

4 May 2006

Dear Fellow Republicans:

We write today in opposition to the “Automatic and Appointed Delegate” selection process. The strength of the Republican Party is our grassroots commitment to all Utahns. We strive to be the party of the “Big Tent” with active participation from all citizens.

Participating in the caucus process is the foundation of our candidate selection process, platform debate, rules and resolution discussions. The private vote of each attendee at their neighborhood meeting allows them to express their individual selections in our representative democracy. As Delegates are elected in their individual precincts our party and democracy are strengthened because they have been empowered by the votes of the grass-roots of our party.

In principle, we are opposed to allowing party insiders, the establishment, and others in position of power being granted additional voting power and therefore diluting the votes and will of the people. We recognize that the insiders’ agenda can at times compromise or be in conflict with the best interests of the party. Our party will be stronger and the process will be more legitimate, fair and transparent by having all Delegates elected at their individual caucus meetings.

We recognize the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice by many uncompensated party workers, including County Chairs. They should all most certainly become Delegates as active members of the party. However, we believe it is counter to our core principles to reward their party commitment with the granting of unelected voting powers. We believe volunteering to participate in the Republican Party is to ultimately preserve and protect the rights of individuals through our elective democracy, not to preserve power for those in power. It is reasonable for all of us, just once every two years, to spend an hour-and-a-half to attend our caucus meetings and allow our neighbors to decide who should and should not be a Delegate. Elected officials must value their Delegate status. If they care enough to become a Delegate at caucus time, then their interest in participating in every aspect of the process (meeting candidates, reading and voting on resolutions and rules) will be taken more seriously.

Conceptually, failure to allocate all Delegates at the precinct caucuses would be like failing to allocate all legislative seats at the ballot box. The idea of withholding legislative House and Senate seats—to be appointed by legislative leadership—would be widely objected to by all. Delegates should be elected by those in attendance at precinct caucuses. If no one shows or is willing to take the position of Delegate, then the vote should be lost. The more organized a county party is, the greater their influence. Grass roots participation matters because it is best for our transparent democracy.

President Abraham Lincoln once said, “No man is good enough to govern another man without the other’s consent.” And President George H.W. Bush stated, “A government that remembers that the people are its master is a good and needed thing.”

We hope you will take time to consider the positive impact on party decisions and directions this proposed change will create and we encourage you to take action on this important issue. Let’s all support removal of the “Automatic and Appointed Delegate” from the Utah Republican Party system.

Thank you for your consideration,



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