

RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSITION 1

WHEREAS, Our Utah County Republican Party Platform declares that, “Taxation should be as equitable, simple, and minimal as possible”;¹

WHEREAS, Proposition 1 will raise sales taxes in Utah County for the fourth time in less than a decade;²

WHEREAS, Utah County residents have also been hit with numerous other local, state, and federal tax increases in recent years, including property tax increases,³ a gas tax increase,⁴ a vehicle registration fee increase,⁵ utility fee increases,⁶ and Obamacare tax increases;⁷

WHEREAS, Proposition 1 is not about local transportation needs—it’s about increasing taxpayer subsidization of the Utah Transit Authority (UTA);⁸

WHEREAS, nearly half of the revenues raised from Proposition 1 will go directly to UTA;⁹

WHEREAS, only a small fraction of Utah County residents ride UTA each day, yet Utah County taxpayers subsidize UTA to the tune of \$34 million annually, and Proposition 1 will increase that subsidy to UTA by another \$6.8 million annually;¹⁰

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Utah County Republican Party opposes the Proposition 1 tax increase and encourages all Utah County residents to vote “no” on Proposition 1.

Submitted by:
Commissioner Bill Lee
Former Utah County GOP Chairman Casey Voeks

¹ <http://ucrp.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/UCRP-PLATFORM-4-30-11.pdf>

² <http://www.co.utah.ut.us/Dept/ClerkAud/Data/BudgetData/2015%20Tentative%20Budget%20Message.pdf>; see pages 9 and 14. (First increase: “On April 1, 2007, the County enacted a 0.25-percent sales tax known as the Mass Transit Fixed Guideway sales tax.” Second increase: “On January 1, 2008, the tax for this sales tax increased to 0.30 percent.” Third increase: “On January 1, 2009, the County enacted a 0.25-percent sales tax known as the County Airport, Highway, and Public Transit sales tax.” Proposition 1 would be the fourth sales tax increase in Utah County within the last ten years.)

³ E.g., <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865625243/Utah-taxpayers-will-pay-millions-more-in-wake-of-2015-Legislative-session.html?pg=all>

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/635195251/Vehicle-fee-rises-10.html?pg=all>

⁶ E.g., http://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/central/provo/provo-council-gets-a-shock-over-utility-fee-increases/article_d48af692-254c-5b4c-b2ee-ea89e312c6ec.html

⁷ <http://www.atr.org/full-list-ACA-tax-hikes-a6996>

⁸ <http://www.sltrib.com/home/2908671-155/prop-1-could-widen-disparity-in> (“Forty percent of new Prop 1 money would go to mass transit in counties that have transit agencies such as UTA.”)

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ <http://www.co.utah.ut.us/Dept/ClerkAud/Data/BudgetData/County%20-%202015%20Final%20Budget.pdf>, see page 5. (Note that each 0.25% sales tax increase in Utah County generates approximately \$17 million in annual revenues.)