
ASPA BUZZ

A Publication of the American Society for Public Administration, Utah Chapter

INSIDE

October Breakfast: The
2008 Presidential
Campaign: Potential
Impact on Utah's
Political Landscape

Council Corner:
Voting—American Style

Spotlight: New ASPA
Council Member
Mike Hansen

ASPA Chapter Council
Roster

Register for National
ASPACON Conference
March 20-24
Miami, Florida

Tentative Schedule of
Upcoming Luncheon
Meetings

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December 2008

ASPACON Luncheon

Thursday, December 4, 2008

12:00 Noon

Auditorium of the State Office Building

Las Vegas Lifeline or West Desert Dustbowl?

An overview of the proposed Snake Valley pipeline
and the impacts on Utah

Mike Styler, Executive Director
Utah Department of Natural Resources

For over 20 years, Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) has been working towards the goal of pumping groundwater from the Snake Valley. This water would be sent downstate via a pipeline to meet the Las Vegas growing water demand.

The Snake Valley straddles the Utah/Nevada state line and is home to ranching interests as well as a high-desert eco-system. Most of the water within the valley comes from snow melt that seeps into groundwater aquifers. Hydrologists are still learning the very basics of these aquifers including how much water exists and how long it takes to re-charge them if water is drawn out. Ranchers, environmentalists and others are concerned that the amount of water claimed by SNWA will leave the aquifers dry and destroy the natural habitat and livelihood of those living in the West Desert.

Mr. Styler chairs the negotiating team that is working with the State of Nevada and SNWA to ensure that Snake Valley remains a viable eco-system. He will be providing an update on those negotiations.

Please make your reservations early. The luncheon will be catered. Reservations or cancellations must be received no later than **Monday, December 1st. No shows will be billed.** Limited parking is available—please carpool or ride public transportation where possible.

The cost of the luncheon is \$13.00 for ASPA members, \$15.00 for nonmembers, and \$8.00 for students. Cash or checks are accepted.

Please call the Center for Public Policy & Administration, University of Utah, at 581-6493 or e-mail jrandall@cpga.utah.edu for reservations.

OCTOBER BREAKFAST

by Tricia Jack

Center for Public Policy & Administration, University of Utah

2008 Presidential Campaign: Potential Impacts on Utah's Political Landscape

This month's American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) meeting, co-sponsored by the Center for Public Policy and Administration at the University of Utah, covered the subject of the upcoming election. Chris Hillman, ASPA President, moderated the first panel, "The Potential Impact on Utah's Political Landscape." The panelists were:

- Stan Lockhart, Chair, Utah Republican Party
- Wayne Holland, Chair, Utah Democratic Party
- Suzanne Gelderman, Utah Director of Obama for America
- Tim Bridgewater, McCain-Palin 2008 Campaign

Each of the panelists had an opportunity to talk about some of the major issues that impact the election and shed some light on how the presidential campaign will impact Utah.

Republican Representatives

After talking about what it means to be a Republican, Stan Lockhart discussed the realities of this presidential race, such as the economic crisis and the ensuing budget cuts. He explained that because projected state revenues for 2008-09 have slowed, the budget had to be cut so it was more in line with actual revenues, hence the state budget cuts. He explained that education and transportation would be key issues in this election.

Tim Bridgewater talked about McCain's policies on the environment, transportation and education. He informed the group that McCain is a strong leader on the environment and should we see McCain as president, energy policy will be pro-nuclear with a plan to wean ourselves off foreign energy sources. On transportation issues, McCain believes local control is the way forward. Mr. Bridgewater told the group that McCain also realizes that the U.S. is having an education crisis and we are losing ground every day to the top ten industrialized countries.

Democratic Representatives

Wayne Holland talked about the excitement of this presidential campaign for Utah Democrats. This year has been drastically different because there are opportunities for Democratic gains in the legislature which gives the party a boost. The issues mentioned as key were taxation, education and healthcare.

Suzanne Gelderman claimed that there are indicators that show that Utah has a chance to make a difference locally this time around. Many Utahns are traveling to Colorado on weekends to work for the Obama campaign. Ms. Gelderman stated that for every \$4 being raised for the Republican campaign in Utah, \$5 is being raised for the Democratic campaign.

