

# Utah County Democrats

*The monthly newsletter of the Utah County Democratic Party*

July/August 2008

## Upcoming Events

### Friday, August 22

**Kurt Bestor Benefit Concert**, 7:30 PM at the Centre Stage theater in the Sorensen Student Center at UVU.

Tickets are \$100 per person and can be ordered online at [www.actblue.com/page/bestorconcert](http://www.actblue.com/page/bestorconcert) or by contacting Kathy Cook, party secretary, at (801) 356-0290 or [kathryn@utahcountydems.com](mailto:kathryn@utahcountydems.com).

VIP Tickets that include a reception are available for \$200.

### August 25-28

**Democratic National Convention** in Denver, Colorado. For more information, see <http://demconvention.com>.

### Saturday, September 6

**Fall Campaign Kick-Off Picnic**, 4:00-8:00PM at the City Center Park at 100 North 300 East, Orem. Pot luck dinner. Meet our candidates, socialize with fellow Democrats, and discuss the upcoming election season. Please RSVP by August 23 to Larry Brown at [larrybrown@utahcountydems.com](mailto:larrybrown@utahcountydems.com).

Please send information about upcoming events to [newsletter@utahcountydems.com](mailto:newsletter@utahcountydems.com).

## Kurt Bestor to perform benefit concert

Kurt Bestor will perform a benefit concert for the Utah County Democratic Party on Friday, August 22, at 7:30 p.m., at the Centre Stage theater in the Sorensen Student Center at UVU.

"We're very excited Kurt Bestor wants to help the party elect our candidates this year," said Richard Davis, county party chair. "This will be the major event for the county party's efforts to gather the necessary resources for the fall campaign. Please come and support the party and its candidates while listening to the beautiful music of Kurt Bestor."

Bestor, a popular Emmy-award winning Utah performer and composer, was raised in Orem. He is famous for his composition, "Prayer of the Children," and his theme for the 1988



Winter Olympics. He also has composed musical introductions for television programs. His Christmas concerts have become a popular tradition. He also is a delegate to the Democratic National Convention next month.

A limited number of tickets is available. Tickets are \$100 per person and can be ordered online at [www.actblue.com/page/bestorconcert](http://www.actblue.com/page/bestorconcert) or by contacting Kathy Cook, party secretary, at [kathryn@utahcountydems.com](mailto:kathryn@utahcountydems.com) or (801) 356-0290. VIP Tickets that include a reception are available for \$200.

## Message from the Chair

*Richard Davis*



The hot August days and nights are here. The last days of summer are upon us. Soon our children will head back to school desks and the summer of 2008 will be a memory. Politics seems pretty distant for most of us.

In fact, most people don't think much about politics except during the period that is soon to be upon us. The Labor Day weekend is the

traditional kickoff for electoral campaigning leading up to Election Day in November, particularly during a presidential election year. During September and October, the voters who decide the fate of the nation as well as the state will be deciding who they will vote for. Those people are what we call "swing" voters. They determine who wins elections and gets to govern. Yet, they often aren't really paying attention to campaigns until much later than those of us who are political junkies.

Whether our candidates win or lose will be determined in the next 10 weeks as those swing voters decide how to vote. Our candidates know that. On November 4 they

**Message from the Chair**

want the support of those swing voters. That's why they've been working hard for months to prepare for this very moment. They've been very busy fundraising, building a campaign organization, preparing flyers and door hangers, ordering signs, etc.

Many of you have been helping them with their campaigns. I watched as more than a dozen volunteers helped Steve Baugh and then another group did the same for Gwyn Franson for hours during evenings. But this is not unusual. The candidates tell me that people in their districts are giving time and money to assist them in their campaigns.

Thank you. Thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedules to get better representation for yourselves and for all of us. The people of Utah ultimately will be grateful for providing them with legislators who actually represent us, the people, rather than a small group of elites or their fellow ideological extremists.

For those of you who have not helped yet, please go to the website of your candidate

and offer your help. The weblink is available from our county party website—[utahcountydems.com](http://utahcountydems.com)—by going to the link for candidates. There are few parts of the county where we don't have either a house or senate candidate for you to work with. In those cases, choose another candidate to help or contact Kathy Cook, our secretary, and volunteer to help the party.

The candidates and the party also may be calling you to help. We know all of us have busy schedules. Even a few hours of help at some point during the campaign—walking your neighborhood handing out literature for your candidate, phone calling for him or her, or just talking to your neighbors and friends—would help.

Let me take a moment to reflect and say that the outpouring of support for the party and the individual candidates so far is amazing. Hundreds of people have donated to our candidates. Thousands of hours of time already have gone out to assist these candidates.

