

Utah County Democrats

The monthly newsletter of the Utah County Democratic Party

February 2008

Upcoming Events

March 25 (Tuesday)

Precinct Caucus Meetings. 7pm. Locations will be printed in the press, at <http://utahcountydems.com>, and in the next newsletter.

May 3 (Saturday)

County Convention. 9am - 12 noon at Dixon Middle School. Will include legislative district meetings and a county-wide meeting. Everyone is invited to attend!

Please send information about upcoming events to newsletter@utahcountydems.com.

Each Thursday

BYU Democrats meet every Thursday night at 7:30pm in 240 SWKT. The public is invited. For more information go to <http://byudemocrats.org>.

Six More Outstanding Candidates Announce Campaigns

February has been a busy month for candidate announcements. Six more highly respected and qualified individuals have announced their intent to run as Democrats for state legislature.

On Thursday, January 31, Paul Thompson announced he would run for House District 59. "I'd like to see more support for education," Thompson told the *Deseret Morning News*. "Our first priority in Utah should be our children."



Paul Thompson

Prior to serving 12 years as president of Weber State University, Thompson was dean of BYU's Marriott School of Management and vice president of BYU's University Relations and Development. He received a doctorate from Harvard in 1969, and recently served in Boston as a mission president for the LDS Church.



Deon Turley

On February 7, Deon Turley announced her candidacy for House District 61. Turley is president of the citywide Provo PTA Council and secretary of the Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. She worked as a deputy Weber County clerk in the 1970s and earned a

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Message From the Chair

Richard Davis



We have continued the announcements of top-notch candidates for the state legislature. I am so pleased that so many high quality individuals have agreed to step forward and make a difference.

This is a great sacrifice for them. When you meet one of these candidates, please thank them for running and offer your support.

The party caucuses will take place on March 25 at 7 p.m. Our secretary, Hinckley, is organizing the locations. We will get those

to you by the next newsletter and will advertise them in the press.

Please mark your calendars to attend on that date. But also please consider who you can bring with you. Our theme is "bring a newbie." Invite and bring someone who has not been to a Democratic caucus before. One of the party's goals is to double the attendance at the caucuses over the 2006 attendance. That won't be easy because attendance two years ago was quite high.

My kudos to all of those who have helped so far to make our party viable again. We've made a lot of progress. But there is a long campaign ahead. It will be hard work. It will not be easy to beat a seemingly Republican lock on government. Yet, we can do it. If we work together, we will do it.

bachelors degree in mathematics at BYU. With her husband R. Steven Turley, a BYU professor of physics and astronomy, she has raised seven children.

Turley was endorsed at her press conference by Provo School District Superintendent Randy Merrill. The *Deseret Morning News* reported that she "promised to walk all of the 70 miles of House District 61 over the next nine months in a bid to unseat freshman Rep. Keith Grover."

Four days after Turley's announcement, Boyd McAfee announced that he would run for House District 60. McAfee taught sixth grade at Valley View Elementary in Pleasant Grove for 30 years, retiring in 2005. He served on the board of



Boyd McAfee

directors of Alpine Credit Union for 29 years, and still serves as the administrator of Clear Creek, the outdoor education program of Alpine School District. He is married to Marleen Hopkins McAfee and has five children and seven grandchildren.

At McAfee's press conference, several friends and neighbors indicated that although they were registered Republicans, they were concerned about the current direction of the Utah Republican party, particularly in Utah County, and intended to voice their support for McAfee.



Don Jarvis

Former BYU administrator and professor Don Jarvis announced his candidacy for House District 63 on February 18. He stressed the need for Utah to have a healthy two-party political system. "Anytime one party has a

stranglehold on state politics, it's a recipe for disaster," he said. "We need to get back to the healthy checks and balances that two viable political parties provide." Now a consultant for Utah Valley State College, Jarvis said the first item to receive his attention would be increased funding for education and teacher salaries.

