

## Ballots are out. Please Vote.

You may not have noticed, but we are coming to the conclusion of the 2016 Presidential Election and your ballot should have showed up in your mailbox in the last couple of days. It has been a long and frequently discouraging process, but I hope you will go through your ballot, and take the time to vote for your preferred candidates.



In addition to the presidential candidates, there are also the races for Senate, Congress, County Commission, Governor, State Attorney General, State Auditor, State Treasurer, State Senate, State House (my race), and several judges.

I don't think there will be any surprises in any of these state races, but there are also some local school board races on the ballot, in which the local folks running have put in a ton of time and personal hard work. The local school board is very important in how our own school district is organized and manages its money, so I would invite you to pay attention and make your best choice.

If you live in the north part of Bountiful you will be choosing between [Larry Smith](#) and [John Robison](#)

If you live in the south part of Bountiful, you will be choosing between [Liz Mumford](#)

and

[Rick Call](#)

However these local races may turn out, all of these folks deserve a big thank you for being willing to put themselves out to try and improve our schools, and the winners will just be getting started on a whole lot of time dedicated to the schools, for very close to zero personal monetary gain.

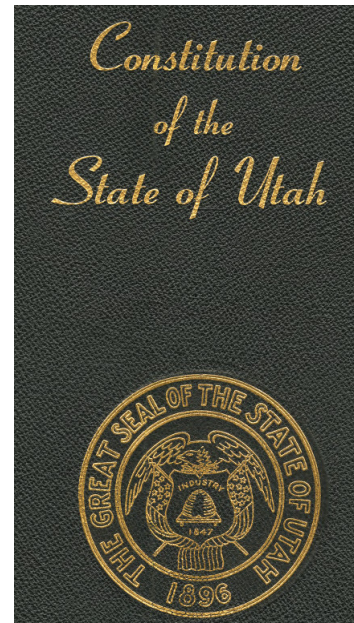
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## Please support Amendment B

There are a few Constitutional Amendments on the ballot. I think the most important of them is Amendment B. It will increase the amount of money that comes to our schools from the State Trust Funds.

It is a little complicated, so if you are interested, here is the background.

Trust fund lands (also called SITLA lands) are lands given from the Federal Government back to the state for the single purpose of generating money to be used for our schools. The lands can generate new money in several ways, but the main ways are when the state allows mining or drilling or grazing on the lands, and occasionally they will sell parcels of the land.



When money is generated by the SITLA lands, we don't spend that money for the schools. The idea is that you invest that money and use only the profits from the investments. That way you keep your principal permanently in place and are able to permanently generate a little money for use by the schools.

The current wording in the constitution allows only "interest and dividends" to be used, whereas modern trust fund management generates earnings in those ways, but also by growth in the value of the various funds that that money is invested in. So the amendment to the constitution will change the words "investments and dividends" to "earnings." This will allow for more money to come out of the fund every year to go directly to the schools while still maintaining the principal and allowing the fund to continue to slowly grow. The amendment also caps the amount of money that can be withdrawn every year at 4% of the amount in the fund.

The actual monetary difference between the two ways of calculating the disbursement will change year to year depending on how the investments perform, but in our current year, the actual amount of money that will go to school from "interest and dividends" alone is \$57,000,000, whereas, the amount that would go from total fund "earnings" would be \$79,000,000. -- So a \$22,000,000 per year difference.

The amendment had good support in both the House and the Senate and I think it is a good change.

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## *Big Decision on the City Hall*

If you have done much driving around Bountiful recently, you will know that the candidate who seems to be putting up the most signs is the guy running for No New City Hall.

There has been a LOT of discussion about this issue, and my understanding is that the decision on whether to proceed with renovating our current city hall, or building a new plaza downtown, or building both a new plaza and new city hall downtown will take place at the regularly scheduled Bountiful City Council meeting on October 25th at 7:00. If you are interested in being there to see the decision made, you should go.

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