

Candidate E-Mail Message No. 1

Arnold Gaunt for Utah Republican Party Chairman

Dear state delegate,

My name is Arnold Gaunt and I'm a candidate for Utah Republican Party (URP) Chairman. Though I've been continuously involved with the URP since 1994, please allow me to tell you some about my background and experience in case our paths have not yet crossed or we are not yet well acquainted.

Leadership Service in Party

Since 1994, I've had the opportunity to serve in various Party positions, including:

County and state delegate
House District 8 and 9 Chairman
State Central Committee
URP Constitution & Bylaws Committee
Alternate Presidential Elector, 2000
Weber County Central Committee and Executive Committee
Weber County Republican Party Convention Parliamentarian

Strong Support for Grassroots Delegates

I got into Party politics in 1989 while living in California because of my concern regarding attacks on the right to keep and bear arms at the national level and within the state. This led to a path of discovery and further involvement in the political process.

While in CA I became an active member of the CA Republican Assembly and was also selected as an alternate delegate to the CA Republican Party. The Republican Assembly has been an important organization in that state because the Party has top down control. Instead of delegates picking candidates, the Party nominees and officeholders pick the delegates. Consequently, the Republican Assembly was the only viable venue for grassroots involvement.

When I moved to Utah I could see that the political system of this state afforded much greater ability for direct citizen participation in the decision-making process. I have joined with others to become involved to advance constitutional principles. I have viewed the annual Conventions as a means for delegates and those that they represent to have a voice through mechanisms including resolutions, platform amendments, Constitution & Bylaws changes, determination of Convention rules and agenda, and certainly balloting for public and Party offices.

Judge My Actions, Not My Promises

I have involved myself in all of the areas that Conventions provide for delegates to be heard. For example, I'm the author of the last sentence of the Platform plank dealing with Private Property and am the author of the Jury plank and its first sentence. As well I'm the originator of Bylaw 8.0 which requires candidate disclosure on the Party Platform. I have instructed dozens or hundreds of delegates and others in the principles of Robert's Rules of Order.

I've also successfully applied myself with others of like mind to stopping state and federal legislation infringing on the right to own property and the right to self defense. In 1999 I provided input to the Property Protection Act, passed by 69% of the voters, to obstruct federal influence over Utah law enforcement officers.

If you are a strong supporter of the fundamental principles of our Party as expressed in the Platform and more importantly those underlying our Constitutional Republic, I believe you will find me to be the candidate who has the record of being the strongest and most consistent advocate on your behalf. In the next three weeks as candidate e-mail is delivered to you, I will provide more specific information on what I will do as Party Chairman to ensure that your voice will continue to be heard and with greater clarity.

Please feel free to contact me with your concerns or points of interest in the Party. I may be reached at ajgaunt@xmission.com and at 801-621-3122. Thank you for your interest and attention.

Arnold Gaunt
Candidate for URP Chairman

Candidate E-Mail Message No. 2

Arnold Gaunt for Utah Republican Party Chair

Be Thinking About the Chair's Impact on Fair Conduct of the 2012 State Convention!

Dear state delegate,

Last week I was able to deliver an introductory message to you and hope that you were able to read it. It was my intention to communicate that I have a literal interest in and a substantive record of advancing the Republican Party platform and American constitutional principles. In advancing the platform and principles my political experience seeing the political decline of the great state of California and its top down Party governance reinforces to me the importance of governance in which power flows from the bottom up.

Party governance matters because it is critical to accountability of Republican officeholders in this heavily Republican state. I have observed officeholders over many years and have noted varying levels of commitment to the platform and correct principles. Regular elections, if fairly conducted, allow us to evaluate that commitment and determine who has the privilege of representing us for the next term of office.

I believe that it is an abuse of the Chair's authority to use his position to favor one candidate over another in the election process. It is the will of grassroots delegates that should decide. A policy of incumbent perpetuation, as I heard a previous Chair express support for, should have no place in our Party and is contrary to the ideals of republican government. If elected Chair you will have my assurance in the critical 2012 election cycle that all candidates will receive identically fair treatment.