I'm in a privileged position. First, I was able to watch as the party recruited wonderful candidates who agreed to the call to become involved as the standard-bearer for the party in their respective districts. Then, I saw some of the announcements and watched as friends and neighbors rallied around the new candidate to give them moral support as they began their trek across an unknown landscape—an electoral campaign! I've seen dollars pour in for our candidates from so many people in the county and across the state. Several of our candidates have reached the point where they are financially competitive with their opponents and can blunt the incumbent's message machine and organization with their own. And more recently, I've seen volunteers come out to assist these good candidates.

It is good to remember how far we've come this year. It helps us redouble our efforts to push towards the end and make the difference we all want to make this year. Thanks for all you have done, are doing, and yet will do.

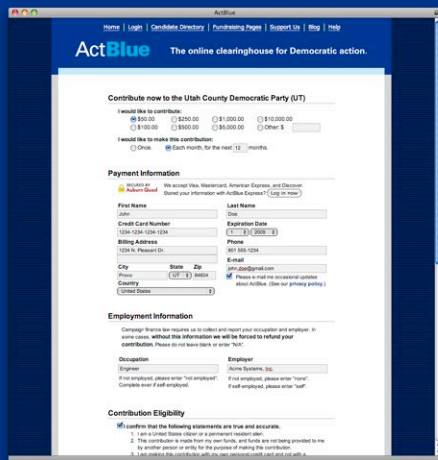
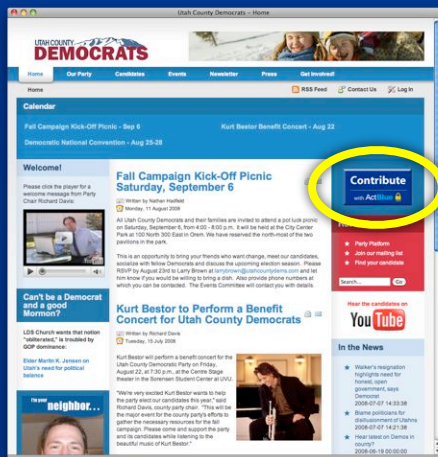
# Contributing with ActBlue

If you haven't yet heard about ActBlue, the web site for donating to Democratic organizations across the country, you need to check it out!

ActBlue was founded in 2004 by Benjamin Rahn, a doctoral student at Caltech, and Matt DeBergalis, a computer science graduate from MIT, as a political action committee with the objective of enabling anyone in the country to donate any amount to any Democratic candidate or organization, without fees.

Since then, ActBlue has quickly grown to become a major source of funding for Democratic candidates. This election, ActBlue is on track to raise a total of over \$100 million for candidates across the country.

Using ActBlue to make a donation to the Utah County Democratic Party and to any of our candidates is safe and simple. Simply go to <http://utahcountydems.com> and click the Contribute With ActBlue link on the homepage.



You will be taken to a Contribute page with several options. You can make a one-time donation or a recurring donation. You can donate to the Utah County Democratic Party and let the party disburse your contribution to candidates as needed, or you can donate to a specific candidate of your choice.

All major credit cards are accepted. Payment information is sent through a secure connection.

When making your contribution, you will be given an opportunity to leave a tip for the ActBlue development team. This is entirely optional, but it is the only way ActBlue is funded, so a small donation is encouraged.

So far, ActBlue has proven to be a very successful tool for contributing to our county party and our candidates. In fact, the Utah County party has raised twice as much on ActBlue as Salt Lake County, and nearly twice as many people have given through ActBlue as have given to any other county.

If you haven't yet used ActBlue to make a contribution, please do so today. Our candidates need your support!



# Candidates Spotlight

## Deon Turley

House District 61



Deon Turley is a Provo wife and mother of seven children. She has been an active volunteer in many organizations, mostly dealing with children and education. She currently serves as secretary to the Utah Academy of Sciences,

Arts, and Letters, which is a non-profit organization serving colleges and universities in Utah. She has been an active leader in PTA, most recently as the 2007-2008 president of the Provo Council PTA serving all the local PTA units in Provo City.

Deon was raised in Ogden and worked for a short time in the Weber County Clerks office as clerk to the County Commissioners. She attended BYU where she met and married Steve Turley in 1978. She received a Bachelors Degree in Mathematics. She and her husband lived in Massachusetts and California during the first years of their marriage.

As a full-time mother and part-time community volunteer, Deon welcomed foster children into the family, primarily newborns awaiting adoption. In addition, the Turley family has opened their home to seven foreign students over the years, one of whom lived with them for as long as two years.

