

# David Garbett

Candidate for Salt Lake City Mayor

## 1. Introduce yourself to our members. Describe your relationship to the Central Wasatch Mountains. What's your favorite place to visit? What are your favorite activities? What do you find compelling about the Central Wasatch Mountains?

The Central Wasatch are home to me. I grew up in the Salt Lake Valley and those mountains have been a key landmark throughout my life, not only for cardinal directions but also for key decisions in life. My first public lands experiences were in Big Cottonwood Canyon. In part, because of incredible experiences I had there I decided to get involved in public lands advocacy and went on to work as a lawyer with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance for ten years.

There are few places in the world that have such stunning wilderness so accessible to a major urban area. Not only that, they are a key water source for us. This is what sets the Wasatch apart.



I have too many favorite places in the Central Wasatch to name just one. A few of my favorites are skiing over from Little Cottonwood to Big through Days, Cardiff, or Silver Fork. I love visiting Broads Fork. The views are tough to beat from the top of Clayton Peak. I enjoy looking for signs of moose, elk, and deer in Mill F East Fork. Backcountry skiing and splitboarding are two of my favorite activities in the world and there are few better places for those than in the Wasatch.

## 2. In your mind, what are the most important issues facing the Central Wasatch Mountains today?

The pressures that increased visitation and demand (ski resort expansion, for example) are placing on this region and how they

might impact water quality. I think these tie into proposed legislation and transportation options and how the Salt Lake City Mayor will engage with the Central Wasatch Commission to lead in making things happen.

## 3. Transportation. What are your thoughts about UDOT's plans for reducing traffic congestion in Little Cottonwood Canyon? How much do you think this plan should try to reduce congestion by increasing the number of cars that the highway and parking areas can handle versus some form of public transit that reduces reliance on cars?

I dislike options that will increase the impact of infrastructure in Little Cottonwood. I prefer options that reduce impacts. I also want to ensure that UDOT's plans do not have unintended negative consequences in Big Cottonwood, as a result.

## 4. Public Lands. What are your thoughts with regard to the current Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area (CWNCRA) proposal and efforts to enact federal legislation to protect the Central Wasatch Mountains?

I support it. Having worked on public lands legislation at the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance I know these efforts require political

leadership and attention. I would like to provide that and help push this effort in Congress. It is time to expand wilderness in the Wasatch and add new protections to deserving areas.

**5. Recreation. Are you concerned that very high recreational usage is harming the environment(s) or degrading the experience of being in the canyons? What zoning, ordinance or policy decisions would you support to maintain a balance of recreational use and habitat health and water quality in the Central Wasatch Canyons?**

Yes, there are areas where we need to do better to address these impacts--this is an ongoing struggle in the Central Wasatch. I think that many of the prescriptions for solutions should be made on a case-by-case basis but in the end we always need to be able to show that we are maintaining or improving water quality.

**6. Water policy. Utah cities have been granted authority to protect sources of drinking water under a provision called "extraterritorial jurisdiction." In recent years this authority has come under attack by legislators, developers, and speculators seeking to diminish Salt Lake City's ability to protect water quality. If**

**elected, how will you insure citizens continue to have access to high quality drinking water while balancing other uses in our watersheds?**

I will make this my guiding principle in approaching Wasatch issues. One key is that the mayor must raise this issue constantly with the Legislature and explain how critical it is to protecting our drinking water. I also think we need to continue to work to purchase key private inholdings.

**7. Local Ordinance(s). What types of ordinances should be put in place (or revisited) to protect the environment, water quality, access, and integrity of the Central Wasatch Mountains?**

I do not have any specific plans to change ordinances right now. I am open to revisiting the city's Watershed Management Plan, given its age.

**8. Land Use Planning. The canyons are already very heavily used and, as you probably know, the population of the Wasatch Front is expected to double within several decades. What would you like the canyons to be like in fifty or sixty years, and what, if anything, do you think**

**our government needs to do to make sure it will be that way?**

I envision the canyons with improved water quality, continuing to provide quick access and respite from our urban areas, and healthy. I think three keys in making this happen that we can pursue in a mayor's next term are passing the CWNCRA, solving Little Cottonwood transportation issues, and continuing to purchase inholdings.

**9. Is there anything else people should understand about your vision, plans, ideas, or policies for the Central Wasatch Mountains?**

I feel lucky to have such an incredible resource so close to our city. I want everyone

*Save Our Canyons is a 501c3 non-profit organization. These questionnaires are provided for the benefit of our members and the community we seek to serve. We reached out to all candidates for the particular office and have provided responses un-edited as they were received, some candidates have opted to not respond. If you have questions about the responses, we encourage you to reach out to the candidate. If you have a comment about the questionnaire or a suggestion of others elected seats we should issue to, please reach out to Save Our Canyons. 801-363-7283, [info@saveourcanyons.org](mailto:info@saveourcanyons.org).*