Immigration 2025: The Dream Divided*, the KSL TV nightly newscast focused on the <u>Utah Compact</u> in an effort to build opposition in Utah to the Trump administration's immigration enforcement efforts.

According to the first report titled, <u>Immigration 2025: The Utah Compact, then and now</u>, in 2010, "120 business, government, religious and community leaders <u>braved a chilly afternoon</u> on the Capitol steps to sign the Utah Compact." According to Salt Lake County Mayor, Jenny Wilson (D), this sent the message that "We stood out as a state to say we're going to be reasonable in our approach." And, according to Natalie Gochnour who is a member of the <u>Board of Directors</u> of the Salt Lake Chamber, "On that day, everything had come together. We had a document that was a declaration of principles that would guide our immigration discussion." Note: The Compact never use the term "illegal" but labels everyone legally or illegally in the United States as "immigrants."

So, where did the Utah Compact come from and what was its true intent and purpose? Well, according to KSL TV, "Fifteen years ago, as the debate over immigration policy grew increasingly heated, Utah sought to find a measured approach. Community, business and religious leaders spent months crafting a document called "The Utah Compact." But, is that really the true story behind the Compact and, if not, then what really is the Utah Compact and who really was the driving force behind it? The answer was provided in 2011 by Robin Riggs, the Executive Vice President and General Counsel for the Salt Lake Chamber during an Immigration Works conference call.

According to Riggs, the Compact was initially conceived of as a way to curtail the influence of Republican delegates who were calling for stricter immigration enforcement and to marginalize legislators who were pushing for immigration enforcement and the elimination of state benefits for illegal aliens.

"And that's when the idea of the Utah Compact came together. That really originated with us here at the Chamber.... that's the genesis of that was sort of a way to get the discussion to focus on principles rather than specific legislation.

"We got signatures and we've got double local church groups, community groups, business communities, business associations, we've got a lot of signatories on it and it really hit. I mean, the press really picked it up here locally and ran with it very, very, you know, big time. And so that immediately started to change the discussion....

"In fact, ...we tried to make sure that it [the Compact] was characterized as something that came from the broader community, not from the Chamber.... if you look online and look anywhere where the genesis of this came from, you're not going to Chamber's fingerprints on it. And so, we just ran the two parallel tracks – we ran – we kept pushing on legislation but also very, very strongly pushed the Compact forward.

"Then in Utah – those of you who don't know the specific religious politics in Utah, you know that this is the headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or Mormon Church, and they don't weigh in on politics very often, at least not locally. I mean, there are moral issues, you know, we've probably heard of Prop 8 in California and so forth. They don't – they don't step up much. And so when they do – or if they do, it's big news. Well, they weren't signatories to the Compact but they came out publicly and endorsed it which meant that you've got, you know, 70 percent of the population now raising eyebrows about it.... Okay, now our church leaders like this – (inaudible), like this more pragmatic approach. What is that – how does that play into those more conservative members who have an opposite view? And that almost immediately also changed the discussion a bit in Utah. You, of course, don't have that dynamic in other states but that helped a lot too when the church came out and publicly supported the principles of the Compact.

"So as the [legislative] session began we had at least two Guest Worker-type of bills or worker permit bills, we had [Representative Steve] Sandstrom's enforcement-only bill, we had another bill that would repeal remnants of the DREAM Act that still exists in Utah, primarily instate tuition for undocumented children....eventually the negotiated position was, okay, we'll let Sandstrom keep some version of his [bill], very watered-down and a different number – we don't want the same number, we don't want the same title, so forth. We'll give him that but the rest of it's in the Senate bill, comprehensive bill and the rest of it we'll just kill. And that's what happened.

So, the bottom line is that the Utah Compact is a Salt Lake Chamber initiative designed to protect its members' ability to access a large pool of illegal, easily exploited labor. Other groups support it for a

variety of political, <u>religious</u> and other reasons. And just like in 2010, the Compact is once again being rolled out to stifle immigration enforcement.

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Links to KSL reports: Immigration 2025: The Dream Divided"

<u>The Utah Compact set the tone for immigration policy in 2010. Is it still relevant today?</u> (April 27, 2025) <u>The Utah Compact, then and now</u> (April 27, 2025).

