

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.

Click to Contents

Government This Month –

- [2025 Legislative Session – The Good, The Bad and The Ugly](#)
- [DOJ Settlement Eliminated in Davis School District](#)
- [The Importance of Checks and Balances in Government](#)
- [History of SB54 of 2014](#)
- [New Department of Education End DEI Portal](#)

Opinion –

- [Get Involved in the Republican Party](#)

[Upcoming Events -](#)

Recent Events –

[City Mayor and Council Contact Information](#)

[Platform Plank of the Month](#)

[Constitutional Clip of the Month](#) – Article II. Section 2. Clause 2 and 3

2025 Legislative Session – The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

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

The Good.

· HB81 prohibits the addition of fluoride to drinking water in Utah. It authorizes pharmacists to prescribe and dispense fluoride tablets to individuals who wish to supplement the naturally occurring content of fluoride in water and it ends the dangers faced by water operators who have had to handle very toxic substances. Governor Cox told ABC4 that he will sign this bill. The bill takes effect May 7, 2025 and ends water fluoridation in Davis and Salt Lake Counties after roughly 25 years of mandatory water fluoridation.

The Bad

· SB80 is another in a long line of legislative actions that I call the “Pontius Pilate” approach to taxes and fees. These bills provide local governments and state agencies with the option, and incentive, to increase taxes and fees. The legislators then require these entities to do the dirty work of actually imposing the taxes and fees while they wash their hands of the whole affair and proudly state that they never raise taxes or fees. Specifically, SB80 requires the Department of Environmental Quality

to impose an annual fee for the regulation and testing of public water systems. This fee will be added to our drinking water bills and will help offset the loss of both the one-time and ongoing federal funding that the state has come to rely on. In addition, it will help cover the additional costs created by the state's rapid growth and development.

The Ugly

· HB214 – This bill would have required employers with 15 or more employees to verify the legal status of new employees. In addition, it would have stopped all child ID theft that occurs when illegal aliens use Utah kids' stolen social security numbers (SSN) to get jobs. According to the Department of Workforce Services, in 2023, 222 Utah kids age 0-12 years old who received some type of public assistance were being paid wages; 165 employers were paying wages to children 0-12 years old; and over 8,000 SSNs that were used for employment purposes had at least 3 last names associated with them--one number was being used by 10 people. HB214 would have stopped this misuse of Americans' stolen SSNs for employment purposes but it was stopped twice by the House Business, Labor and Commerce Committee because committee members argued that it would hurt Utah businesses by denying them the ability to hire "undocumented" immigrants. This led Representative Jason Kyle to say: "This is a very interesting conversation. I don't know how many bills we have where we talk about openly being lawless."

· SB143. This bill, which was changed at the last minute on the House floor, would have booted State Auditor Tina Cannon out of the Capitol building thereby making her the only constitutional officer without an office in the capitol building. In addition, it would have removed the Transparency Office from the capitol building since transparency appears to be a threat to many legislators. This was being done, ostensibly, so all state senators could have an office in the capitol building although they are only there a minority of the time each year whereas the State Auditor is there full-time. When presenting the bill which was changed at the last minute, Representative Val Peterson made no mention of removing the Auditor from the building and when asked a series of questions about the bill, Representative Peterson failed to provide full and accurate information. Despite this, 49 Representatives voted to remove the Auditor from the capitol building. Those voting for the bill included the following Representatives from Davis County: Ballard, Barlow, Cutler, Hall, Lisonbee, Schultz, Ward. After being passed by the House, the bill was returned to the Senate where, following a public outcry, it died.

