

Legislative Ethics Survey Results

Utahns for Ethical Government (UEG) sent the following survey to current candidates for the Utah Senate and Utah House of Representatives. Of the 191 candidates, 69 returned the survey (36%). 71% are challengers, 29% are incumbents.

The survey questions appear below, followed by the answers of candidates, listed by Senate District and then by House District.

Survey Questions

1. Do you support the ethics reform initiative of Utahns for Ethical Government that would establish a strict code of conduct for the Utah Legislature and a genuinely independent ethics commission to advise the Utah Legislature? (The full initiative can be accessed on each subpage of our website under “Full Petition.” www.utahethics.org)
Yes ____ No ____
2. If you answered yes to question number 1, skip to question 4. If you answered no, do you support the initiative if you take into account that if the initiative is passed by the voters, the Legislature itself can amend the initiative to clarify any unintended ambiguity that might cause unintended consequences?
Yes ____ No ____
3. If you do not personally support the ethics initiative, are you nonetheless willing to support the constitutional right of Utah voters to vote on our initiative without new roadblocks from the Legislature?
Yes ____ No ____
4. If you are elected, will you **oppose** changes to Utah’s initiative laws that would make it more difficult for an initiative to get on the ballot (for example, raising the number of signatures required, making electronic signatures invalid)?
Yes ____ No ____
5. If you are elected, would you support lowering the number of Senate Districts or the number of signatures required to place an initiative on the ballot?
Yes ____ No ____

Comments/Clarifications? _____

Name _____

Candidate Responses

*Note that all Senate Districts do not have elections this November.
D = Democratic; R= Republican; L= Libertarian; C= Constitution Party.*

Utah SENATE									
Dist #	Last Name	First Name	Party	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Comments
2	McAdams	Ben	D	YES			YES	YES	
	Nimer	Melvin D.	R	Did Not Respond					
3	Brinton	Lee	R	YES			YES	YES	For years we have been trying to help elected officials understand the perception of corruption associated with unreasonable campaign financing. I think few things discourage voters more than the thought that their representative has been "bought". I hear it over and over as I knock on doors throughout our district. This problem is not unique to any one party. It is an inherent temptation that grows with longevity in office.
	Davis	Gene	D	Did Not Respond					
4	Greer	Doug	R	Did Not Respond					
	Jones	Pat	D	YES		YES	YES	*	* 5. I would need more information.
5	Fidler	Samuel	R	Did Not Respond					
	Mayne	Karen	D	Did Not Respond					
	Peverelle, Jr.	Jim	C	Did Not Respond					
7	Johnson	Eric K.	R	NO	NO	NO	YES	*	1. You can't legislate ethical behavior; 2. I've never been elected to office, and I can't speculate as to how a legislative body operates. It would be arrogant and unfair to pass rules for a process I may not fully understand. *5. I don't know.
	Romero	Ross I.	D	YES			YES	YES	1. However, if passed there would likely be some changes to some of the initiative language; 4. I think it should be easier to get issues on the ballot, not harder; 5. Again I think it should be easier for the people to have a direct say on issues. Currently the process is too restrictive.
9	Ayres	Tyler	D	Did Not Respond					
	Niederhauser	Wayne	R	Did Not Respond					
11	Hogue	Dave	D	YES			YES	YES	
	Stephenson	Howard A.	R	Did Not Respond					
12	Goodfellow	Brent	D	Did Not Respond					
	Thatcher	Daniel W.	R	Did Not Respond					
15	Barney	Linnea	D	YES			YES	YES	One of the biggest problems I see in the legislature is its continuing effort to gather all power unto itself.
	Dayton	Margaret	R	Did Not Respond					

