

Candidate Profile for Utah Priorities Project

To be posted on www.utahpriorities.net

Name: Steve Baugh

Office for which you are running: House District 58 (Lindon and Northeast Orem)

If running for a legislative seat, state the district # and whether it is a House or Senate seat:

Political party: Democrat

Birth date: March 28, 1945

Birth place: Port Townsend, WA

Current city of residence: Orem (60 years)

Family members: Wife, Cathy; 8 children; 18 grandchildren

Current occupation: Associate Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, David O. McKay School of Education, Brigham Young University

Education: BS in Mathematics, MEd in Education Administration, EdD in Educational Leadership

Hobbies/Interests: reading, tennis, gardening, Boy Scouting

- 1) Using 150 to 200 words, please state your reasons for running for office. What compels you to take on this responsibility?

I believe I can better represent the people of this district. I will vote for positions that serve the interests of the people in my district, not what furthers my political or personal ambitions. I have lived in Orem nearly all of my life. My wife, Cathy, and I have lived in the same home for 36 years and raised eight children there. I want the best for our homes and families, our neighborhoods and communities. As an active, involved citizen, I am aware that the issues citizens really care about are not adequately addressed by many of our lawmakers. I believe time has come for a change. If elected, I will do my part to bring balance, bipartisanship, and common sense to the Utah Legislature.

- 2) What do you consider to be the top three issues currently facing Utah? Please list them in order of priority to you (with #1 the most important) and explain why they are important to you and to Utah.

#1 Long-term funding for K-12 schooling—It is critical that we increase our ability to recruit and retain qualified teachers and to decrease class sizes in our K-12 schools. We can not do this without increased funding. Without qualified teachers, our children are at risk of not gaining the education they need for proper citizenship and quality of life. The plan must be long-term; we will not make substantial progress in this with a year or two of average salary increases. We didn't become the state with the lowest per pupil spending and highest class sizes in a year or two and we will not get out of this dilemma in a year or two. This condition has existed for decades and is not acceptable in a state that values children and families like Utahns do.

#2 Safe and reliable transportation, including additional mass transit and commuter rail—Gridlock on I-15 and other major arteries negatively affects the ability of our citizens to get to work, to school, and personal and family activities. The quality of life in our communities decreases. Gas prices soar and family income is seriously challenged. The air our children breathe is increasingly toxic.

#3 Quality healthcare and affordable health insurance—Estimates are that 300,000 Utahns are without adequate health insurance. 90,000 of these are children. Without affordable health insurance, our citizens do not seek healthcare until it reaches a crisis. Then the alternative is a hospital emergency room at higher costs. With quality healthcare and affordable insurance, our citizens can reduce healthcare costs, increase their own productivity, and enjoy the quality of life they deserve.

3) What do you plan to do to address your top three issues?

#1 The percentage of the state budget approved for K-12 education is being eroded. I would work to stop this and reverse it if possible. In addition, funding should be appropriated for increased compensation for our educators and for class size reduction and not for special interest programs such as soft-ware for pre-schoolers, as desirable as this may be. With limited funding, appropriations need to be targeted.

#2 I would work to speed the improvements to I-15, to the construction of additional commuter rail, and additional mass transit in our communities. I would work with others to find appropriate incentives for car-pooling on I-15.

#3 I would work with others to fully fund the state's Children's Health Insurance Program. I would support measures to assist small businesses to provide adequate health insurance for their employees.

4) What are your most important accomplishments that would make you the most qualified candidate for office?

- I understand K-12 education having served for 30 years as a teacher, principal, and superintendent of a large and growing school district (Alpine School District, 1988-2000). I understand school finance. I understand the needs of our educators and our children and their caregivers.
- I have served for many years as a vice president in the Utah National Parks Council, Boy Scouts of America. This has given me experience in working with youth, adult leaders, and an important non-profit organization in our community.
- I have served in a variety of positions in my church which has caused me to be more understanding and caring of people, their successes, and their challenges.

5) What skills, talents, and strengths do you have that enhance your ability to be an effective office holder?

6)

- I care about people. Specifically, I care about what the people in my legislative district and the people of Utah care about—those things that worry them like education, transportation, and healthcare.
- I am a good listener and a good learner. I know a fair amount about a few things but there are a lot of things I know too little about. I will listen, study, and learn to know what I need to know to help our citizens with those things of most concern to them.
- Past experience has helped me develop leadership skills regarding making decisions, solving problems, communication, and judgment.
- I am conscientious, dependable, and hard working.
- I am a man you can trust.

7) Why do you belong to your political party?

Growing up in a family of five children where mom was a full-time homemaker and dad was a school teacher, we didn't have much money. But we had an abundance of love for one another and were taught to be honest, decent, and hard working. My dad said to me when I was in college, "Steve, if you are going to be a school teacher you need to be a Democrat. Governor Lee and Governor Clyde didn't do much for public education and Cal Rampton and Scott Matheson have." Despite these comments, both dad and mom taught us kids to study the issues and vote for person, regardless of party, that we felt best represented the "moderate, mainstream, ordinary citizen." As the years have gone by, I've voted for and worked with political leaders from both parties, but have remained what I'd call a "Utah County Democrat." I like the direction our county party leaders are taking us. I am comfortable with the county party platform. We believe we best represent the values and concerns of the majority of Utah citizens.