

The Kiser Chronicle

FALL 2010

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. 2 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.

At the same time, I deplore those who paint all elected officials with a broad brush as being unethical.

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
- Rated as one of the **first states to emerge from the current economic recession**
- **Job Growth**—“Through thick and thin, Utah outperformed almost all other states in employment growth. It has **created 12,200 jobs** over the past year and will certainly be among the high growth states in 2011” (COMRE.com)
- **Outlook**—“Number One State in the U.S.” for economic outlook due to government practices. (Rich States/Poor States report to the ALEC)

CONFRONTING THE ISSUE



Facing a 2010 budget shortfall, the Legislature trimmed state spending.

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
- Support initiatives that promote the best education for our children.

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

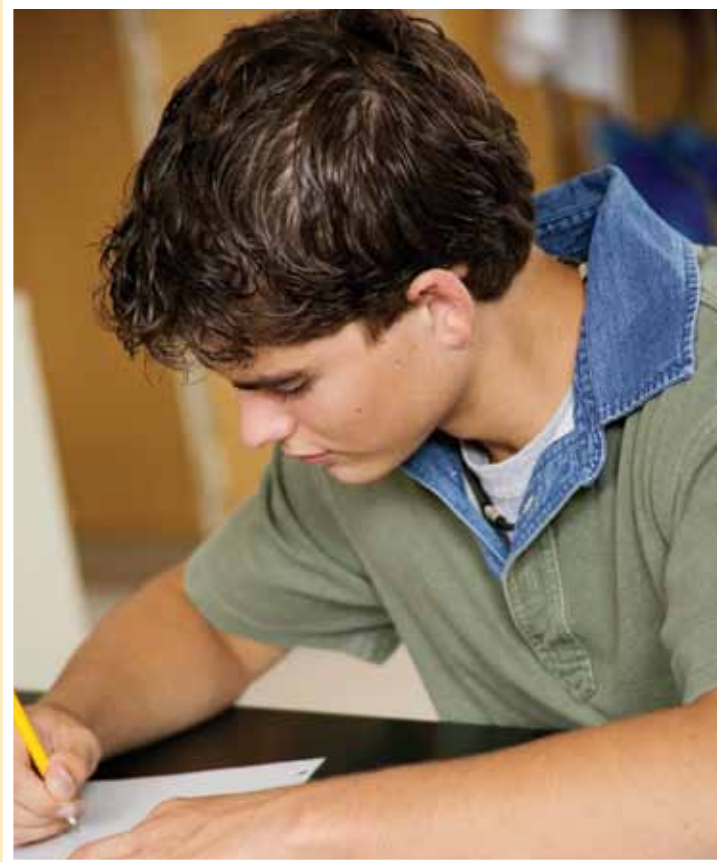
Working with you I will

- Maintain a broad tax base and continue to vote against tax increases
- 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

Some of you don't realize that 100% of the state income tax goes to public education. Yet I still hear some complaining that Utah's legislators "fail" our teachers and our students.

Let's be honest: with the fourth highest birthrate in the nation, the youngest median age in the country, and in the middle of U.S. states for family income, Utah will never lead the country in the most dollars per student. Funding public education will continue to be a challenge for Utah, especially during periods of recession and decreasing tax payments.

In the past session of the Legislature, state budgets were almost uniformly cut but education was **essentially held harmless** since we recognized its importance not only to our families but also our economy. We also appreciate the great work of our teachers and staff who, when compared to funding levels in other states, pro-

duce some of the highest academic scores on national tests.

Despite difficult economic times, the Utah Legislature has over the past three sessions:

- Increased total education funding by over \$1 billion
- Provided new monies for direct pay raises for teachers, including special funds to attract and retain instructors in hard-to-hire fields of math, science and special education.
- Appropriated funds for pilot programs in extended kindergarten (especially helpful for single-family parents) and boosts in educational technology.

I firmly believe that 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 be an advocate for funding education without doing harm to the overall economy or increasing your tax rates.

GETTING TO KNOW REP. TODD KISER



Rep. Kiser chairs an important committee: Revenue and Taxation.

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 19 grandchildren.

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

FROM THE HEADLINES...