Deon developed teaching and leadership skills in both stake and ward assignments in Primary and Relief Society auxiliaries at her church.

Deon gained insights into small business ownership when she established a sewing school for children. As the business grew, she hired and trained teachers in three locations. She sold the business to employees when

she and her family moved to Utah four years later.

A resident of Provo since 1995, Deon feels that community involvement is not only a duty but a joy. Often this involvement has been linked to the interests of her children. For example, when her daughter wanted to participate in a cadet squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, Deon stepped forward to become the chartering commander of the Phantom Cadet Squadron in Provo. She has also enjoyed work with the local Cub Scouts as a den leader, the Boy Scouts as a troop committee chair, and with Four-H on a Multi-media Communications/History project.

The decision to run for the State House of Representatives is another example of her willingness to step up and serve the community. She is anxious that the people of Legislative District 61 be represented, and welcomes your support in her campaign to serve them.

## Boyd Petersen

House District 64



Boyd Petersen is a fifth-generation Provo resident. Some of his great grandparents were among the first pioneers in Provo. He was born in the Utah Valley Regional Hospital, attended Utah valley schools, and graduated from Timpview High School.

He grew up with a deep connectedness with Utah valley, borne of his pioneer roots and a love for the valley's beauty. That love was nourished while fishing in Utah lakes, hunting in Utah's mountains, and exploring Utah's scenic byways. He served an LDS

mission to Paris, France, and returned to attend Brigham Young University, where he met his future wife, the former Zina Nibley, daughter of Phyllis and the late Hugh Nibley.

During his final semester of college, Boyd served an internship for the U.S. House of Representatives, and then graduated with a degree in French and International Relations. He went on to work as non-designated (i.e., non-partisan) staff for the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and then as a Senior Information Specialist for the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress.

At CRS, Boyd proved his ability to work with members of Congress and their staff from both sides of the aisle, and received two Special Service Awards, a Meritorious Service Award, and a letter of appreciation from the Librarian of Congress. While working for Congress, Boyd pursued a Master's degree in Comparative Literature from the University of Maryland.

After eight years in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, the Petersen family moved back to Provo, where his wife began teaching at BYU and Boyd began teaching at Utah Valley State College. He later received his PhD from the University of Utah (don't worry; he's still a Cougars fan), and now teaches for the Honors Program at BYU as well as Utah Valley University. He was awarded a Faculty Excellence Award from the college of Humanities at UVSC.

Boyd is the author of the award-winning biography, *Hugh Nibley: A Consecrated Life*. He has served on the board of directors for the Association of Mormon Letters, Mormon Scholars in the Humanities, and the literary journal *Segullah*.

Boyd and Zina are the parents of four children, Mary, Christian, Nathanael, and Andrew.

## Utah needs a few more good 'educrats'

Daily Herald, June 11, 2008  
Deon Turley

A newspaper recently carried letter to the editor that commented on the large numbers of opposition candidates vying for a seat in the state legislature. Noting that many were from the teaching profession, it warned against the election of "educrats" who wanted to take over the legislature.

Certainly there is a strong showing of the education community in the field of candidates this year. I see it as a natural response to the legislature's arrogant disregard of constituents' support of public education.

I was, however, fascinated by the term "educrat". It isn't found in the dictionary and the word itself sounds like something spat on the ground. Who would want a title like that?

If having a commitment to public education makes me an educrat, it is a label I'll gladly accept. If recognizing the need for excellence in institutions of higher education in the state, and wanting to fund them sufficiently makes me an educrat, I admit to it. If efforts to provide everyone literacy training and educational opportunity would make me an educrat, sign me up.

Statistically, Utah is the youngest state in the nation. Families are large and school-age children make up a large percentage of our population. Young people left to popular media, television and advertising, won't find training for informed citizenship. Preparation for their emergence into responsible adulthood requires a large investment.

It is well-established that education is power – not only measured in earning capacity but in ability to control one's own life. We want our children to understand how to function in an increasingly complex world. The educated citizen is more likely to tell a good idea from a bad one, a trustworthy steward from a swindler. Parents play the greatest role in raising their children. Most families rely on public schools to

help them teach their children to become independent, thoughtful individuals.

Our society also invests in the future through education. Public schools should prepare children to become productive, informed citizens. We all benefit when doctors know how to operate, architects can design a building well, and engineers create planes, trains, and cars that get us where we need to go in a safe manner.

The training of teachers has never been better. They are being prepared to teach a wide range of children with various individual challenges, family circumstances, and cultural backgrounds.