· HB274. This bill is another in a long series of bills that has the Utah legislature acting more and more like a bunch of Washington D.C. politicians – lying about the true purpose of their actions and imposing top down, one-size-fits-all mandates. HB274 requires all entities providing pressurized irrigation (Weber) water to start billing by usage in 2030. Charges will be based on a tiered rate that may include the hidden costs of unspecified conservation efforts and no matter how high the rate is, it is "conclusively presumed to be reasonable." When the bill that required secondary pressurized water metering was originally enacted several years ago, legislators assured the public that the meters were only to be used to let people know how much water they were using in order to encourage conservation. Although this is ostensibly being done to get more water to the great Salt Lake, there is no tracking mechanism for the water that is conserved and no assurance that the water saved won't be given to developers and new businesses that are granted tax incentives to locate in Utah.

DOJ Settlement Eliminated in Davis School District

By Jennifer Brooks

Davis District received a communication from the Department of Education(DOE) dated February 14th, 2025. It said, "the United States Department of Justice informed us that Davis School District has

satisfied the obligations agreed to under the 2021 Settlement Agreement.” In the DOE letter the district was commended for its “urgent and sustained implementation of the anti-discrimination remedies required by the Settlement Agreement.” The Department of Education also stated, “All students are entitled to a school environment free from discrimination.” In announcing this information Davis District stated, “Most importantly, the achievement should indicate our commitment to maintain a safe learning environment for all children.” The district also explained, “Over the past several years, our entire community has made a significant investment in our students. Today’s announcement reflects a milestone built upon various benchmarks reached along this journey.” It is good to see a fulfillment of this settlement. Now we must watch to see if the district will lead toward professional improvement for students or just repeat its past failings.

The end of the settlement means the biyearly data of all enrolled Davis District students will no longer be sent to the Department of Justice. We are finally free from this intrusive federal requirement.

Remedies required by the DOJ Settlement were after-the-fact investigations and consequences, handed out, after bad behavior occurred. The district failed to teach improved behavior of all students and staff on the front-end. Good district leadership should require establishing and teaching standards. Improvement comes from high standards accompanied by a way to meet those high standards. Davis District had not established district-wide behavior expectations for employees, which is a human resources responsibility. For students, these behavior expectations are a district, parent, and teacher responsibility. A professional school district should enforce behavior expectations to improve behavior in all students while limiting poor behavior. What is the status of professional efforts to establish behavior expectations in Davis School District?

According to the DOJ ruling Davis District failed, for many years, to implement policy to direct and support teachers and administrators in dealing with harassment and discrimination. Policy has now been established by the district and school board to define, report and address harassment and discrimination. In a letter to parents the district announced that issues can be reported related to, “harassment or discrimination based on characteristics such as race, color, national origin, sex, including sexual orientation or gender identity, religion, or disability,”.

Concerns outside of school property can also be reported to the district for investigation. Of course this is beyond the scope of school responsibility and gives undue authority to our government schools. In public statements, policies and application of the system our district labeled protected classes based on the characteristics mentioned above. Unfortunately this means some classes are not protected. Davis District is mostly white, out of nearly 70,000 students 54,841 are white, according to Utah State Board reporting. Without high expectations, all students can experience degrading behaviors and language at school. The settlement required all students and teachers to report problems, but only those with specific characteristics could report them as harassment and discrimination. We instinctively know safe schools are only created when the same behavior is expected of all staff and students. Equally applied standards are a district and school board responsibility.

The district claims that the DOJ settlement was an investment in students. Over six million dollars was “invested” to create and implement a reporting system. This money bought two outside consultants, a failed anti-racist campaign and salaries for the large Office of Equal Opportunity to investigate concerns. Have students experienced six million dollars in growth? Have taxpayers? Has civility improved for staff and students? Six million dollars would have been better spent educating students. The large Office of Equal Opportunity required by the settlement is an investment in more well-paid district level positions, not students and teachers.

I have found that Davis County residents have high expectations for themselves, their families and their work. I hope we can demand the same from our school district as we try to eliminate all elements of the DOJ settlement and regain local control.

