

## Survey Results show that Marco Rubio is the winner!

Here is a rundown of the results of the constituent survey that I sent out.

### Presidential Race

Marco Rubio is the clear winner for the Republican Presidential Nominee. He got almost twice as many votes as the second place finisher Ted Cruz. Donald Trump came in third, and Ben Carson 4th.



For the Democrats, Hillary Clinton beat Bernie Sanders in a fairly close race.

Overall the Republican Candidates got about 60% of the votes, the Democrats got about 24% of the votes, and the None-of-the-above/refused-to-answer/can-I-please-have-Mitt Romney-back group got 16% of the votes.

### Utah Lands Under Federal Control

The strong preference (56%) was to pursue a solution through Congress, such as the one being done by Congressman Rob Bishop. Second choice was to leave the control of the public lands just as they are. (29%), and Third choice was to pursue a lawsuit to regain control of the lands. (12%)

### Medical Marijuana

The category that got the most votes was for a fairly broad Medical Marijuana program, but really the answers were spread out all across the spectrum from Keeping it Completely illegal to complete recreational use.

My prediction is that it will not pass this session, but that it will continue to move slowly in the direction of a limited Medical Marijuana program, and that is a timeline and destination that is OK with me.

### Medicaid Expansion

The overwhelming winner was for some form of full expansion (77%), With much smaller votes for no expansion (8%) or one of the partial expansion options ( 7% and 2%).

For myself, I am in strong agreement with full expansion, and will be running a bill in support of that. The leadership in the house is still not supportive, so my odds of success this year are not good, but it is important enough that we need to continue to work on it, even if it doesn't cross the finish line this year.

### **Budget priorities**

The top three vote getters were 1) Better support for K-12 public education, 2) Increased Medicaid coverage, and 3) Better support for those with disabilities on the waiting list for services.

### **School Board Elections**

The strong preference was for non-partisan elections (60.3%), second place was (24%), and third was partisan elections (6%)

Thanks to all of you who took the time to answer the survey. It is a big help to me to know where the district stands. And I especially appreciate those of you who took the time to write out some longer answers about what you wish we were doing differently.

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## **A Couple of the Bills I am running this session.**

### **HB 18. Medicaid Preferred Drug list amendments.**

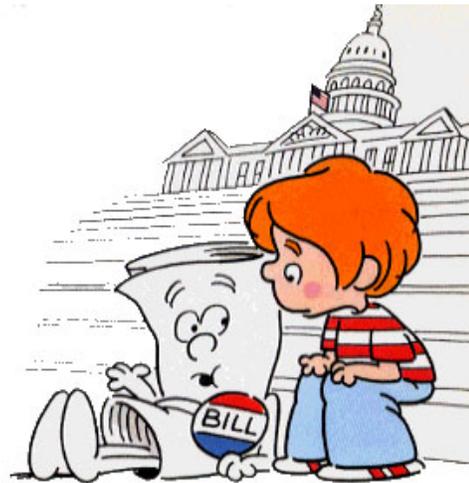
This bill would save about 12\$ Million dollars per year that we are currently overpaying for medications for Medicaid. The savings from the bill could be directed back to other needs, such as getting insurance for the uninsured or for people with disabilities.

The bill is written to direct that 40% of the savings go to help other Social Services needs, and the remainder of the savings just go back to the state to lower costs.

The pharmaceutical industry is absolutely dead set against the bill (no surprise), and have pulled out all the stops to try and block the bill. I am up for my committee hearing on Monday. I think I will get it through, but it is not guarantee. Wish me luck.

### **HB 114. Improvements to the controlled substance database.**

This bill will give doctors better information about whether their patients have suffered an overdose on a controlled substance or been convicted of a crime involving misuse of a controlled substance, so the doctor would be able to make better decisions about what prescriptions to write (and not to write) for them.



**HB 153 Makes a small change in the way that we collect tax money for school districts** so that if we have years where property values go up the same amount as inflation goes up, that the school districts could keep property taxes adjusted for inflation. The net effect in most years will be a small increase in the amount of money available for schools to use.

**HB 302 is my Medicaid Expansion bill.** It combines the Governor's Healthy Utah proposal with a couple of other ideas, and proposes to pay the state's portion by an increased assessment on the hospitals and a tax on e-cigarettes at the same rate that we tax other tobacco products.

**Tier 3 fuel amendments** (Not numbered yet, but I hope any day now). Will be a small push for refineries to produce cleaner (Tier 3) fuel, by making them report back once a year as to whether they are going to produce the cleaner fuel and when they intend to do so.

*Town Hall meeting  
Thursday Jan 25  
&  
Saturday Noon Chats*



Representative Becky Edwards and Senator Todd Weiler and myself will host a town hall meeting on Thursday Jan 25th at the Bountiful Library. from 7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

There will be about 2 weeks left to go in the session at that point, so all the big issues and decisions will just be reaching the boiling point. So put it on your calendar and come let us know how we are doing.

Also, a reminder that you are welcome to come to come visit at my home on Saturdays during the session at noon. I will be there every Saturday (Except not Feb 20th), so the remaining dates are Feb 6th, Feb 13th, Feb 27th, and March 5th. We usually have between 4 and 8 people there, so it is plenty small enough to discuss whatever you would like. My house is 954 East Millbrook Way Bountiful.

I hope to see you there.

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