17	Kent	Richard "Rick"	D	Did Not Respond					
	Knudson	Peter C.	R	Did Not Respond					
	Phipps	Sherry	C	Did Not Respond					
18	Reid	Stuart C.	R	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	
	Sawyer	Betty	D	Did Not Respond					
21	Marcus	Vincent C. III	L	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	If elected, I would propose a law that would require the State Elections Office [to] host a website for electronic petitions. I would also work to establish fair redistricting standards and more representative voting systems.
	Schofield	Sarah	D	YES			NO	YES	
	Stevenson	Jerry W.	R	Did Not Respond					
22	Adams	J. Stuart	R	Did Not Respond					
	Hansen	David A.	C	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	The Utah State Tax Commission office posts a sign that states clearly that NO gifts may be given to tax commission employees. This policy should apply to legislators as well. However, this initiative will allow a tiny group of self-appointed unelected bureaucrats to destroy good people that are in office with false accusations and keep others from wanting to run out of fear of being falsely maligned. This initiative unconstitutionally puts the burden of proof of innocence on the accused. Initiatives are generally a terrible way to make law. If relaxing the laws pertaining to initiatives leads to more such bad (unconstitutional) laws, then I would oppose such relaxation.
	Parker	Charlie	D	YES			YES	YES	
26	Dowland	Paul	D	Did Not Respond					
	VanTassell	Kevin T.	R	Did Not Respond					
28	Stowell	Dennis E.	R	Did Not Respond					

Utah HOUSE of Representatives

Dist #	Last Name	First Name	Party	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Comments
1	Menlove	Ronda Rudd	R	Did Not Respond					
2	Maddox	Becky	C	Did Not Respond					
	Perry	Lee B.	R	Did Not Respond					
3	Draxler	Jack	R	Did Not Respond					
4	Butterfield	David G.	R	Comment Only					Early in this campaign I made the decision not to fill out questionnaires and surveys regardless of the group. With these surveys, I am often times asked to take a position on specific issues. This is problematic because in many cases I have not had a chance to study all the issues and get input from the voters in my district. Whatever views and feelings I may have, in many cases I feel it is impractical to take positions on specific issues without getting input and perspectives from the voters in district four and studying the issues in light of that.
	Urroz	Gilberto E.	D	Did Not Respond					
5	Pagnucco	Paige	D	Did Not Respond					
	Webb	R. Curt	R	Did Not Respond					
6	Galvez	Brad	R	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	1 . Not as currently written; 2. Let's make sure it's properly drafted before it is passed; 3. As long as the existing requirements are properly met.
	Pales	Benjamin	D	YES			YES	NO	
7	Clemens	Peter Conover	D	YES			YES	NO	
	Wilcox	Ryan D.	R	Did Not Respond					
8	Froerer	Gage	R	Did Not Respond					
	Wheelwright	Alan L	D	YES			YES	YES	
9	Hansen	Neil	D	YES			YES	YES	
	Peterson	Jeremy	R	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	The Ethics Reform initiative as currently constituted is well intended but over reaching and will have unintended consequences. We need simpler, common-sense reforms without creating a complex construct of behavior management for elected officials. Some behaviors should simply be criminalized rather than deemed "unethical". Other perceived misbehavior can be dealt with by the voters at the ballot box. Also, I believe that maintaining the minimum standard for signatures required to get initiatives on the ballot is good policy. I believe that physical rather than electronic signatures should be required due to the ease in which misinformation and popular spirits pervade such a medium.
10	Pitcher	Dixon M.	R	Did Not Respond					
	Rounds	Randy	D	YES			YES	YES	

11	Dee	Brad	R	Did Not Respond					
	Gaskill	Steven	D	YES			YES	YES	
12	Cisney	Larry E.	D	YES			YES	YES	
	Greenwood	Richard A.	R	Did Not Respond					
13	Ray	Paul	R	Did Not Respond					
	Wofford	Ben F.	D	YES			YES	YES	4. Definitely want it easier, not more difficult; 5. I would even suggest reducing the number of Senators and their role in Utah governance.
14	Oda	Curtis	R	Did Not Respond					
	Williams	Christopher S.	D	YES			YES	YES	
15	Tatton	Sherri	D	Did Not Respond					
	Wilson	Brad R.	R	Did Not Respond					
16	Handy	Stephen G.	R	Did Not Respond					
17	Armstrong	David A.	C	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	I am not in favor of initiatives as a practice. The United States and the state of Utah are not democracies, they are constitutional republics. We elect representatives to the state and federal legislatures to make laws. The general public is not a law-making body. If we want higher ethics in our government, then we should elect more ethical people, not try to pass laws to curtail the crooks. We as voters have ultimate control over our representatives if we will exercise it. Let's vote out the unscrupulous politicians and vote in honest, ethical representatives whom we can trust with the public welfare.
	Fisher	Julie	R	Did Not Respond					
18	Barrus	Roger Edward	R	Did Not Respond					
19	Nielson	Jim	R	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	While I agree with many aspects of the initiative, taken in total I cannot support it. The independent, quasi-judicial commission (as Dave Irvine described it) is the thing I am least able to support. A few of the new conflict of interest disclosure requirements also go too far in my view. See my discussion of the subject on my website for more detailed comments at www.jim4utah.com/ethics .
	Watson	Richard	D	YES			YES	YES	I would like to add that Legislative ethics also should address the number of closed door meetings held during the session. This could be easily addressed with a non-partisan panel.
	White	Reldon C.	C	Did Not Respond					
20	Edwards	Becky	R	Did Not Respond					
	Moultrie	Robert G.	C	Did Not Respond					
	Ward	William E.	D	YES			YES	NO	The only change to the initiative process I am in favor of is allowing electronic signatures, other than that I think the process works. Utah should not follow the example of California.
21	Garrard	Jonathan Dee	C	Did Not Respond					
	Gowans	James Ross	D	Did Not Respond					
	Sagers	Douglas	R	Did Not Respond					