The Importance of Checks and Balances in Government

By John Crofts

One of the greatest strengths of our system of government is checks and balances—a safeguard against the abuse of power, corruption, and authoritarian rule. While no system is perfect, history has repeatedly shown us that when power is concentrated in the hands of a few without oversight, it leads to disaster.

Cities vs. Counties: Different Systems, Different Responsibilities

In many cities, power is often centralized under a strong city manager, who operates with efficiency to manage city affairs. However, counties operate differently, as they are subsets of state government and require a structure that balances power between elected officials. This structure, while sometimes less efficient, ensures that no one person has unchecked authority over county operations.

Weak Checks and Balances in City Governments

Many cities have a strong city manager who is responsible for day-to-day operations. While this can lead to efficiency, it can also weaken checks and balances if the city council consistently follows the city manager's recommendations without scrutiny. When oversight diminishes, power becomes too centralized, and decision-making lacks necessary debate and accountability. History has shown that centralizing power in a single individual often leads to disastrous consequences.

Inefficiencies vs. Safeguards

Governments with built-in checks and balances may not always operate with the streamlined efficiency of a corporation or a dictatorship, but that inefficiency is by design—it ensures accountability, debate, and the protection of individual rights. Without these mechanisms, governments become susceptible to mismanagement, suppression of dissent, and the erosion of freedoms.

The Soviet Union: A Case Study in Failure

A real-world example of unchecked power is the Soviet Union, which collapsed under the weight of its own inefficiencies, corruption, and lack of accountability. Without checks on leadership, the government became a bureaucratic nightmare, suppressing freedoms, misallocating resources, and ultimately imploding. This is a reminder that centralizing power without oversight leads to ruin.

A Warning to Those Who Undermine Our System

We must be cautious of anyone who criticizes our checks and balances in favor of a more centralized, authoritarian approach. Anyone who opposes our system of government and seeks to remove its checks and balances should not hold public office. A commitment to constitutional principles, oversight, and accountability must remain at the core of our government to ensure the continued prosperity and security of our nation.

The call to protect our democratic structure is urgent. Let us remain vigilant, engaged, and unwavering in our defense of checks and balances—because history has shown us what happens when we fail to do so.

History of SB54 of 2014

by Layne Beck September 24, 2024

Do you wonder why so many constitutionally conservative Republicans make such a big deal about SB54? Layne Beck gave a thorough summary of the history of the matter in the following video.

Link to the Rumble Video: <https://rumble.com/v5j9ito-2024.09.25-davis-county-conservatives-layne-beck-on-the-history-of-sb54-fro.html>

12:45 Minutes Don Guymon gives background and introduction of Layne Beck

15:10 Layne Beck presents the history of SB54 of 2014

1:24:21 Layne Beck Begins Question and Answer session

1:37:55 Question and Answer session ends

New Department of Education 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

Get Involved in the Republican Party

By Don Guymon

The Davis County Republican Party platform states, “We, the Republican Party of Davis County, affirm our beliefs in a Divine Providence and recognize the need for moral and spiritual foundations. We affirm our support for the freedoms expressed in the Declaration of Independence and protected in the Constitution of the United States of America, and recognize the efforts of others to seek the freedoms we enjoy. The Republican Party is a party for the people and by the people. It represents the values of productive citizens and its goal is to bring the best quality of life to all.”

What a great message this is for the citizens of this great county, state and nation! A party “for the people and by the people” to preserve the freedoms upon which this great nation was founded!

All too often we find people judge the Republican Party when they do not like what it elected officials with the Republican label do.

When an individual does this, they forget they are the party, just as much as any other member. What makes the Republican Party strong is when every member feels valued. It does not matter whether the individual is an elected official or someone attending caucus with their neighbors every two years. We need every person who shares our values to join us!

We have seen individuals try and take away the power of the people. Our caucus system is under attack. A caucus system which creates a level playing field and allows all individuals rich or poor to be able to win an election based upon their ideas. Informed delegates, elected at caucus, are a check upon our government. It is not a coincidence that government has grown since the passage of SB 54 in 2014.