Jarvis is a member of the Provo Rotary Club and volunteers as a supervisor for Provo School District's adult English as a second language program. His family has contributed lunches to the Provo Food & Care Coalition for twenty years, and he has served as Wasatch Neighborhood Chair. He served three missions for the LDS Church, including one as mission president in

Mitt Romney, Nokia Phones, and Justice for All

Don Jarvis

Mitt Romney's campaign attracted a lot of attention here in Utah. He happens to be a cousin of mine, and I admire the way he went after an entrenched political machine in Massachusetts and gave voters there a good old American two-party choice. Anytime one party has a stranglehold on state politics, it's a recipe for disaster. That's what they had in Massachusetts before Mitt, that's what we have in Utah now, and that's why we have multiple disasters looming. We need to get back to the healthy checks and balances that two viable political parties provide.

And that's what I am going to do. Today I am announcing my candidacy as a socially conservative Democrat for the Utah State Legislature District 63. I am going to put my own money and my own time into this campaign. And I ask you to do the same. Because together, we can win.

Like my friend Paul Thompson, I have several reasons for running, 13 to be exact. Janelle and I have 22 grandchildren, 13 of whom live here in Provo.

Some of my friends have wondered about the wisdom of challenging our good neighbor Steven D. Clark, a moderate Republican who has served for the past eight years in the legislature, has run unopposed all four times, and has received \$12-18,000 each election even with no opponent! He has high marks from small businesses and realtors. The Legislature and the Governor have done well for Utah business, and I salute them. I am also pro-business but would like to discuss our economy and our well-being more broadly.

While our economy has grown in the past few years we've missed a great opportunity. That is to fully fund our education system. The legislature has not done as well for public education as they have for business. And it is time to correct that. Some might say that investing in business helps education. But it works just as much, if not more, the other way around. I suggest that investment in education greatly benefits society and is the master key to many things in the long run, including keeping Utah's economy strong. We will not always have a good society and a strong economy if we neglect our children's education.

When I was a young man I served as a missionary in Finland. It is a small but beautiful little northern country of forests, lakes and rocks and about 5 million people. But back in the early 1960s it was relatively poor, just recovering from WWII. Apartments were small and sparsely furnished. Few people had cars or telephones. Now, however, the Finnish economy is one of the strongest in Europe, and Finnish Nokia cell phones are everywhere.

Some years ago I met with the Finnish ambassador to the United States and asked him how he would explain his country's amazing growth and prosperity. He said there were two factors: one was the honesty of the Finnish people—every international study of corruption ranks Finland as one of the least corrupt countries for business. The other was their commitment to educating their children. They decided right after WWII, when their economy was in shambles, to dig deep into their national budget to make education their top priority. They determined to invest financial capital into their social capital.

The results are plain to see. The Finnish education system is world-famous. Nearly every international study of education places Finland at or near the top. And how has that affected Finland's economy? The Institute for Management Development placed Finland at number six in the world in business competitiveness in 2005. Finland is among the 15 richest countries in the world

If impoverished, post-war Finland could do it, so can Utah. Every year the Legislature and the Governor argue about what to do with our large budget surpluses from our booming economy. There is a place for tax cuts, especially for those who are struggling to make ends meet. But Utahns say that if the choice is between cutting taxes or putting it towards education, time and again they choose the latter.

Education is a main Utah value and always has been. Soon after the Mormon pioneers' historic trek across America to the Salt Lake valley, even while their survival was precarious, they established schools in every town they settled. Reaching for excellence and not just the minimum education, in 1850 they founded what is now the University of Utah. In 1876 my great-great-grandfather Brigham Young sent my great grand-uncle Karl G. Maeser here to Provo to establish Brigham Young Academy. Clearly excellence in education is one of Utahans' oldest values.

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Moscow, Russia. He and his wife Janelle have six children and twenty-two grandchildren.