Specifically, you can depend on me to do everything in my power to accomplish the following by the authority of committee appointments, control to the direction of Party staff, and by personal persuasion of State Central Committee members:

- Reasonable time will be provided for candidate speeches. Non-incumbent candidates will have a fair opportunity to be heard and for delegates to become acquainted with them.
- Delegation reports, if any, shall be given after the conclusion of balloting for public and Party offices. I have seen these reports misused in the past to promote the candidacies of incumbent candidates.
- Equal and timely access shall be provided to all candidates regarding delegate lists. To ensure process integrity, delegate information provided shall include, as required by Constitution XII.1.E.4, the basis of eligibility of each delegate (e.g. the position was elected in a precinct meeting or was a replacement by the precinct chair).

- Convention credentials and balloting shall be tightly controlled to thwart any potential for mischief.
- In contrast to the National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, our Party funds shall not be used to support the campaign of any incumbent candidate facing opposition until after the Convention or Primary, if applicable.
- Candidate speeches will be held on the same day that voting occurs.

My ability to carry out these objectives should not be affected by any conflict of interest. I disclose that I and all of my family have no personal or family relationship to any current officeholder potentially seeking reelection in 2012 or any anticipated challenger. I'm employed as a systems engineer in a multi-decade old component of our nation's strategic defense and do not believe that any Utah federal or state official has any substantive control over its future. My modest investments do not depend on the specific action of Utah or federal government for their improvement.

I'm certain that almost all of you share my commitment to a fair election process as an essential element of upholding and promoting the principles and platform of the Party. I believe that I can uniquely offer you the combination of an understanding of and a commitment to upholding the rules, a record of advocacy for fair convention conduct, and absence of conflicts of interest. These should be essential considerations in deciding who you wish to oversee the state convention in 2012. I hope that you will agree that I'm the one best able to ensure fair elections and will vote for me on June 18.

Arnold Gaunt
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Candidate E-Mail Message No. 3

Arnold Gaunt for Utah Republican Party Chair

Shall incumbent officeholders be given more speaking time than other candidates?

Dear state delegate,

In the previous two messages I've sent I've had an opportunity to share with you some of my experience and qualifications for the office that I seek, and to indicate the importance of the Chair in the fair conduct of the 2012 elections. After receiving a mailing from the Party this Saturday for the June 18th Organizing Convention, I feel compelled to address certain aspects of upcoming Convention business. I do this because the Chair plays an important role in this business and some further consideration of it may help you decide who you wish to support for the next two years.

In the Call to Convention letter, the Convention Chair states that her "... goal is to conduct a Convention that is fair to the candidates and to you, the delegates". Similarly, the Convention Rules in Section I6, Candidate Rules and Requirements, state that "(The intent is to have fairness, to treat all equally.)"

In keeping with these statements, one might reasonably conclude that all candidates would and should receive an equal opportunity to be heard prior to officer elections. But the Proposed Order of Business contains an item, [Party] Officer Reports, preceding officer candidate speeches and balloting. Since three challenged incumbent officeholders are seeking reelection, this provides them additional uncontested time of undefined length beyond the five minutes allocated to other candidates.

The incumbents should fairly have an opportunity to report on topics pertinent to their offices. But can there be any doubt that this also provides an opportunity to promote themselves to delegates as experienced, capable, and effective in advance of voting? Appropriately incumbents should give their reports **following** the conclusion of balloting.

I checked the order of business of Organizing Conventions from 2003 to 2009 and in no case were incumbent officer candidates provided more speaking time prior to balloting than others running for Party offices. In my recollection of Organizing Conventions going back to 1995, the proposed Order of Business for the 2011 Organizing Convention may establish a precedent for election conduct not previously known in the Party.

So you, the delegates, should decide if it fulfills the objective "... to treat all equally ..." and "... to conduct a Convention that is fair to the candidates ..." to give incumbent candidates more speaking time prior to voting than others seeking Party offices. If you have decided that this does not fulfill the objective of equal treatment and treating candidates fairly, there is recourse.

The Convention Chair does correctly say in her letter that “This is **your** convention...”. Since it is your Convention, you may decide when Officer Reports are held – before or after balloting. When the motion is made to adopt the Proposed Order of Business, a motion to amend may be made to move “Officer Reports” to a time following the completion of all balloting. It would seem appropriate to amend the Order of Business to combine Officer Reports with elected official and National Committee reports.

The proposal to provide more speaking time for incumbent Party officers seeking reelection is illustrative of problems that the Party faces. It provides an indication of what may be expected in the 2012 election cycle should the present leadership direction be continued. It sends a message of cronyism to independent voters and others who may continue to vote for Rep. Jim Matheson as a result. Whether or not you would consider supporting my candidacy, I do believe that most delegates would not characterize the proposed Order of Business as treating all equally and fairly.