I have chosen to run for Davis County Republican Party Chair because I want to preserve the voice of the people. Every Republican in Davis County should feel valued.

The County Convention will be held on April 12th at Viewmont High School. If you are a delegate, please attend! If you know delegates in your precinct, please make certain they know to attend.

There are still openings for elections to serve as senate chairs and vice chairs as well as legislative chairs and vice chairs. If you would like to serve, please attend and run.

Our Values, Our Voice, Our Party.

Please join us!

Upcoming Events

County Commission Meetings – 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/15 and 4/22 2025 at 10:00 AM

On a trial basis the 4/8 meeting will be held at 6:00 PM

Commission Chambers Room 303 – County Administration Building

Davis School Board Meetings – Tuesday 3/18 at 4:00 pm Workshop and 6:00 pm Voting Meeting

Tuesday 4/15 at 4:00 pm Workshop and 6:00 pm Voting Meeting

Auditorium at 45 E State Street, Farmington, Utah

Davis County Conservatives Community Forum – March 27, 2025, 6:30–8:30 pm

Topic: Forum for Candidates for Davis County Republican Party Offices

Faith Baptist Church 2430 North Fairfield Road, Layton, UT

April 10, 2025, 6:30–8:30 pm

Topic: @datarepublican: Utah's Private DOGE Investigator

Faith Baptist Church 2430 North Fairfield Road, Layton, UT

Davis County Republican Party Organizing Convention – April 12th at Viewmont High School.

Recent Events



Preserve, Protect and Defend the Constitution

COMMUNITY FORUM



PHIL LYMAN

Phil Lyman is a former San Juan County Commissioner, a former state legislator, and is the 2024 Utah Republican Convention Gubernatorial candidate. Through his many experiences, Phil Lyman has numerous opportunities to interact with Utah's citizens and has become uniquely aware of the many issues facing our State

Come listen to Phil Lyman discuss current events, the state of politics in Utah , and various other issues.



6:30 PM • THURS, FEB 27 • FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

**2430 N. FAIRFIELD RD
LAYTON, UTAH**



Preserve, Protect and Defend the Constitution

COMMUNITY FORUM



ESCAPE FROM CUBAN COMMUNISM

A PRESENTATION BY GABRIELA PUCKETT

Gabriela Puckett grew up under the oppressive weight of Cuban communism. Come listen to the story of her family's survival, their escape from the communist regime, and their journey that led them to the land of the freedom and opportunity: The United States of America.



6:30 PM • THURS, MAR 13 • FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

**2430 N. FAIRFIELD RD
LAYTON, UTAH**

Davis County Republican Party Annual Lincoln Day Dinner

*The Lincoln Club of Davis County cordially invites you to our
2025 Lincoln Day Dinner*

Saturday, March 15, 2025



Special Guest Speakers:

Treniss Evans
Author & 16 Defendant

Eric Moutsos
*Author, Entrepreneur &
Conservative Activist*



*Davis Conference Center
1651 N 700 W, Layton*

*Silent Auction: 4:30 pm
Dinner and Program: 6:30 pm*

Best Dress Requested

Dinner & Silent Auction: \$75 or \$140/Couple

Military Discount: Additional \$5 off with promo code "Thank you"

Silent Auction & Speaker only (No Dinner): \$25

Table Sponsorships available

Ad space available in Program and On-screen

See website for pricing



*RSVP by purchasing tickets by Wed., March 12, 2025
For Tickets and Sponsorship information,
go to www.DavisGOP.org or scan QR Code*



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email: admin@libertyhills.org

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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.

Advertisement

Platform Plank of the Month

Firearms

We support the individual unalienable constitutional right of the people to keep and bear arms for security and defense of self, family, other, or the state, as well as for other lawful purposes. We encourage personal responsibility for the care and use of firearms.

