

The Kiser Chronicle

FALL 2008

MY MESSAGE TO YOU

When I first ran for a seat in the Utah legislature my reasoning was simple: I believed citizens have a responsibility to “give back” to their communities through public service.

Nothing since has changed my mind. Public service is rewarding in that it offers an opportunity to truly make a difference.

As when I first ran, I have **no personal agenda**. Neither do I have all the answers or solutions.

But I can say that the vast majority of legislators—both Republicans and Democrats—take their roles seriously. The issues are not easy; changing a statute or a law to help

rectify a given problem often has an unforeseen impact on something or someone else.

For this reason, I take the time to study potential legislation and call upon affected parties for their input. Especially important are the constituents of House District 41. Through surveys, email updates and town meetings, I **consistently solicit your views**. Usually we agree, but even when we don't I feel the responsibility to thoroughly

explain my reasons for supporting or opposing a particular measure.

If there is a problem with our country's political environment, it is excessive partisanship. **Our challenges are too great** to reject the ideas or advice from someone simply because they have a different political persuasion or party label.

The Nov. 4 election is not about the past; it's about the future. But we can look to past actions and results to give us a

roadmap for the future.

I am fortunate to represent men and women with drive, intellect and an entrepreneurial tradition. Your kind comments are indeed the best thing about my service in the Utah Legislature.

We will not always agree on everything, but we all want the **best for our economy and our families**. We want Utah to continue to be a model for other states.

Together we can see challenges not as problems, but as opportunities for a well-positioned state and people.



REP. TODD KISER

ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT

I am proud to have been selected by my colleagues to chair the Ethics Committee.

I firmly support **full disclosure** of any and all lobbyist expenditures. It is vital that the public be well-informed as to the actions and the voting record of their legislators.

HERE'S SOME GOOD NEWS

Utah continues to be a national leader in economic strength. Here are just a few examples:

- **Best Managed State** in the country (Governing Magazine); one of only two states receiving an **'A' for governance** (World Magazine).
- **AAA bond rating**—one of only a handful of states
- **\$100 million for public education** was proactively set aside in the last session so school funding wouldn't be hurt by an economic downturn
- **Cash rather than debt** was used to build new state buildings, and previous state bonds for construction have been reduced by \$19 million, a 23% decrease.
- **The Rainy Day Fund**, nearly depleted six years ago, has grown to \$414 million.

WATCHING THE PENNIES



Since 2005, we have **decreased state taxes** by \$320 million.

Government **must be accountable** to the taxpayers. Individual departments must be required to regularly justify their budgets, and we should review all state regulations with an eye to eliminate any unnecessary or unwieldy government intrusion.

WHAT I WILL DO

EDUCATION

Working with you I will

- Give local school districts greater control
- Give parents more choice in meeting the needs of their children's education
- Reduce the class size

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Working with you I will

- Avoid excessive government regulation that can strangle business and stifle job creation
- Promote Utah's highly-educated workforce and quality of life to attract higher-paying jobs

TRANSPORTATION

Working with you I will

- Create a long-term plan to address statewide transportation needs
- Purchase rights-of-way for future transportation corridor projects
- Make sure local entities are involved in transportation plans and funding.

TAXATION

Working with you I will

- Maintain a broad tax base and lower the effective rate during times of budget surplus
- Hold state expenditures to the rate of inflation and population growth

BASIC FREEDOMS

Working with you I will

- Uphold our 2nd Amendment rights
- Fight to protect the fundamental rights of property owners
- Reduce the level of government intrusion in our personal and business lives
- Emphasize personal responsibility and individual rights



PUBLIC EDUCATION

All of you recognize that Utah's high birthrate creates an enormous challenge in funding public education. Yet we must meet the challenge since our economic goals are directly linked to a well-educated workforce.

I can assure you that we as **lawmakers have not "failed" education.** Take a look at what we've done just in the past two sessions:

- We've increased total education funding by \$1.15 billion, **an increase of 45%!**
- We've increased the per student spending (commonly known as the value of the Weighted Pupil Unit) by 17%, **one of the highest in the 50 states.**
- We've funded for the enrollment of approximately **54,800 new students** in our public school system.
- We've provided salary increases to teachers, including \$4,200 in **direct pay raises to each educator**, with an additional \$14 million to retain and attract

quality teaching in hard-to-hire fields of math, science and special education.

- We've used \$60 million in one-time revenue to boost **education technology.**

- We've appropriated \$30 million for a four-year pilot program focused on optional extended day kindergarten, especially helpful to **single-family parents** and those below the poverty line.

Will we have to do more? Yes. In the next decade **our public schools will have 100,000 more students than they do now** and we must continually address the need for smaller class sizes to help students learn more effectively.

