



Primary Election Ballots will be in the Mail Tuesday

The Primary Election starts this week. Davis County will mail out ballots this Tuesday, and you will have 3 weeks to think it over and mail them back in.



The big election will be the Republican Primary for Governor. Jonathan Johnson is running against Gary Herbert. If you are looking for information to make up your mind, [you can visit Governor Herbert's Campaign Website here](#) and [Jonathan Johnson's Website here](#).

I will be supporting Governor Herbert. I think he has done a good job as Governor. He has strong principles that he stands up for but is careful to listen to all points of view as he makes policy. He has made support for education a central priority of his administration. The state has prospered economically under his tenure and I feel fortunate to have a leader of his caliber as our Governor.

The other race on the ballot will be for the Republican Candidate for Davis County Commissioner. The two candidates are Randy Elliott and Steve Hiatt. Randy comes to the table with a strong background in business. Steve has a strong background in municipal government (as mayor of Kaysville). [You can get more information on Randy Elliott at his campaign website here](#) and [more information on Steve Hiatt at his campaign website here](#). I think they are both good candidates and after I send out this email, I will be spending a little more time myself looking into it, because I still haven't decided how I'm going to vote yet.

Bountiful Summer Concerts Coming Up

We have another great summer of concerts coming up at 7:00 P.M. on Friday nights at the Bountiful City Park (200 West 400 North).

As always, they make for a pleasant evening.

As always, there will be a great mix of folks from your neighborhood who are there to say hello to.

As always, there will be plenty of shade to sit in.

And, as always, the price of admission is FREE.

Hope to see you at a few.

June 24th ***Bountiful's Got Talent***
Local Talent Showcase

July 8th ***Two Weeks Notice***
Classic Soft Rock Cover Band

July 15th ***Utah Voices/23rd Army Band***
Americana/Patriotic music

July 29th ***Six Feet In The Pine***
Bluegrass

August 12th ***Crescent Super Band***
Jazz/Big Band Music

August 19th ***Revolver***
Beatles Cover Band

August 26th ***Endless Summer***
Beach Boys Cover Band



School Board Review of Common Core Standards & SAGE Testing

SAGE



For the last several years, Common Core standards and SAGE testing have been a contentious issue in our education system.

Common Core is a set of education standards and curriculum adopted by our state school board several years ago. The SAGE test is the set of tests that Utah produced to measure end of year student achievement in meeting those standards.

Recently Governor Herbert sent a letter to our state school board asking them to review both the standards and the SAGE test to see how well they are meeting our students' needs and determine what changes should be made.

The request was pretty open-ended and could result in anything from small suggestions to completely changing both the standards and the testing system.

My understanding is that the school board will be addressing the issue at several meetings over the summer, so if you have strong feelings about it, you should send a short email to our great State School Board Representative Laura Belnap at lbelnap@utahonline.org

I have tried to make it a point to ask the teachers and parents with whom I meet what is working well and what needs to be changed. Most of them that I have spoken with have some specific things that they hope get changed, but DO NOT want to throw the whole thing out and start over again. My short list of things that I hope to see changed is:

- * The math curriculum and associated "textbooks" are still not working well in Davis School District, with many parents of high school math students not able to access a functional textbook online or hard copy. (I think this is a Davis County issue rather than a state issue, but I still really hope the district can make it work better.)

- * The English portion of the SAGE test is much too long. (Much longer than the other sections.) In many cases, it takes an entire week to complete. It doesn't make sense to spend so much time measuring whether students are learning that we actually stop them from learning.

- * The legislature required schools to use the SAGE tests, then also allowed any student who wants to, to opt out, and forbade the schools from using it in any way towards the student's grade, which has lead, in some schools, to large numbers of opt-outs, which undermines one of the main points of having the tests which is reliable comparisons between the schools about how well overall our students are doing. It doesn't make sense to tell the teachers, "This matters a lot -- your salary may depend on it" and then tell the students, "This doesn't matter at all -- feel free to not show up."

I will be interested to see what the school board has to say about it.

Contact: **Ray Ward Representative House District 19**
email: rayward@le.utah.gov
cell phone: 801-440-8765