<u>Do Utah's reps think Congress will ever fix the country's immigration system?</u> (April 28, 2025) <u>After 15 years, do Utah Compact principles on immigration and policing still hold true?</u> (April 29, 2025)

How shifting immigration policies impact Utah families (April 30, 2025)

Immigrants, taxes, uncertainty and the Utah economy (May 1, 2025)

Revisiting the Utah Compact: Are Utahns upholding a free society for immigrants? (May 2, 2025)

Series on YouTube: You can watch those stories here.

Riggs Transcript.



### "We Must Do Better":

### GrassRoots Releases 2025 Utah Legislative Report Card

GrassRoots has released its annual Utah Legislative Report Card, and the findings are both sobering and revealing. While the number of bills passed dipped slightly from 591 in 2023 to 582 this session, the volume remains excessive—averaging nearly 13 new laws per legislative day. For an institution dedicated to limited government, this pace is deeply concerning.

"A legislature truly committed to protecting liberty and limiting government would not be passing this many bills," said Don Guymon, Chairman GrassRoots.

Among the few highlights of the session was HB 81, a significant win for individual rights. The bill removes fluoride from Utah's drinking water, ending nearly 25 years of what many have seen as forced medication. "If government can force medicate its citizens, what else can it do?" Guymon said.

However, the session also saw important setbacks. HB 133, which would have strengthened Second Amendment rights by decriminalizing the carrying of loaded firearms in vehicles and public spaces, was killed in a Senate committee. For the first time, GrassRoots has chosen to include committee votes in its scoring process to expose how critical liberty-protecting bills are often quietly defeated before reaching the full Senate.

This year also exposed troubling signs of groupthink in the Utah Senate. The highest score earned by a senator was just 56%—the lowest top Senate score GrassRoots has recorded in over two decades. The Senate's average score fell to just 29%, a full 14 points below its historical average of 43%.

The report called out several bills that passed unanimously or with little opposition—despite increasing government spending-including HB 100, HB 310, SB 31, SB 38, and SB 284. GrassRoots urges Senate leadership to foster an environment where dissent is respected and members are encouraged to vote their conscience—even if they stand alone.

#### Legislative Highlights:

· Top House Performer:

Rep. Jason Kyle (R-Weber County) received the highest score in the Utah House.

· Top 10 House Members:

Kristen Chevrier, Mike Petersen, Jake Sawyer, Trevor Lee, Matt MacPherson, Tiara Auxier, Jill Koford, Nicholeen Peck, and Mark Strong.

· Top Senate Performers:

Sen. Heidi Balderree (R-Utah County) led the Senate, with Senators John Johnson and Dan McCay also finishing in the top 10%.

· Governor's Score:

Governor Spencer Cox received a 50% score—an improvement over his 40% lifetime average.

· Overall Averages:

House: 50.6% (below lifetime average of 53%, and down from 60% in 2023).

Senate: 29% (lowest in 20+ years, well below lifetime average of 43%).

See the full 2025 Legislative Report at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GNgfd2AKUUGMaVoHXHMV8goE7FvVzj3p/view?usp=sharing

## Smart Growth Planning - Creating a Feudal System

By Jack Barrington

Are we losing local government representation and the voice of the people? Have we created a bunch of <a href="mailto:sheriffs of Nottingham">sheriffs of Nottingham</a> in authority districts, independent entities, quasi-government entities and hybrid Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) / Public Private Partnerships (P3s)? Is our state legislature, on request from the governor, <a href="mailto:attempting-to-create-one-centralized-King">attempting-to-create-one-centralized-King</a>?

Utah has approved an increasing number of authority districts and independent entities. It is a concern because these are both not fully accountable to the people, and in the independent entities case it appears not accountable to the people at all. An example of an independent entity that has become wildly out of control is MIDA (Military Installation Development Authority), which greatly affects Davis County, as well as Utah.

I recommend you read both Title 11 (Authority Districts) and Title 63E Chapter 1 Part 1 (Independent Entities) so that you can fully comprehend both. These are not representative government systems.

This has been a long time coming however. A push for <u>"smart growth"</u> or as Utah called it originally "Quality Growth" has been in <u>Utah since the 60s</u>. Utahns had pushed back against it as they viewed regional government as communism. A new push began in the 90s and it was successful in Utah. Envision Utah has been a core promoter and implementation system for this new urban planning.