There were several questions raised by the audience including a question on Mitt Romney's future, the glass ceiling that Sarah Palin has broken through, energy policy in Utah, and the benefits of having more Democrats in Utah.

CPPA sponsored another panel which was held the same morning, entitled “The Road to the White House runs through the West.” David Patton moderated this panel. The panelists were:

- Matt Burbank, Chair of Political Science Department, University of Utah
- Dan Jones, Dan Jones and Associates
- Jeff Hartley, Political Consultant
- Richard Piatt, Political Reporter, KSL Television

Richard Piatt noted the differences in covering this campaign compared to the last election. He noted that the West is changing, and there are some states in the West where the races are closer and more competitive than in the past. The Utah Obama campaign is regularly sending volunteers from Utah to Colorado to work there.

Dan Jones warned that Election Day will be very crowded as it is expected that there will be around 75% turnout, and the lines will be long. He also warned that some of the states in the West that have been Republican may go Democratic this election, and it is likely that Idaho will have a higher percentage of Republican votes than Utah. Here, polls show that 62% of voters say they will vote for McCain, but Democrats are gaining. Mr. Jones noted that even if Obama ultimately gets 30% in Utah this will be an upward movement. The percentage of move is small but does make a difference over time. Mr. Jones also talked about how many of the 18 to 24 year old age group are energized and interested in this election.

Jeff Hartley countered Mr. Jones and warned that the 18 to 24 year old voters are not as likely to turn up to vote even though they appear interested. This was the case in the 1968 and 1972 elections when there was a similar mobilization of young voters. It is tough to connect and get them to actually show up. Mr. Hartley also commented that Utah has been a recruiting ground for the Republican party for a long time. Utah typically sends people to California and Ohio where they work to recruit but this year Utah is sending people into Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico; this shows what a difference there is in this election.

Matt Burbank agreed with Mr. Jones that in the West we usually see a solid block of Republicans but recent elections have been closer. Colorado and Nevada are very much in play. In thinking about this, there are two issues that are impacting. First, the economy has become the big issue and that is why the states here are undecided Republican states. Second, the nature of the West is changing dramatically. There has been a lot of suburban growth and voters may look at the economy and the Iraq war and decide they are not sticking with the Republicans any more. Mr. Burbank expects that ultimately Democrats will win the Pacific West states but most of the Mountain West will remain Republican.

David Patton asked the panelists if social issues are still a factor, despite the focus on the economy. The panelists suggested that medical care and immigration are still issues that people care about but they are not taking such a prominent role because of the financial issues.

The panel closed with some speculation about who will win the election. The panelists all pointed to Obama at this point, but Dan Jones warned that the polls could be off, especially because they have been conducted for so long in advance of the election. He noted that at least 5% of voters really won't decide until they are in the polling booth.

Both panels were interesting and informative, and we wish to thank the panelists and moderators for a great debate!

To view a video of the presentations, go to
http://www.cppa.utah.edu/events/08_elections_west.html

COUNCIL CORNER

Arlene Zortman
Salt Lake County
Chapter Past President

Voting – American Style

On November 4, 2008, voters in the United States of America elected a new President, Barack Obama, who will oversee the nation during the next four years. This is possibly one of the most active campaigns that I have noted since being able to vote and thought it would be interesting to track the ability to vote in the United States throughout the years.

In 1776, during a time of debate when only white adult males who owned property were allowed to vote, John Adams stated the following: “The same reasoning which will induce you to admit all men who have no property, to vote with those who have, . . . will prove that you ought to admit women and children; for, generally speaking, women and children have as good judgments and as independent minds, as those men who are wholly destitute of property. . . . Depend upon it, Sir, it is dangerous to open so fruitful a source of controversy and altercation as would be opened by attempting to alter the qualifications of voters; there will be no end of it. New claims will arise; women will demand the vote; lads from twelve to twenty-one will think their rights not enough attended to; and every man who has not a farthing, will demand an equal voice with any other, in all acts of state. It tends to confound and destroy all distinctions, and prostrate all ranks to one common level.”¹

Only a small fraction of the population cast ballots and elected George Washington and later John Adams to the Presidency of the United States. As new states were admitted into the union, most of them restricted voting to white adult men and many of those states further restricted voting privileges to white adult men who owned property or who paid taxes. By the time of the Civil War most white adult men were allowed to vote, regardless of whether or not they owned property, caused largely by groups who worked hard to include the frontiersmen and also white immigrants. However, literacy tests, poll taxes and religious taxes used in many places still restricted who was really able to vote.

