Quality Education
Clean Air

Strong Economy
Efficient Healthcare

Ray **Ward** for House District **19**

Responsible Republican Values

Big Plans for Downtown Bountiful

The Bountiful City Council is hard at work on some big changes to downtown Bountiful.

The plans are not yet final, but getting close, and will involve:
* Demolishing Stoker School
* Building a new Bountiful City Hall and Downtown Plaza on the Stoker School Property, and (hopefully)
* Finding a new home for the University of Utah extension classrooms that are currently using Stoker School.

The City has been working for some years on what to do with Stoker School. They had hoped to find some way to save the school because of its historic place in Bountiful history, but a recent safety evaluation revealed that the mortar used to hold the bricks together was well past its safe lifespan, and that in the event of a medium sized earthquake, "everyone in the building would for sure die." Renovations to bring it up to current safety code were much too expensive, so the decision had to be made to demolish it. Stoker School is the oldest standing school in Davis County, having opened its doors in 1906. The above photo was taken in the 1920s. It will be a sad day when we lose it.

Also, for some years, the city has been looking for a way to update and/or replace city hall. There are several updates that need to be made to the structure of the building, which will cost in the range of $5-6 Million. These updates are needed even if a new building isn't built, and the city would like to have the city hall be more usable by the public for classes

and public meetings.

There is ongoing planning to try and find a suitable space for the University of Utah to continue with its extension classes, which are currently housed in Stoker.

You can see a <u>timeline of the past events with regards to the city's plan here</u>, and <u>a drawing of the newly planned city hall and plaza here</u>. The city is still taking comments on the project, so if you would like to make a comment, please email it to openhouse@bountifulutah.gov.

After the plans are final, it will take 2 to 4 years to carry them out, so I am looking forward to seeing how things go.

County Convention and State Convention

The last two Saturdays have been busy politically. The Davis County Republican Convention was held at Woods Cross High School on the 16th, and the State Republican Convention was held this last Saturday at the Salt Palace.

I thought both conventions were well organized, so thanks to all the volunteers who put in their time to help set them up.

The County Convention had results for several important local elections. The one that will be showing up with political signs for the primary elections coming up in June is the race for County Commissioner, which will have a primary election between Randy Elliot and Steve Hiatt. I think both are qualified for the position and look forward to hearing more of their plans for Davis County as they campaign.

The convention also resulted in a primary election for Utah House District 20 between Becky Edwards (incumbent) and her challenger Glen Jenkins. Becky won the vote of the delegates at the convention by about 72% to 28% but both candidates collected signatures so they were both guaranteed to be on the primary ballot. House District 20 represents the south end of Bountiful, North Salt Lake, Woods Cross, and West Bountiful.

The big news from the State Convention was that there will be a Republican primary election for Governor between Gary Herbert and Jonathan Johnson. Both of them campaigned very hard going into the convention, so I expect you will see that same level of energy in the next two months before the primary election. For my part, I think Governor Herbert has done a good job in leading the state and he has my endorsement for the primary.
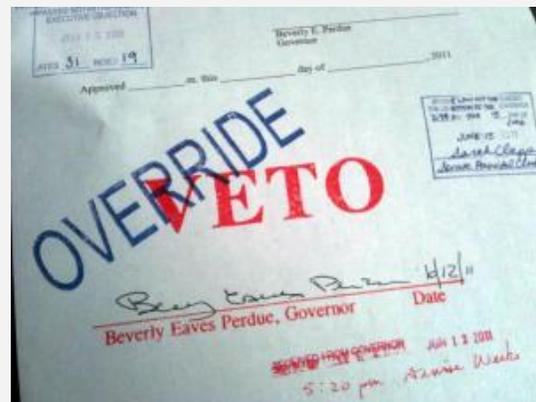
The state convention also featured some other races of local importance. Todd Weiler, our current state senator, was challenged for his seat by Heather Gardner. It was a close race, but Senator Weiler got just over 60% of the votes, so he will be the Republican candidate and there will not be a primary race for the seat.

The State Convention is also where we chose national delegates for the Republican presidential contest. It was the most complicated election I think I've ever seen, with 4000 state delegates voting on 400 people who were running for 40 available positions to be national delegates, and 40 more alternate delegate positions. The final results were not available until after 6:00 P.M, so it made for a very long day at convention.

Veto Override and/or Special Session

At the end of this last legislative session, Governor Herbert vetoed a small number of bills. For most of them, there was not enough legislative support to override the veto, but one of them had good legislative support and is going to result in a special session.

This particular veto wasn't a bill, but rather was a specific line item in the budget which contained a couple of school funding items. Some of the items vetoed included funding for some educational software packages and some money for training to be a chef.

It is a little bit of a complicated issue because this isn't money that the state gives to the school districts. It is money that the legislature decided to spend directly on these particular software packages, so there is some debate as to whether that is the correct way to go about it, or whether the school districts ought to be the ones who get to decide which software they want to buy for their students.

If we have a veto override session, then we can't do anything other than put that line item back in the budget, but there has to be a 2/3 vote in the House and the Senate to do it. In the end, the Governor negotiated with the leadership in the House and Senate and agreed to call a special session in May. Now we will only need a 50% majority in both houses to pass it, but we will also be allowed to make a couple of other small changes to it, so (hopefully) all the parties will be happy with the outcome.

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