



Why Politics Matter: Finding Your Voice

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Discuss with a partner
the following question,
“What classroom
experiences have
frustrated you the most
in the past week?”





Every school
decision is a
political
decision.

Who is making decisions about education?



Parents



Educators



Congress



State
Superintendent



Utah Legislature



Well-funded outside entities
and individuals

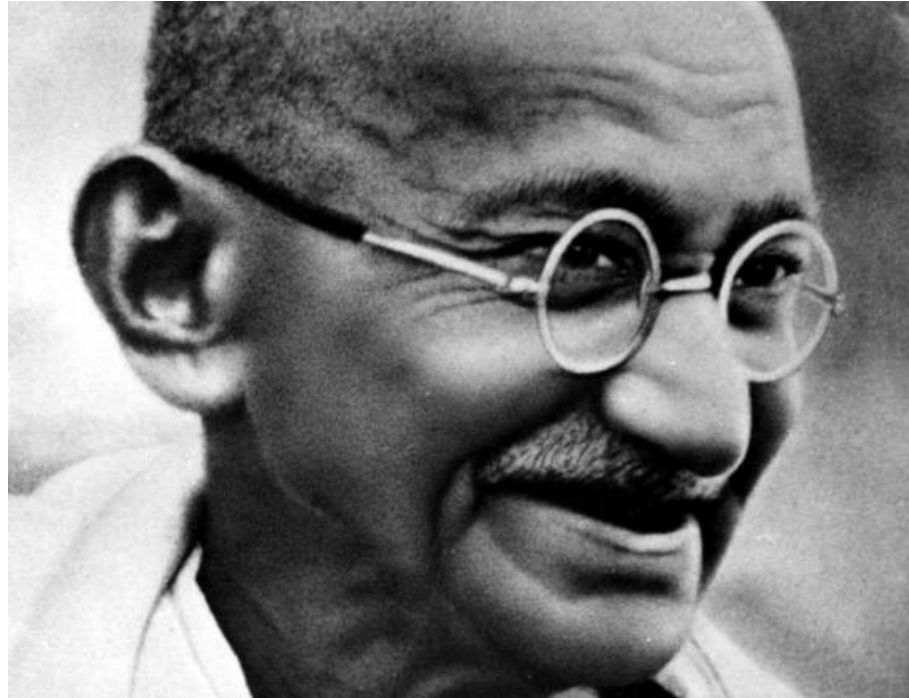


State/Local School
Boards

Obstacles to teacher voice in policymaking



**“Be the
change you
want to see in
the world.”
Ghandi**



Teachers as the education experts!

- Lead from the classroom
- Professionalism
- Knowledgeable
- Solution-oriented
- Relationships
- Collective action
- Courageous leadership



What Does UEA Do On Capitol Hill?

- FOUR full time staff on the Hill.
- Plus UEA elected leadership from all over the state.
- Education Policy Experts
- Budget/School Finance Experts
- Campaign/Elections Experts
- Technology Experts
- Strong Relationships with BOTH political parties.
- Strong Relationships with allies AND adversaries.



UEA cannot be successful without YOU

Educator Day on the Hill



- Every Friday During the Legislative Session.
- Facetime with Utah Legislators.
- Bring your friends, your colleagues, volunteer parents, YOUR KIDS. Everyone is welcome.
- And it's FUN

Build a Relationship with your Legislator

Can I really be an effective lobbyist?



Guess how many people hover outside the chambers? 30? 50? 500?



State School Board. WHO?

Bills: “The state school board shall write rule..”

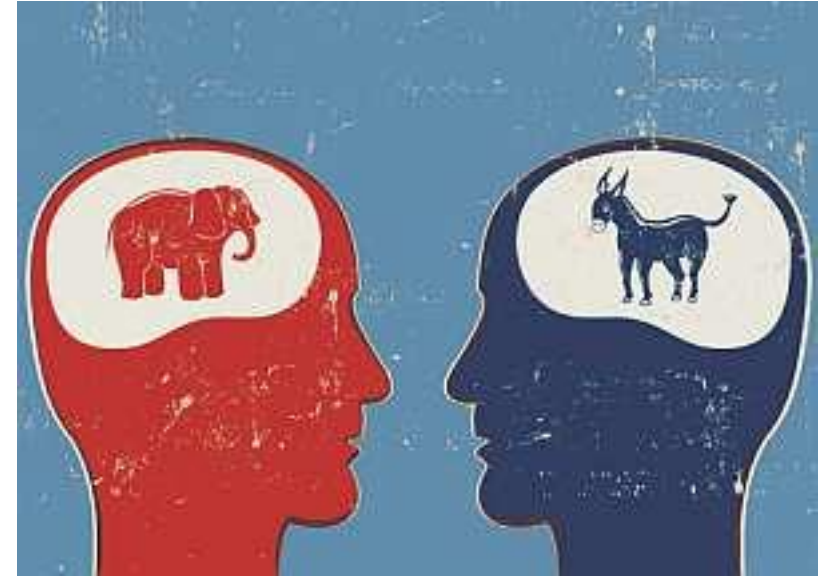
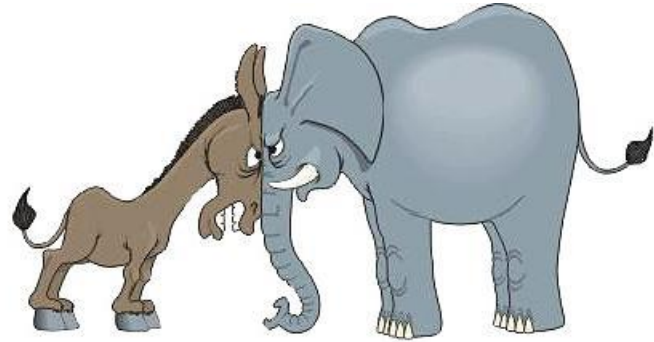


VOTE

- As a collective voice teachers can be deciding factors in elections.
- Colorado Example 2015
- State School Board Elections
- Primaries & Turnout
- You have influence in your community.



Stop Thinking about Political Party.
We need pro-public education candidates from
BOTH political parties.



Historic Election Results – WE CAN BE SUCCESSFUL

2012 Republican Primaries

- Ralph Okerlund vs. Patrick Painter
 - 61% - 39%
- Evan Vickers vs. Casey Anderson
 - 63% - 37%
- Lee Perry vs. Brad Galvez
 - 61% - 39%
- Merrill Nelson vs. Bill Wright
 - 52% - 48%
- Edward Redd vs. David Butterfield
 - 59% - 41%
- Steve Handy vs. Chris Crowder
 - 65% - 35%

2010 & 2014 Republican Primaries

- Becky Edwards vs. DJ Schanz
 - 58% - 42%
- Mel Brown vs. Jon Hellander
 - 55% - 45%
- Ray Ward vs. Chet Loftis
 - 52% - 48%

Candidates

They're JUST like us!!!!!!!!!!

Education Friendly Candidates Come From a **Variety** of Backgrounds

**Teachers. Homemakers. Physicians.
Financial Planners. Disability Advocates.
Consultants. Ranchers. Attorneys.**

**Your Friends. Your Family.
YOUR Community.**



When organized, teachers are the most powerful political force in the Utah.



“Never doubt that a small group
of thoughtful committed citizens
can change the world, indeed it is
the only that that ever has.”

Margaret Mead