The bias in favor of incumbent candidates reflected in the Order of Business should be viewed as a symptom of not following the rules. In this case Article VI of the Party Constitution creates authority for the Chair to appoint a Convention Committee to “plan and oversee” the Convention with the “advice and consent of the State Central Committee”. However, no Convention Committee with identified members has been formed with State Central Committee approval. Those responsible for the Order of Business should be known.

The due process associated with the Chair appointing Convention Committee members who are then approved by the State Central Committee I believe makes less likely a proposed Order of Business such as the one that you recently received. If you choose me as your Chair in the 2012 election cycle you have my commitment to fairly following the rules, even if they have been disregarded until now.

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Candidate E-Mail Message No. 4

Arnold Gaunt for Utah Republican Party Chair

Are Republican Party finances appropriately disclosed and managed?

Dear state delegate,

Hopefully you have had an opportunity to read my previous three messages. In this final message, allow me to be clear regarding my core beliefs concerning the Republican Party and the role of the Chair.

- The foundation for the Party is its platform. Because we have a platform, we have a Party. It should not be the other way around; otherwise, the Party would be just about the power and popularity.
- The purpose of the Party is to elect Republicans who will advance the Platform by their deeds as public officeholders.
- If we have elected majorities or super-majorities of Republicans but have not substantively advanced the Platform, we have more work to do.
- All power in the Party should in actual fact flow from the grassroots. Gratuitous diminution of grassroots authority is contrary to Republican Party ideals.
- The Chair's role is to facilitate the will of the grassroots body under the rules. The body, not the Chair, decides who to elect, the content of the Platform, and the rules by which business is conducted.

But some may ask, "What about the practicality of running a state Republican Party?" "How should the Party finance its operations as ideology alone obviously doesn't provide the necessary funding."

As a starting point for answering these questions, I have spent some time reviewing financial disclosure spreadsheets between 2008 and 2010 available from the Lt. Governor's web site. I would encourage you to do the same (see <http://www.disclosures.utah.gov/Search/PublicSearch>). These spreadsheets have raised more questions for me than they have produced answers. For example:

- Various state tax checkoff disbursements to county parties appear in 2008, but none in 2009, and a disbursement is shown for only one county in 2010. Why are essentially no tax checkoff disbursements to county parties reported since 2008?
- In 2008 an "unitemized" contribution of \$398,304.30 appears on August 27. Is it reasonable to not itemize such a large amount of money?
- To my recollection the Party has in the past solicited donations from delegates attending the state conventions yet I was unable to find any contributions listed under this category.

- At state central committee meetings that I've attended a hat or donation cans are typically passed around and cash contributions are received. I believe up to hundreds of dollars are typically donated per meeting. Yet I'm unable to locate any specific contributions corresponding to the dates of those receipts.

It is not my intention to insinuate the existence of any impropriety, except for possibly the reporting, and hopefully there are acceptable explanations for every issue noted. But there is one thing I am certain about: the Party budgetary rules and process contained in the Constitution and Bylaws are not being followed.

Specifically, the Constitution in Article VI empowers a Budget Committee to "propose a Party budget and monitor financial matters". Since powers are enumerated and limited, if the Budget Committee has this power then no other entity in the Party shares in or supplants its authority.

The Budget committee is appointed by the Chair with the advice and consent of the State Central Committee (SCC). In reviewing SCC minutes and agendas since 2009, I've been unable to locate any information about appointment of Budget Committee members. At the last SCC meeting held in May, pertinent to Constitution Article VIII a new budget should have been submitted for approval since it was the last scheduled meeting prior to the new fiscal year that begins July 1.

Budgets involving hundreds of thousands of dollars should not be taken lightly and the rules governing them should be followed. In the fairly recent past the Republican Party has found itself hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt (see <http://desne.ws/IEPvan>) so concerns over finances are a reasonable and practical consideration.

The Chair has a fundamental responsibility on behalf of state delegates and Republicans at large to ensure that the Party's finances are appropriately managed. No matter what the past practice has been and even though the fiscal year begins July 1, if elected Chair my first order of business will be to appoint a Budget Committee with advice and consent of the State Central Committee. After creation of this committee I will then work with the other Party officers, the Budget Committee, and the Executive Committee in accordance with the rules to produce a budget for approval by the SCC.

If this example of improved accountability from leadership appeals to you, I would like to request your support of my candidacy.

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