"HB119 - Quality Growth Act, sponsored by Rep. Kevin Garn and significantly worked by Reps. Susan Koehn and Ralph Becker, was a long and much revised bill. It basically did three things: first, it established a Quality Growth Commission which is charged with the duty of looking at a number of growth issues and reporting back to the legislature at the end of the year with recommendations on how to address those issues; second, it established more firmly the McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund, with some serious funding appropriation and mechanisms for future funding, and turned administration of the fund over to the Quality Growth Commission; and third, appropriated 250,000 for matching grants for local governments to basically serve as pilot programs for implementing "Quality Growth" principles in their communities. The most farreaching potential part of the bill is having, for the first time, a state-level commission that will examine growth issues and make recommendations to the legislature, governor, and local governments on things to do. This has the potential of changing the way planning is done in Utah, and creating new programs and initiatives." Wilf Sommerkorn

To give you an update on the McAllister fund- "The Utah Quality Growth Commission was created in 1999 and worked from 2000 on to conserve nearly 100,000 acres of critical lands in Utah through the LeRay McAllister Fund. HB 305, Natural Resource Revisions, (J. Ferry), repealed the commission, effective July 1, 2022. Functions of the commission will be overseen by the new Land Conservation Board, staffed by the Division of Conservation at the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food."

The key to understanding the push for visioning/planning like high-density housing, mass transit hubs and more is that it is <u>not</u> run by, for, or of the people. It is a <u>long-standing agenda</u> with specific goals in mind. In Utah it comes from the Coalition for Utah's Future who created Envision Utah.

The results from this smart growth/quality growth planning can be seen in Salt Lake City, Layton, Clearfield, and many more "city centers."

From my research it appears this has led to unaffordability, congestion, increased crime, and forced development priorities onto cities and counties in places where the people do not want them. It is also leading to a complete change in our form of government. The further the government gets away from being accountable to the people the more we slip into feudalism. Farmington, Kaysville, Layton, Clearfield, Bountiful, Roy, and many more of your cities are currently promoting smart growth planning and city centers.

"Farmington City is taking notes from <u>Salt Lake</u> and Utah <u>Counties</u> to get ahead of the I-15 curve by building North <u>Farmington Station</u> a master-planned community in Farmington. The city hopes to center the development on existing public transportation and bring people and companies north to save citizens a commute." source

Melinda Greenwood is the community development director for Kaysville. She formerly worked in city planning for Murray. One must wonder why a city planner who does not live in Kaysville, and who, it appears, angered Murray put in charge of Kaysville planning?

- 1. Murray getting rid of historic preservation ordinance on the advice of Melinda Greenwood and others https://www.murrayjournal.com/2019/12/04/292228/murray-city-quts-historicpreservation-regulations
- 2. Proposed destruction of historic buildings in downtown Murray. https://issuu.com/mycityjournals/docs/murray\_se\_july\_web\_c21a2fd3a35874
- 3. The open house to advertise the building replacing much of historic downtown Murray. This building was overwhelmingly rejected by the community. https://www.murrayjournal.com/2021/09/29/369678/murray-holds-open-house-formassive-48th-state-project

Kaysville you can review this smart growth plan here.

If you do not want this type of planning the time to express that is right now. Once these plans get pushed all the way through, they are nearly impossible to stop or reverse. Please do your own research and go to your city and county planning meetings.

### Here's to Healthy Roots and Happy Microbes

By Daniel Jenkins

Have you ever looked at a neighbor's thick, green lawn or that blooming backyard garden and wondered, what's their secret? You might think it's all about watering, mowing, or even synthetic fertilizers—but there's a much more exciting story unfolding right beneath the surface. The real magic lies in the microbial life living in your soil!

Just like our gut health is linked to beneficial bacteria, the health of your lawn and garden depends on a thriving underground community of microbes—bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and more. These tiny soil superheroes are constantly working behind the scenes, breaking down organic matter, unlocking nutrients, and forming symbiotic relationships with plant roots. Without them, soil becomes lifeless, compacted, and dependent on chemical crutches.

One of the coolest things microbes do is make nutrients bioavailable. Plants can't exactly chew or swallow minerals, but microbes break down organic materials into forms plants can absorb—like turning compost into a delicious smoothie for your grass and flowers. They also help regulate moisture, improve soil structure, and even protect plants from disease. It's nature's own support system!