Education is not a cost. It's an investment in the lives of our families and the future of our state. As your representative, I will continue to advocate for increased funding without hamstringing the economy or boosting your tax rates.

GETTING TO KNOW REP. TODD KISER



Rep. Kiser chairs two important committees: Transportation and Ethics.

He uses his background in finance and insurance to seek solutions for health-care reform to reduce premiums and make medical care more affordable and accessible.

He and his wife Julie are the parents of nine children and 10 grandchildren.

He's sincere about his service in the Utah legislature.

8 THINGS YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW ABOUT REP. TODD KISER

- He doesn't like his curly hair.
- He likes to BBQ Sunday dinner.
- He is a Dr. Pepper man.
- He doesn't like to sing unless he's playing his guitar.
- He loses his reading glasses on the freeway.
- He likes to ride bikes, watch skateboarding and ride his motorcycle.
- He bakes bread weekly.
- He regularly donates blood.

ECONOMIC EXPANSION: NO QUICK FIX

There is no “quick fix” to economic expansion. Actions we take today may not bear fruit until many years later.

I am reminded of a **Dilbert** cartoon in which a character is enthusiastic about attending a seminar, for a “nominal fee”, he’ll be taught the mechanics of “turning \$100 into a million dollars.” In the final cartoon panel, he sees the results of his “tuition.” The seminar consists of nine words: “Invest \$100 at 5% and wait 190 years!”

If we are to expand the size for our economy, we must **control the size of government** while pursuing greater household incomes through privatization and economic competitiveness.

“Business as usual” is usually not good business, especially when it comes to government. We must think “outside of the box,” plant the seeds and then await the harvest.

RONALD REAGAN ON FREEDOMS

Ronald Reagan once said the America in which he grew up was less complicated but values were much the same.



Families, he said, wanted **the opportunity to succeed.**

Like Pres. Reagan, I believe individuals are in a much better position to make positive decisions for their families than the government ever will be. The key to empowering people is freeing them to keep more of their money within an infrastructure that allows people to compete, innovate and rise to the top.



TRANSPORTATION

Improving transportation is more than a convenience to motorists. A system of accessible highway and roads is essential to a thriving economy; customers need to be able to quickly drive to businesses, and firms need to have goods delivered to their stores.

As **chair of the Transportation Committee**, Rep. Todd Kiser has made sure District 41 has received its share of funding for major projects.

A few examples:

- **700 East** has been widened from Segoe Lily Drive to 106th South, with funding to extend to 123rd South (2010)
- **106th/104th South** has been widened from State Street to Redwood Road, with funding to extend to Bangerter Highway
- **123rd South** has been widened from 7th East to Bangerter Highway
- **State Street** was widened from 90th to 106th South
- An interchange (114th South) and widening to Bangerter Highway has been funded (2010)

Working with area legislators, Rep. Kiser helped secure a \$70 million donation of land for the Mountain View Corridor. **He opposes making the Mountain View Corridor a toll road**, and has been successful in ensuring that construction will begin on the southern end to help Salt Lake County residents.

A RECENT REMINDER...

It has been nearly 14 years ago that Mike Leavitt, then a candidate for Utah Governor, made the following statement about our quality of life.

I believe he was right then...

And I believe his words still ring true today:

We must achieve economic progress without sacrificing what makes Utah unique—our quality of life. Next to our people, it is our greatest asset. If we do not preserve what we have and keep our skies blue and our streams pure, we will be judged harshly by future generations.

Quality of life must be a top priority.

With Utah poised for major growth and its attendant problems, the only way to retain our enviable lifestyle is to focus on quality, not quantity. More low-paying jobs, clogged freeways and dirty air do not represent progress.

Among Utah’s assets are our mountains, forests, deserts, rivers and streams. We have tremendous recreational opportunities only minutes away from where we live.

We have abundant wildlife and gorgeous scenery. Our arts, cultural and sports opportunities are world-class. We have what many states lack, and we must protect these assets or fail in our stewardship. The key to this protection will be our emphasis on quality jobs, quality businesses and quality opportunities. We don’t need to be cheaper; we only have to be better.



“Thank you for your support. I’d appreciate your vote in the Tuesday, Nov. 4 election.”

CONTACT INFORMATION

Home Tele: 571-0179

Email: toddk@insurancenetworklc.com

Address: 10702 South 540 East
Sandy, Utah 84070

Paid by the Utah Republican Party
Authorized by the candidate
www.utgop.org
117 East South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Salt Lake City, UT
Permit No. 1863

“As an example of sound fiscal management, we have significantly expanded funding to transportation and education yet still passed \$320 million in tax relief since 2005. I’d appreciate your vote to continue conservative budget principles while meeting the challenges of our growing state.”



—Todd Kiser