The 15th Amendment to the Constitution, ratified on March 30, 1870, gave the right to vote to citizens of the United States regardless of race, color or previous condition of servitude. This was a victory for the black adult men; however, this freedom was severely restricted in many places. Literacy tests, poll taxes, hiding the locations of the polls, economic pressures, threats of

¹ *The Right to Vote: The Contested History of Democracy in the United States*, Keyssar, Alexander, 2000, Basic books, New York, NY.

physical violence and other strategies were used to suppress the African American vote. With the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and further expansions of this Act, voting was finally opened up to people of different race, culture and language.

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution, ratified on August 16, 1920, gave women the right to vote. This was a long hard victory for women who had worked diligently for passage of the 15th Amendment only to have the law not include the wording “regardless of sex”. One of Utah’s close neighbors, Wyoming, was the first state that actually gave all women the right to vote.

The 24th Amendment to the Constitution, ratified on January 24, 1964, eliminated the poll tax or any other tax as requirements for voting. This opened up the door for many more citizens to be able to exercise their right to vote.

The 26th Amendment to the Constitution, ratified on June 30, 1971, gave the right to vote to all citizens age 18 years or older. This occurred during the Vietnam War when 18-year-olds were drafted and sent off to war but were denied the right to vote.

Looking back to the quote from John Adams, 1776, within the next 200 years all of the following occurred: 1) all white adult men could vote (Civil War era); 2) black adult men were given the vote (15th Amendment); 3) women were given the vote (19th Amendment); and 4) 18-year-olds were given the vote (26th Amendment). The very things that John Adams argued strenuously against have all come into fruition. With regard to voting, the United States has truly put all people on one common level.

Enjoy your right to vote!

Spotlight – New Council Member

MICHAEL HANSEN began his public sector career as a Long Range Planner and Demographer for Salt Lake County. Mr. Hansen then served as a Strategic Planner as well as a Project Manager for a number of capital construction projects.

He earned his Bachelor of Science in Urban Planning from the University of Utah, and went on to complete his Master in Public Administration in 2001. He earned his American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) credential the following year. He holds certificates in project management and Alternative Dispute Resolution (mediation). He is currently pursuing a PhD in Constitutional Law at George Wythe University where he also sits on the Board of Entrepreneurs.

Michael currently serves as Manager of the Strategy and Management section of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. His professional emphasis is in cultivating the culture of quality governance within the State of Utah.

Michael's less-than-nerdy ambitions rest on his five kids. Yes, five. He privately tutors his children at home, so when not in the office it is almost a guarantee that he can be found doing something with them. They are striving to convert their quarter-acre to an urban agricultural oasis (though Mike is loathe to touch the vegetables). Michael also tutors them in music, cultural literacy, and Hebrew poetry. Welcome to the ASPA Council, Mike!

2008-2009 ASPA COUNCIL – UTAH CHAPTER

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Registration for ASPA's 2009 Annual Conference is Now Open!



GOVERNANCE IN THE MIDST OF DIVERSITY

BRIDGING OPPORTUNITY AND CHALLENGE

ASPA 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE MIAMI, FLORIDA - MARCH 20-24

Registration for ASPA's 2009

Annual Conference is now open! The conference will be held March 20-24 in Miami, Florida at the Hyatt Regency Miami. The conference theme - **Governance in the Midst of Diversity: Bridging Opportunity and Challenge** - will explore and develop innovative practices for public administration to address the growing diversity of communities around the country. It emphasizes the importance of context and culture on the sustainability of innovations, and ASPA's role in supporting public administration globally from a U.S. perspective. To register for the conference, click [here](#).

Tentative Schedule of ASPA Luncheon Topics for 2008-2009

(Please note that luncheons have been moved to Thursdays)

January 15, 2009

Legislative Preview

February 5, 2009

Economic Development

March 5, 2009

State Four-day Workweek

April 2, 2009

Health Care

May 7, 2009

Awards Program