Now, here's the kicker: most modern lawns and gardens are suffering from microbial burnout. Years of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and overwatering can strip soil of its living organisms. It's like feeding your plants junk food and wondering why they're always tired. Rebuilding the microbial life in your soil is like switching to a healthy, whole-food diet—it takes time, but the results are deep, resilient, and long-lasting.

So how do you bring your soil back to life? Start with compost, compost teas, and other organic inputs that introduce beneficial microbes. Avoid synthetic chemicals that disrupt the soil food web. And when possible, use microbial soil amendments that are specially designed to repopulate and

rebalance your lawn and garden ecosystem. You'll be amazed how quickly your plants respond when the underground team is back in action.

At the end of the day, healthy soil means less watering, fewer pests, and more vibrant growth—all thanks to the tiniest workers you'll never see. It's not just gardening, it's ecosystem building. And when you support microbial life, you're not just growing a better lawn... you're creating a more sustainable and beautiful outdoor space for everyone to enjoy.

-The Team at Habitat Soils-

### Department of Education Establishes "End DEI Portal"

By Peter Cannon

As you become aware of Illegal discriminatory practices in the Davis School District, charter schools or state institutions of higher education in Davis County you may now report them directly to the Federal Department of Education using the link below.

This submission form is an outlet for students, parents, teachers, and the broader community to report illegal discriminatory practices at institutions of learning. The Department of Education will utilize community submissions to identify potential areas for investigation.

Https://enddei.ed.gov

#### **OPINION**

### Democrats Target Non-Partisan Races - What are Republicans Doing?

Ronald Mortensen, Ph.D., FSO (retired)

For years Utah Democrats have focused on non-partisan races for city councils, local school boards, etc. They actively recruit candidates for these offices and then provide them with campaign support while keeping their candidates' party affiliation quiet. Later, benefiting from voters' recognition, these closet Democrats run as Republicans for the legislature and other partisan offices, including state school board positions. This allows Utah Democrats to implement their policies at the local level and in the public education system while at the same time building their bench of stealth candidates for state legislative and other partisan offices.

What is the Davis County Republican Party doing to counteract this? Is it recruiting and helping Republicans run for and get elected to nonpartisan positions? If not, why not?

Take a look at your city council and school board representatives. How many of them are Rs and how many are Ds and are their policies in line with the State and County Republican Party Platforms? If not, why not?

### Serving with Fidelity

#### A Commitment to the U.S. and Utah Constitutions

By John Crofts - Davis County Commissioner

**Fidelity** is a powerful word, carrying profound meaning for those who have taken an oath of public office. According to Merriam-Webster, it means "the quality or state of being faithful" and "accuracy in details: exactness." In the context of public service, fidelity represents the faithful and exact observance of duty, the performance of obligations, and the unwavering commitment to the principles of good governance. It means being true to the trust placed in you by the people, acting with integrity, and exercising your duties with honor.

When I took the oath of office as your Davis County Commissioner, I pledged to support, protect, and defend the United States Constitution and the Utah Constitution. This oath is not a mere formality – it is a solemn promise to serve with fidelity, to faithfully represent the interests of the people, and to uphold the foundational principles of our republic.

As Republicans, we recognize the vital importance of fidelity to our founding documents. We believe in limited government, individual responsibility, and the protection of personal freedoms. These principles are enshrined in the U.S. Constitution and the Utah Constitution, and they guide my work as your commissioner.

Exercising my office with fidelity means being a careful steward of taxpayer dollars, prioritizing transparency in government, and ensuring that our local government remains accountable to the people it serves. It means resisting the temptation to make decisions based on short-term political gain or personal interests, instead focusing on what is best for the long-term health and prosperity of our community.

Fidelity also means respecting the voices of our citizens. It means listening to the concerns of residents, valuing their input, and ensuring that their voices are heard in the decisions that impact their lives. This is why I have made transparency and accountability the cornerstones of my time in office. It is not enough to simply occupy a position of power – we must exercise that power with integrity and respect for the people who placed their trust in us.

In Davis County, our three-commissioner system provides direct representation and a close connection to the needs of our residents. This model has served us well, but it requires each Commissioner to act with fidelity to the principles of good governance and the oaths we have taken.

As we look to the future, I encourage all elected officials to remember the importance of fidelity to the Constitution and the people they serve. Our commitment to these principles is what makes our republic strong, and it is what will keep our communities vibrant and free for generations to come.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. I remain committed to serving with fidelity, upholding my oath of office, and ensuring that Davis County remains a place where families can thrive and businesses can succeed.