The administrators of public schools and state institutions of higher education shoulder responsibilities that are comparable to CEO's of large businesses in terms of employee management, legal navigation, contract negotiations, capital investments, and the logistical maze of governmental requests, requirements, and restrictions.

The biggest difference between schools and business enterprises is that business generates its own income; public education must rely on public revenue controlled by elected officials.

Our state legislators show their commitments by what they are willing to **nurture, support, and entrust.**

**Nurturing** the education community means giving them manageable class sizes. The current student to teacher ratios in Utah are among the highest in the nation. This means our students get the lowest levels of individual attention of any group of public school students in the country.

**Supporting** the education community means providing the funds necessary to do the job. That hasn't happened in our state. Public school employees in Utah are among the lowest paid in the nation. Per-pupil funding of education continues to place Utah at the bottom of the stack, relative to every other state in the nation.

**Trusting** the education community means allowing parents, teachers, and administrators at the local level to control their budgets and curriculum. In this year's legislative session a big part of the increased education funding went to specific state-defined programs. School

officials who see, at close range, the needs of the students and employees, are constantly shuffling budget categories to meet the requirements of earmarked funding.

The effects of this neglect take years to emerge but they are showing up now. Scores that show preparation for post-high school training are dropping and measurements of technical understanding among Utah's population are showing a decline. This trend must stop. To scrimp on education is to leave the next generation unprepared for the challenges of a complex world.

We must be willing to nurture, support, and trust the education community. Our legislature could use a few more educrats who will do that.

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*Deon Turley is running as a Democratic candidate for the Utah State Legislature for House District 61. She was president of the Provo Council PTA for 2007-2008 and currently serves as secretary to the Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters. She and her husband Steve reside in Provo and have seven children.*

## Vaughn R Cook joins leadership team as party treasurer

Vaughn R Cook recently succeeded Kristin Gerdy as Treasurer of the Utah County Democratic Party. We are sincerely grateful to Kristin for the expertise and countless hours of service she contributed to the party.

Vaughn is a native of Utah, born in Logan, and a graduate from USU. He holds a doctors degree in Oriental Medicine and has practiced in Utah. He is currently the President of ZYTO

Corp, a software company located in Orem. He is a past chair of the Utah County Democratic Party and believes firmly in the need for greater political balance.



As the husband of Kathryn Cook, he shares the same children and grandchildren and passion for life.

Vaughn can be contacted at (801) 356-0290 or [vrc@utahcountydems.com](mailto:vrc@utahcountydems.com).

### COUNTY-PLATFORM CORNER

#### AGRICULTURE, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

*As Utah County Democrats we believe we must balance the food and environmental needs of the people of our county. We call for improving farmers' income, monitoring agribusiness, and promoting conservation, as well as supporting enterprises and cooperatives that will help our farmers gain a greater share of the food dollar in our markets.*

*We recognize the value of green space and the importance of agriculture in a healthy living environment. We believe we should maintain a healthy and sustainable ecosystem supporting a balanced wildlife population with adequate winter and summer range.*

*We call for the protection of wilderness along with the right of access to use it responsibly for hunting, fishing, other recreational activities, and multiple uses that do not endanger our natural resources. We also call for the protection of Utah Lake and our canyons.*

*The entire platform of the Utah County Democratic Party is available online at <http://utahcountydemocrats.com>.*

## Fundraising dinner a great success

The county party's recent fundraising dinner was a great success. Scott Matheson delivered a stirring speech urging Utah County Democrats to press forward in changing politics in Utah County. Over 70 people attended and the party raised \$2900.



Many thanks go out to the fundraising committee, who organized the dinner and recruited people to attend. The committee has been instrumental in helping the party raise funds needed to provide services and financial assistance to our candidates.

## Fall Campaign Kick-Off Picnic to be held September 6

All Utah County Democrats and their families are invited to attend a pot luck picnic on Saturday, September 6, from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. It will be held at the City Center Park at 100 North 300 East in Orem. We have reserved the north-most of the two pavilions in the park.

This is an opportunity to bring your friends who want change, meet our candidates, socialize with fellow Democrats and discuss the upcoming election season. Please RSVP by August 23rd to Larry Brown at [larrybrown@utahcountydems.com](mailto:larrybrown@utahcountydems.com) and let him know if you would be willing to bring a dish. Also provide phone numbers at which you can be contacted. The Events Committee will contact you with details.



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**Richard Davis** — Chair  
**Larry Brown** — Vice Chair  
**Kathryn Cook** — Secretary  
**Vaughn R Cook** — Treasurer

### Public Relations

Please contact Janita Anderson at [presssecretary@utahcountydems.com](mailto:presssecretary@utahcountydems.com)

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