22	Duckworth	Susan D.	D	YES			YES	YES	
	Fields	Noel	R	Did Not Respond					
23	Barnes	Richard D. M.	R	Did Not Respond					
	Seelig	Jennifer "Jen"	D	NO	NO	YES	YES	*	2. I'm not sure I agree with making change to legislation after voters have supported specific initiative language; 3. Absolutely; *5 I don't know. I look forward to any discussion that centers around facilitated public participation in government, including more specifically the initiative process. I am just unsure of the specifics of lowering the number of Senate Districts or signature number in the context of the entire initiative process, particularly with the possibility of electronic signatures.
	Sweet	Mark T.	L	YES			YES	NO	Utah has a republic form of government. I would like to keep it that way. Populism can cause trouble with the random action and purpose it tends to promote.
24	Chavez-Houck	Rebecca	D	*NO	*NO	YES	YES	YES	*1. Qualified No; *2 Qualified No; 5. I support the people's right to petition their government by initiative, so I support the initiative's intent and would like to explore loosening the rigors that currently limit the process. However, I believe that a number of provisions within the current initiative are problematic. I strongly encourage my constituents to talk to me about legislative ethics, as I am happy to explore other ideas to improve transparency and accountability. I also feel that it is inappropriate to amend an initiative that has been voted on by the people, as we are then discounting their charge to us.
	Olds	Thomas	C	Did Not Respond					
	Robinson	Nephi J.	R	Did Not Respond					
25	Briscoe	Joel	D	YES			YES	YES	I don't have an alternative at the moment, but I'm not sure that Senate Districts are the most appropriate unit to be used to measure the broadness of the public desire for a vote on an initiative.
	Raile	Rick	R	Did Not Respond					
26	Kendrick	Ben	R	Did Not Respond					<i>Note: late entry to our survey list.</i>
	Litvack	David	D	NO	NO	YES	YES	*	I believe that the Legislature would need to be extremely careful in amending the initiative if it is supported and passed by voters. If voters support the initiative the Legislature must respect the will of the voters and be very cautious in making any amendments that would dilute their will; *5. I am unsure on whether or not the criteria to place an initiative on the ballot should be lowered; particularly, as we consider electronic signatures. I am very open to the dialogue.
27	Dougall	John	R	Did Not Respond					
	Payne	Jenn	D	Did Not Respond					
28	Farley	James W.	R	Did Not Respond					
	King	Brian S.	D	YES					<i>Note: did not answer 4 and 5.</i>
29	Fisher	Janice	D	YES			YES	YES	
	Saddler	Shirene L.	R	Did Not Respond					
30	Biskupski	Jackie	D	Did Not Respond					
	Meli	Sinama	R	Did Not Respond					