### The Davis County Republican Party: A Call to Principles

By Don Guymon, Chairman Davis County Republican Party

We, the Republican Party of Davis County, affirm our belief in Divine Providence and recognize the essential need for moral and spiritual foundations. We uphold the freedoms declared in the Declaration of Independence and protected by the Constitution of the United States. We honor those who have sought and continue to seek the freedoms we are privileged to enjoy.

The Republican Party is a party of the people and for the people. It stands for the values of productive citizens and is committed to ensuring the best quality of life for all.

Too often, people judge a party based solely on individual elected officials—some of whom they may not support. But ultimately, a political party should be judged by the principles it stands for, not just by personalities.

#### As I often sau:

"A strong Republican Party, committed to its core principles of limiting government, lowering taxes, and protecting all of our God-given rights—including our most fundamental right, the right to life—is essential to the future of our children."

The Davis County Republican Party welcomes everyone who believes in these principles to stand with us. We need you.

If you'd like to volunteer or learn more, email us at: chair@davisgop.org

### **Upcoming Events**

County Commission Meetings - 5/27, 6/3, 6/17 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 5/20 at 4:00 pm Workshop

Tuesday 6/3 at 6:00 pm Voting Meeting

Tuesday 6/17 at 4:00 pm Workshop

Auditorium at 45 E State Street, Farmington, Utah

#### Davis County Conservatives Community Forum -

- May 22, 2025, 6:30-8:30 pm

<u>Topic</u>: Larry Hilton: Author of the Utah Specie Legal Tender Act

- June 12, 2025, 6:30-8:30 pm

Topic: See live reenactments of founders Ben Franklin, Henry Knox, and others. Bring your children too.

Faith Baptist Church 2430 North Fairfield Road, Layton, UT





#### Patriots, defend our elections!

Be part of a powerful Election Integrity Call featuring top experts, courageous leaders, and frontline activists. Discover the latest updates on election security, learn how you can take action, and hear firsthand from those fighting to protect the future of our republic.

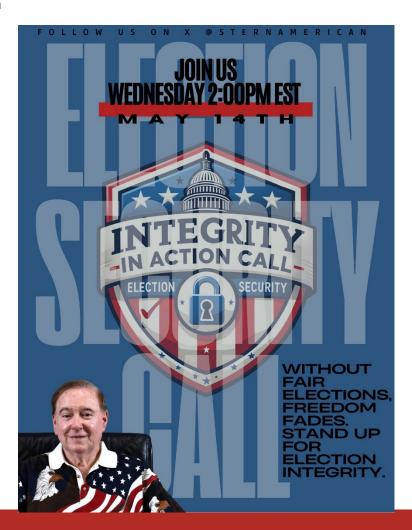
Stay informed, stay engaged — America needs you!

Save the date: Wednesday, May 14th at 2:00 PM EST

#### Featured Experts

Mark Cook Marcy Hoshiko Linda Szynkowicz Marty Waldman Marly Hornik Sam Anthony Mike Lindell Gen. Mike Flynn Terry Rapoza Dr. Douglas Frank Anne Pachert Joseph Hoft

Christine Reagan



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### **Recent Events**



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Private School Kindergarten – 12th Grade

#### Restoring God, Family, and Country to the Classroom

Liberty Hills Academy seeks to prepare students to fulfill their own divinely appointed potential by creating an atmosphere where the Spirit of the Lord enlightens minds and hearts. We strive to empower students to master self-governance, achieve personal academic excellence, foster a love of God and country, and develop their own Christ-like character. We believe a strong collaboration with parents, teachers and students promotes optimal student development.

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### Platform Plank of the Month

#### **Taxation**

We recognize the necessity for taxation in order for government to perform and administer those services that meet the public needs. However, we recognize the power to tax is also the power to control, and that the best way to control government is to strictly control the amount and form of taxes imposed on the people. We encourage further simplification of tax systems and broad based tax reduction where possible. We also recognize inflation, licensing, and user fees as forms of taxation.

#### Taxes:

- 1. should be inexpensive to administer and collect;
- 2. should not create excessive burdens on taxpayers;
- 3. should not create competitive disadvantages; and,
- 4. should not excessively distort markets.

Davis County Republican Party Platform

### Constitutional Clip of the Month

#### **Article III Section 1**

The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

### **Subscriptions**

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