

Proposed United Utah Party Platform

April 2024

PREAMBLE

The United Utah Party is focused on good government - the process by which our laws are made and executed. We believe that good government requires transparency, fairness, and a robust and civil debate. We believe that public policy should ultimately reflect the will of the people. Public servants must act with integrity and according to their oaths of office.

We do not require candidates or members to agree on all issues. That is why we do not, as a party, take rigid stances on most issues. Candidates and members can take sides, but the party does not have a litmus test. This platform is a statement of the principles that unite us, not necessarily an enumeration of policy positions.

The United Utah Party is not ideological. We ask instead that people come to the political process with good will and in good faith. Being a Uniter means doing the listening and the hard work required to find common ground. We persuade when we can, extend a hand of friendship when we cannot, and respect the voice of the people either way.

The United Utah Party does not believe that being moderate means simply splitting the difference between two extreme stances. Instead, Uniters are free to explore all available solutions without political constraints. We work to find the best solution for each particular issue, while also promoting our party values of fairness, inclusiveness, seeking common ground, and promoting the long-term stability and prosperity of our society.

These guidelines set us apart from other political parties. The United Utah Party believes that solutions can be found to the pressing problems of society using a pragmatic approach, finding common ground with others, and encouraging widespread public involvement in the resolution of public policy issues. We believe in the worth of all individuals in a society and assert that engagement by all is the best means for operating a democratic republic.

ETHICAL GOVERNMENT

Defend Democracy. An active and robust democracy with a government that is responsive to the people (and not to the demands of political parties) is at the heart and soul of the beliefs and efforts of the United Utah Party.

Increase Transparency. All proposed bills should be open to meaningful public review. Legislative caucus meetings should also be open. We support ethics reforms that make it easier to identify and eliminate conflicts of interest.

Limit Partisan Influence. We support more non-partisan elections for positions such as city and county councils, school boards, sheriffs, and attorneys general. Publicly funded primaries should not be restricted to party members. **We oppose gerrymandering and support independent redistricting.**

Expand Voter Participation. We must reduce barriers to registration and make it easier for all citizens to vote. We must strengthen our independent redistricting commission. We seek to expand access to alternative voting systems (such as Ranked Choice, STAR, or Approval voting methods) that reduce costs, encourage civility, and better reflect public will.

Increased Government Accountability. We support term limits that will reduce incumbent advantages. We support campaign finance laws that will limit the influence of moneyed special interests.

Separation of Powers. We believe in the separation of powers and that the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government should be strong and Independent in order to maintain checks and balances. We oppose efforts to politicize and impose partisan politics on the judicial branch of government.

Integrity. We hold all candidates and officeholders to high standards of private and public integrity. We expect them to be law-abiding, honest, and transparent in their political work.

ECONOMY

Economic Growth. We support the free market system as the engine for economic growth. Public policy must promote economic opportunities for all, regardless of social and economic class.

Taxes and Regulations. We support a more efficient tax system that minimizes loopholes, reduces negative effects on working families **and small businesses**, and ensures a fair contribution from all. We encourage the review of regulations and policies to continually assess their value in a changing economy.

Healthcare. **We support efforts to reduce healthcare costs and increase efficiencies in the healthcare system.** We promote reforms that extend healthcare, including mental healthcare, to more people. Reforms should also seek to improve outcomes and the quality of care.

EDUCATION

Public Education. We support increased funding for public education as a vehicle for sustained economic growth, an engaged citizenry, and equipping students for a rapidly changing world. We promote policies that balance the empowerment of teachers with accountability to ensure that funds are used effectively.

Increased Opportunities. We believe everyone should have access and opportunity to obtain a quality education. An educated and informed population benefits families, the economy, and our society as a whole. We support efforts to increase access to higher education, technical schools, or vocational training.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Stewardship. We advocate for responsible stewardship over Utah's natural resources over the long term. We promote policies that protect and clean our air, actively monitor and manage our water, and promote quality of life and economic benefits for the many and across generations.

Preserve Outdoor Spaces. We support balanced policies that protect and preserve the amazing and beautiful outdoor locations in Utah for our recreational use.

EQUALITY

Equal Opportunity. We support laws that provide protection against discrimination based on race, religion, gender, age, or sexual orientation. Every individual is of inherent worth, has a right to be respected, and deserves to participate fully in our shared political and economic life.

OTHER PRINCIPLES

Faith. We support protection of religious belief and its role in public life, as well as the constitutional right to free exercise of religious expression for all.

Immigration. We endorse policy reforms that respect the dignity of individuals and the unity of families. We advocate for a healthy immigration system that creates and enforces fair laws that promote the economic benefits of immigration.

Second Amendment. We support the right to possess firearms, while recognizing the need for safeguards to keep them out of the hands of those who would use them irresponsibly.

Balanced Budgets. We support sound fiscal policies that create viable, long-term balance between government revenues and expenditures for the benefit of current and future generations.

Social Issues: We recognize and respect the passionate feelings on both sides of the debate over social issues. We advocate for carefully negotiated policies to govern these issues that are compassionate, inclusive, and take into account the nuances of the issues and the viewpoints of all sides.