31	Sperry	Grace	R	Did Not Respond					
	Wiley	Larry	D	Did Not Respond					
32	Bigelow	Ron	R	Did Not Respond					
	Humberg	Merrill	D	Did Not Respond					
	Schmith	Jennifer	C	Did Not Respond					
33	Hendrickson	Neal	D	Did Not Respond					
	Huntinghouse	John	R	Did Not Respond					
34	Anderson	Johnny	R	Did Not Respond					
	Meaders	Clover	D	YES			YES	YES	I would support slightly relaxing the very stringent requirements on initiatives, but I do think there needs to be some checks and balances on the process. The number of signatures requirement ensures that there is some actual debate on the matter before it reaches the ballot.
35	Alexander	Rob	R	Did Not Respond					
	Travis	Chelsea	L	YES			YES	YES	
	Wheatley	Mark A.	D	Did Not Respond					
36	Arent	Patrice	D	YES			YES	YES	
	Epps	Jason	R	Did Not Respond					
37	Spackman Moss	Carol	D	YES			YES	YES	
	Peterson	Margrethe	R	Did Not Respond					
38	Hutchings	Eric	R	Did Not Respond					
39	Dunnigan	Jim	R	Did Not Respond					
	Kelly	Ryan J.	L	Did Not Respond					
	Peterson	Alan	D	YES			YES	YES	
40	Bateman	Val	R	Did Not Respond					
	Hemingway	Lynn N.	D	YES			YES	YES	
	Johnson	Sandra	L	Did Not Respond					
41	Jackson	John	D	*	*	YES	YES	YES	*1. I studied your ethics initiative some, but not enough to come to a conclusion as to whether I support [it]; 5. After carrying the Fair Boundaries petition door-to-door, and seeing that effort not get enough signatures to get on the ballot, I do feel it[sic]the Legislature has made it too hard for initiatives to get on the ballot.
	Kiser	Todd E.	R	Did Not Respond					
	Woolley	Matt	C	Did Not Respond					
42	Bird	Jim	R	Did Not Respond					

43	Faux	D. Mark	C	Did Not Respond					
	Harper	Wayne A.	R	Did Not Respond					
	Yardley	Brian	D	Did Not Respond					
44	Bradley	Shawn P.	R	Did Not Respond					
	Cosgrove	Tim M.	D	Comment Only				I support the effort of the UEG Ethics Reform Initiative Petition and I believe in the people's right to do so. I believe in Ethics Reform and I have worked very hard to bring about some of those changes and I will continue to do so. I believe elected officials must maintain a high standard of trust and openness, and treat all with respect. Voters should expect their representative to put service before self. I will continue to work to protect the public trust that you, the people, have given me. As your representative, I will continue to fight for legislation which ensures transparency and demands high standards of conduct from our elected officials.	
	Partridge	Erin M.	L	Did Not Respond					
45	Black	Laura	D	YES			YES	YES	
	Eliason	Steven	R	Did Not Respond					
	Perry	David	C	YES			YES	YES	If someone on the committee wanted to go after a certain Legislator (for whatever cause) it would make life for the Legislator very difficult. The committee should have more checks and balances. Ethics conduct and voting needs an overhaul. We need more than just filling out a form and then business as usual. Also, the Constitution gives Legislators rights like everyone else.
46	Clayton	N. William	R	Did Not Respond					
	Poulson	Marie H.	D	YES			YES	YES	I have supported this initiative from the beginning.
47	Ivory	Ken	R	Did Not Respond					
	Rendell	John	D	YES			YES	YES	I carried petitions for District 10 before the campaign season started.
48	Beck	Trisha S.	D	YES			YES	YES	Ethics reform continues to be one of my key issues.
	Christensen	LaVar	R	Did Not Respond					
49	Brown	Derek	R	Did Not Respond					
	Seegmiller	F. Jay	D	YES			YES	*	1. I sign[ed] the petition and even collected signatures; 4. I voted against the bill last session; *5. It would depend on what the changes were. I would not want to make it any more difficult, but it shouldn't be too easy either.
50	Hatch	Russell G.	C	YES			YES	*	*5. I would have to look at your reasoning to lower the number of Senate Districts to make an opinion. I probably would not be averse to lowering the number of signatures required for placing an initiative on the ballot, but I would want to research and see what the numbers are relative to the total and voting population and prior history.
	Newbold	Merlynn T.	R	Did Not Respond					
	Olsen	Gary R.	D	YES			YES	*	*5. Unsure – I'm not familiar with the purpose and benefits. I signed the online version of the petition and yes it should count.