★ Staffwriters Lee Davidson and Bob Bernick of the **Deseret News** wrote the following:

- "Smart legislators know how to work the process to get their bills passed.
- Rep. Todd Kiser, R-Sandy, passed 100% of his bills—six for six.
- He scored a rare double-double in 2008. He also managed to attend all his votes in his legislative committees, the only lawmaker to pass all of his bills and have a perfect committee voting record."

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.

If we are to expand the size of 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.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Illegal immigration has become a “flashpoint” issue in Utah and other Western states. Decisions must be made with a careful evaluation of facts, not shrill rhetoric.

In facing its own set of problems, the State of Arizona enacted a law which many criticize. However, Arizona’s elected officials took a look at what was happening inside their boundaries and at least **attempted to deal with the issue** rather than sidestepping the controversy as the federal government has.

In reviewing pending legislation in Utah, we must balance compassion and the needs of agriculture and certain other industries with rule of law and impact on crime and job creation. **There’s no easy fix—but we cannot mimic the federal government and do nothing.**

I support securing our national borders and strictly punishing those involved in identity theft and gang-related crime. I will view immigration-related legislation in that context. The Legislature cannot shirk its responsibility to address the controversy.

TODD KISER



Todd presents legislation from the floor of the House Chamber

Experienced Legislator

Todd uses a principled approach to studying bills and issues at the Legislature. As an indicator of this leadership, he was selected to chair the Ethics Committee.

Active in Community and Scoutmaster

He has been active in Scouting for over 20 years, believing the Boy Scouts teach young men the values of service and self-sacrifice. He’s also served on the Sandy City Planning Commission, and was named an Honorary Colonel by the Sandy City Police.



Todd presents an Eagle Award to his son Josh.



Todd participates in the Salt Lake County Fire School.

Advocate for Public Safety

He believes government has a vital and constitutional role in providing public safety for individuals and neighborhoods.

Business Owner

As a business owner, Todd has been an advocate for less regulation to promote a stronger economy. He was recognized for legislative achievement by the National Federation of Small Business.



Todd serves his clients as a professional insurance agent



Strong Supporter of the National Guard and Military

Todd was instrumental in securing funding for the National Guard Tuition Assistance program to help retain our dedicated men and women.



Todd with son Rob, a 2nd Lieutenant in the Navy.



RONALD REAGAN INSPIRED US WITH HIS VISION

One of my greatest heroes is Ronald Wilson Reagan, our 40th president.

I have very vivid memories of the early days of his presidency. It was a tough time. We had just made it through Vietnam, Watergate, the oil crisis, runaway inflation, and the Iran hostage crisis. We needed a leader who could make us feel good about being Americans again. Reagan was that leader.

There’s a saying in Zen Buddhism: “When the student is ready, the teacher appears.” In 1980, we were the students and Ronald Reagan was the teacher. He reestablished a much-needed ethos of personal responsibility, love of country, morality, justice, opportunity, individual freedom and respect for the law – principles that became unfashionable during the previous decade.

Reagan understood that individuals are in a much better position to make good decisions for themselves and their families than the government will ever be. He knew that the key to empowering people was to free them of threats, both foreign and domestic, let them keep more of their own money, and create an atmosphere in which motivated individuals can compete, innovate and rise to the top.

President Reagan’s example inspired thousands of people to enter politics and shape the philosophy of good government.

Government should not usurp the roles best carried out by local governments, families, religious organizations and the private sector.

Government does not exist to make us all equal; instead, it exists to create an environment in which we are free to make ourselves better. Or, to paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, Governments are instituted among Men to secure our rights to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

—*Taking a Stand*

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“It has been my pleasure to serve each of you for the past eight years. I have met and worked with many of you and have found our district to be informed, involved and dedicated to making our community a better place to live for ourselves and for our children.

Together we have made a difference. There are many challenges ahead, but we do have the wisdom and ability to master them as we have in the past. Keeping our budget balanced is always a difficult task for the legislature.

I am committed to working towards the best possible distribution of state resources. Important to our economic stability is maintaining a friendly environment for businesses to grow and relocate to our state. We also need to be pro-active in addressing immigration reform. I want to continue serving and working with you in bringing solutions to these and other important issues.”

—Todd

**Endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police for
“demonstrating his commitment to law enforcement and
public safety in general.” Todd has also been endorsed
by the Utah Public Employees Association.**

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