Freedom of Religion

Government must protect freedom of religion, not freedom from religion, with the same tenacity as our other freedoms. We affirm the right and benefit of allowing prayer in public meetings.

Family Values

We recognize that the strength and stability of the traditional family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, is the core of our society. All legislation should have a positive effect on the stability and tradition of the family unit. We affirm that parents have unalienable rights and primary responsibility in nurturing and rearing their children and affirm parental rights.

Right to Life

We believe in the unalienable right to life for both the born and unborn. We strongly oppose abortion, except to preserve the life of the mother or in cases of rape and incest. We oppose tax-financed abortions and support legislation encouraging adoption.

Davis County Republican Party Platform

Constitutional Clip of the Month

Article I Section 8: Powers of Congress

1. The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
2. To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;
3. To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;
4. To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;
5. To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;
6. To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;
7. To establish Post Offices and post Roads;
8. To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;
9. To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;
10. To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

11. To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;
12. To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;
13. To provide and maintain a Navy;
14. To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;
15. To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;
16. To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;
17. To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards and other needful Buildings;-And
18. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Davis County Cities Contact Information

Fruit Heights Mayor John Pohlman jpohlman@fruitheightscity.com 801-244-0171

City Council Members Gary Anderson ganderson@fruitheightscity.com 801-739-3665

Mark Cottrell mcottrell@fruitheightscity.com 502-758-4011

Eileen Moss emoss@fruitheightscity.com 801-721-9375

R. Shon Stevenson sstevenson@fruitheightscity.com 801-647-0007

Florence Sadler fsadler@fruitheightscity.com 801-971-0538

City Council Meetings – 7:00 pm 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at city hall, 910 S. Mountain Road

Kaysville Mayor Tamara Tran mayor.tran@kaysville.gov 801-499-2379

City Council Members Mike Blackham councilmember.mblackham@kaysville.gov 801-940-1535

John Swan Adams councilmember.jadams@kaysville.gov 801-652-3254

Abbigayle Hunt councilmember.ahunt@kaysville.gov 801-703-8931

Nate Jackson councilmember.njackson@kaysville.gov 801-837-8012

Perry Oaks councilmember.poaks@kaysville.gov 385-310-0766

City Council Meetings – 7:00 pm 1st and 3rd Thursdays at City Hall at 23 East Center Street

Layton Mayor Joy Petro jpetro@laytoncity.org (801) 544-9612

City Council Members Zach Bloxham zbloxham@laytoncity.org (801) 814-4280

Bettina Smith Edmondson bedmondson@laytoncity.org (385) 895-2248

Clint Morris cmorris@laytoncity.org (801) 721-4420

Tyson Roberts troberts@laytoncity.org (801) 915-6960

Dave Thomas dthomas@laytoncity.org (801) 499-1860

City Council Meetings – 7:00 pm 1st and 3rd Thursdays at City Hall at 437 North Wasatch Drive.

North Salt Lake Mayor Brian Horrocks Mayor@nslcity.org 801-540-7886
City Council Members Tammy Clayton tammy.clayton@nslcity.org 801-979-5568
Lisa Watts Baskin lisa.baskin@nslcity.org 801-671-0586
Suzette Jackson Suzette.jackson@nslcity.org 801-668-6468
Ted Knowlton ted.knowlton@nslcity.org 801-425-3534
Alisa Van Langeveld Alisa.vanlangeveld@nslcity.org 801-335-8700
City Council Meetings – 7:00 pm 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at city hall, 10 East Center Street

South Weber Mayor Rod Westbroek rwestbroek@southwebercity.com 801-479-3177 Ext 2220
City Council Members Blair Halvorsen bhalverson@southwebercity.com
Angie Petty apetty@southwebercity.com
Joel Dills jdills@southwebercity.com
Jeremy Davis jdavis@southwebercity.com
Wayne Winsor wwinsor@southwebercity.com

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