51	Hughes	Greg	R	Did Not Respond					
	Recanzone	Paul	D	YES			YES	NO	To clarify my responses to questions 4 and 5 regarding changing the requirements for ballot initiatives: Citizens initiatives are a very valuable tool of democracy. However, one of the reasons the U.S. and Utah are republics is to force legislators to consider the needs of the minority as well as the majority. While I oppose raising the bar to get an initiative on the ballot, I cannot commit to lowering it. I can commit to working to ensure the state has effective processes in place to accept electronic signatures and that the playing field is level for both sides of an initiative (esp. in the processes for removing signatures).
52	Kruger	Shaun	L	Did Not Respond					
	Reyes	Chad	*U	Did Not Respond				*Unaffiliated	
	Wimmer	Carl D.	R	Did Not Respond					
53	Beutler	Clyde	C	Did Not Respond					
	Brown	Melvin R.	R	Did Not Respond					
	Wright	Glenn J.	D	YES			YES	YES	I hope you are successful in the Supreme Court.
54	Powell	Kraig	R	Did Not Respond					
55	Binyon	Michael L. "Mike"	D	YES			*	YES	*Did not answer # 4.
	Hill	George	L	Did Not Respond					
	Mathis	John G.	R	Did Not Respond					
56	Bonner	Lori A.	D	Did Not Respond					
	Sumsion	Kenneth W.	R	Did Not Respond					
57	Crismon	James E.	D	YES			YES	YES	I support the ethics initiative. It is time our legislators have some boundaries on their conduct.
	Crosby	Curt	C	Did Not Respond					
	Frank	Craig A.	R	Did Not Respond					
58	Baugh	Steve	D	YES			YES	YES	
	Sandstrom	Stephen Eric	R	Did Not Respond					
59	Greet	James	D	YES			YES	YES	
	Peterson	Val	R	Did Not Respond					
60	Daw	Bradley	R	Did Not Respond					
	Keele	Alan	D	YES			YES	YES	
61	Grover	Keith	R	Did Not Respond					
	Turley	Deon	D	YES			YES	YES	Because I carried the UEG petition during the pat year, I pledged to conduct my campaign as if it were already law. This has affected my campaign fund raising but I feel it confirms my dedication to legislative ethics and my list of campaign donors indicates <i>who</i> I plan to represent. The process of legislation by initiative should be available, particularly in the area of legislative ethics. The right to petition government is guaranteed in the Constitution. I will oppose attempts to impede that right.

62	Herrod	Christopher N.	R	Did Not Respond					
	Peterson	Mark	D	YES			YES	YES	
63	Jarvis	Donald K.	D	YES			YES	YES	Ethics reform and redistricting reform are long overdue in Utah. Karl Snow and I with many others worked long and hard in Utah County for the UEG initiative and are delighted that enough signatures were gathered for it to be put on the ballot in 2012.
	Sanpei	Dean	R	Did Not Respond					
64	Lockhart	Becky	R	Did Not Respond					
	Miller	Hal	D	YES			YES	*	*If elected I would be supportive of reducing the number of required signatures were I to study the matter closely and be persuaded that the current requirement is excessive. If this were unachievable without eliminating Senate Districts, that would be a separate matter for study. I am hopeful that the number of required signatures can be reduced without reducing the number of Senate Districts and can envision multiple prospects for doing.
65	Gibson	Francis D.	R	Did Not Respond					
66	Morley	Michael T.	R	Did Not Respond					
67	Painter	Patrick L.	R	Did Not Respond					
	Parkin	Scott	D	Did Not Respond					
	Siufanua	Feleni	C	Did Not Respond					
68	Van Horn	Gary R.	C	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	The right of initiative petition must be protected.
	Wright	Bill	R	Did Not Respond					
69	Watkins	Christine F.	D	Comment Only					I spent many a weekend gathering signatures. Your questions [are] redundant for me. I signed it then put my time into the process which I consider essential for Utah citizens.
70	Brown	L.S.	C	YES			YES	YES	I would need to see the actual legislation before voting.
	McIff	Kay L.	R	Did Not Respond					
71	Last	Brad	R	Did Not Respond					
72	Short	Barry	L	YES			YES	YES	I support making the initiative process easier. I also support making ballot qualifications for independent candidates easier.
	Vickers	Evan	R	Did Not Respond					
73	Noel	Mike	R	Did Not Respond					
74	Clark	David	R	Did Not Respond					
	Jenson	Philip O.	C	Did Not Respond					
	Noble	Cyril H.	D	YES			YES	YES	I have worked for and with Carmen Snow for months gathering signatures. I am campaigning on Ethics reform as part of my ticket. I will be taking a lunch box to my debates and say to the audience; that's all you need in the people's house. Like all the rest of the working people (That's what I represent).
75	Howard	Jerry	D	YES			YES	YES	
	Ipson	Don L.	R	Did Not Respond					