On February 21, Ken Peay announced he would run for Senate District 13. Peay worked in law enforcement for 31 years, retiring as the commander of the Utah Highway Patrol in Utah County.



Ken Peay

Peay said his main concerns are growing crime, health insurance for every Utahn, and better schools and roads. He said treatment and rehabilitation are needed for nonviolent drug abusers. He recognizes the need for growth in Utah county but also believes growth needs to be controlled with better infrastructure. Peay advocates mass transit and said he would work to create more alternative transit opportunities in Utah County.

Peay grew up in south Utah County and currently lives in Benjamin. He and his wife Cecile have three children and four grandchildren.



Claralyn Hill

On February 25, Provo attorney Claralyn M. Hill announced her candidacy for House District 62. Hill has worked as a guardian ad litem and a member of the United Way of Utah County's executive committee. She said her top priorities would be

fighting substance abuse, improving education and transportation, and ethics reform.

Hill believes the Republican Party's dominance in Utah has made it less willing to listen not only to opposing voices, but also to loyal constituents. "We need to get a little more balance," she said. "I am asking for your vote because I am more qualified and knowledgeable than the incumbent. I am more in touch with my community than the incumbent. I am more free of vested interest and closer to your values than the incumbent. I am less partisan and more moderate than the incumbent," she said.

Hill is married to Ned C. Hill, dean of the Marriott School of Management at BYU.

Ongoing press coverage of the candidates' campaigns can be found at <http://utahcountydemocrats.com>.

And how are we doing with that legacy? For the last 20 years our Republican-controlled state government has allowed Utah to stay last in the nation in per-pupil spending, while other traditionally low-spending states like Mississippi, Alabama, and Arkansas, have invested heavily in public education. Our spending per \$1,000 of personal income for public education has recently fallen significantly to 36th place. We rank a shameful 45th in the nation in beginning teacher salaries. However, we rank highest in the nation in one category: average number of students per teacher.

Problems also extend to higher education. Most college-bound students in Utah County go to UVSC, where I work. Its name will change to Utah Valley University in July, but it has less money to spend per student than any other unit of higher education in the state. Departments are struggling to attract and keep faculty to cover their classes. And this has begun to affect our work force. The Utah Foundation suggests that Utah's labor force is not as educated as employers would like it to be. Anecdotal evidence notes that some high-tech Utah employers are having trouble finding qualified employees. There is no guarantee that our economy will continue strong and that our children will find good jobs if we neglect their education.

Luckily, we have many strong, educated families and some competent, dedicated teachers who keep Utah pupils' scores slightly above national averages. But they should do much better, and our teachers' altruism is wearing thin. They are leaving in droves for greener pastures. Meanwhile, the number of students studying to become teachers recently decreased 13% in three years. Governor Huntsman reported a shortage of 400 teachers at the beginning of this school year. And the problems will only get worse.

Our Republican legislators have vigorously protected the traditional family and the rights of the unborn. I salute them for that and fully support my church's teachings on both issues. However, we must do a MUCH better job of educating our children after they are born, and the vast majority of Utahans agree.

Every time you see a Nokia cell phone, remember the Finns and what investing in education did for their economy.

We have a number of other things we need to do for our children and families. We should be better stewards of our air, water and land. We

can't discuss all of these issues, but we can mention one: transportation. We must plan better public transport to reduce congestion on our roads and our dangerous levels of air pollution that few are aware of. There are many other environmental issues, but this is a clearly a priority for our state.

Lastly, we should say a word about "justice for all." That is not only part of our Pledge of Allegiance, it is a deep-seated Utah value. We Utahans believe in fairness and want a just society. Our government must be kept lean and efficient, but we can promote public education, quality health care, affordable housing, and clean air. These are complex issues, and I will be searching for long-term answers and would love to hear your ideas on these issues as well.

My friend Steve Baugh, who is also running for the legislature, gave out his cell phone number to improve communication with his constituents. I will do the same: 318-6274.

