

Achieving the goal of quality public education for every child in Utah will require every one of us to take action. Take the time to learn, vote and act on behalf of our children's future.



## Don't miss the bus! Support your public schools.

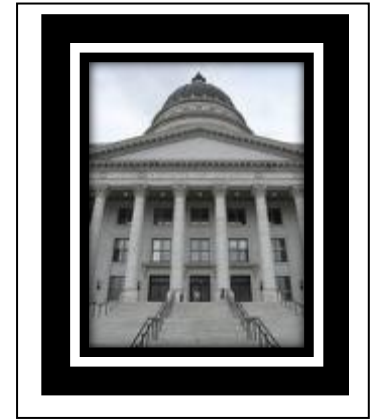
Understand key issues and decisions that impact Utah's education system, and make quality education a priority. Together, we can give kids a better education.

UTPS Mission— In order to advance the quality of public education through improved state and local policymaking, UTPS will: prepare and disseminate accurate, timely information; support well-informed public engagement; and advocate for ethical and transparent governance.



## Utahns for Public Schools

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## Utahns for Public Schools

## Candidate Selection Guide

Great Public Schools begin at the ballot box

<http://utahnsforpublicschools.org/>

# Questions for Candidates

## Public Education & Other Supports

A quality public education requires the assurance of basic physical needs: shelter; nutrition; physical safety; sleep; and exercise. Quality education begins at an early age with the development of cognitive and social skills. A candidate who supports education will have a clear position on a wide range of health and other children's issues.

- What proposals, if any, do you offer for public programs to support underserved children?
- What is your position on the value and importance of public education?
- What are your top priorities for improving public education?

## Responsibility for Public Schools

How well students achieve is only partly determined by students themselves. Schools play an important role, and elected officials at every level have some say in how schools are run and who is held responsible for student achievement. Strong education candidates understand the role their offices play in public education, and should be able to articulate what they will do to improve school quality.

- Who do you think should be responsible for ensuring that public schools operate effectively and children achieve?
- If elected, what responsibility and authority would you have for public education?
- What do you believe are the best ways to evaluate school and student performance?
- How would you evaluate teacher quality?

## Paying for Public Schools

Most candidates for office support quality and improvement in public education, but their proposals for how to pay for public education vary widely. A strong education candidate should have developed a viable plan for school funding.

- What are your views on how much is spent on public education and whether this amount is adequate?
- What changes, if any, would you make to the existing education funding structure?

- What programs and areas do you consider most vital and deserving of the highest protection from budget cuts?
- How would you fund the program and policy changes you are proposing?
- Do you have any tax proposals to offer for public school funding?
- Do you support generating funds for public education through increased taxes? What type of taxes would you support/oppose?

## Special Programs

- What is your position on bilingual education?
- Do you believe the amount spent for students classified as "special needs" is adequate? What changes would you make, if any, to support these students?
- What is your stance on school choice?
- What is your stance on the adequacy of school facilities?

## PUBLIC EDUCATION NETWORK

Public involvement. Public education. Public benefit.

### About This Guide

This guide presents a list of questions that highlight the most pressing concerns and issues in public education today. Public education is a leading issue in American politics. The information in this guide will inform voters about important education issues, and help voters determine a candidate's stance on public education. There are many possible answers to the questions raised in this guide. No single answer is "correct." The questions help identify the education decisions candidates will have to make if elected, and encourage voters to make ballot selections based on which candidates they believe have the strongest public education agenda.

## Strong Public Education Candidates:

- Know about school reform and ways to improve public schools
- Know: education policy; the federal, state, and local laws that govern public education; and the responsibilities of the desired office
- Make public education a high priority in their political platform
- Solicit opinions and viewpoints from citizens through polling, town meetings, community conversations, and face-to-face discussions
- Have prior experience with public education policy
- Have a clear message about public education priorities
- Have a realistic funding plan to support public education improvements and ensure adequate resources for all schools
- Communicate who will be held accountable for student and school performance