I also want to make a promise to you. I promise that the first two bills I will propose will be one that improves pay for public school teachers and another that increases funding for Utah Valley University.

This is will not be easy. But politics is the art of the possible, requiring diplomacy and compromise. My many years as an educational administrator, consultant, and innovator required both so I have experience in cooperating to find solutions.

But it is time for all of us to step up to make our state a better place to live and to give our children a brighter future. I ask for your vote and your support to help make a better tomorrow.

Remember: When you see a Mitt Romney bumper sticker, think about restoring the two-party system; when you see a Nokia cell phone, think 'investment in education'; when you repeat the Pledge of Allegiance, think about achieving 'justice for all.' Isn't that what this country is all about?

Don Jarvis, running as a Democratic candidate for Utah house district 63, is an experienced educator now employed as a consultant at Utah Valley State College. He and his wife Janelle have deep roots in Provo, where they have lived for 38 years and raised six children. They now have 22 grandchildren, 13 of whom live in Provo.

COUNTY-PLATFORM CORNER

OPEN AND LIMITED GOVERNMENT

As Utah County Democrats we believe that government is the way we organize our community to do what we cannot do individually. As such it should be held to the same standards we expect of individuals: honesty, fairness, and respect for the rights of others.

We call for open and limited government that serves all the people. We oppose decisions about our future being made behind closed doors. We call for checks and balances, professional ethics, and the protection of our rights by those we elect to represent us.

We stand for the common good and reject the promotion of personal agendas at the expense of the rest of us by those who would manipulate laws or regulations for their own profit. We call for vigilance on the part of our elected and appointed officials to eliminate corruption in our government wherever, whenever and by whomever it occurs.

To read the entire platform of the Utah County Democratic Party, please visit our website at <http://utahcountydems.com>.

Tech Committee Seeks Volunteers for Mapping Project

The Technology Committee is seeking volunteers to help create electronic maps of the precincts and legislative districts in Utah County.

Leveraging Google’s Custom Maps service, the maps will enable visitors to the County Party web site to identify their precinct and legislative districts with unprecedented ease of use.

“This will be a great service to our county,” says committee chair Nathan Hadfield.

Other resources are available for determining one’s voting precinct and legislative district, Hadfield says, but they are “slow and clunky.” “Our maps will have the same speed and ease of use that make Google Maps so popular. Since they’ll be useful for everyone, not just Democrats, they have the potential to draw a lot of new traffic to our web site.”

The maps can be viewed by going to <http://utahcountydems.com> and selecting *Our Party > Maps*.

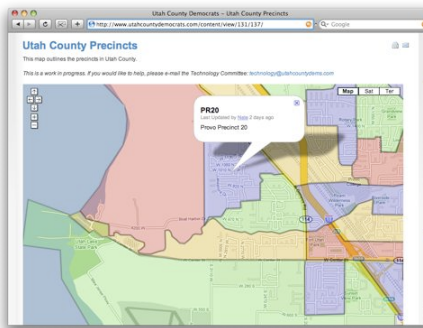
Volunteers are needed to help enter precinct and district boundaries. The process is simple and requires no technical background—just access to a computer with Internet access.

“It really is amazingly easy,” says Hadfield. “We provide you with step-by-step instructions and a printed map of the precinct boundaries in a given district. Then you just trace the boundaries into our custom map using the simple tools provided by the online Google Custom Maps application. Anyone can do it, and if you want, we’ll come to your house and sit down with you to help you get started.”

Chris Stowe, another member of the committee, says the project is a great way to be productive while relaxing. He plans to input boundaries for precincts in his district while watching TV.

“These maps look awesome,” Stowe says. “Better than anything else out there. And the best part is that they are navigable, and easily searchable so people can input their address and know what precinct they are in.”

For more information about the project, or to volunteer, please send an e-mail to technology@utahcountydems.com.



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