

Jim Dabakis

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?

I cherish the words of Edward Abbey and Wallace Stegner. I spent the last 30 years in Utah. I love so many things about this state, but when I see the mountains, I know that I'm home.

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

As the Wasatch Mountains are an area of such ecological and community importance, it is essential to look towards their continuing and future



protection and conservation. The growing development and population boom in the Wasatch Front area brings tremendous challenges that strike at the very soul of our community.

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 prefer much greater use of public transportation.

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

I stand by the efforts of CWNCR and Mayor Becker to get this done. I am not a person with a lot of patience and I think this needs to be done with great expediency. I would see this as an issue of the highest order, and as mayor, would plan a trip to Washington in the earliest days of my administration to stop the log jam.

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?

The Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute predicts that Utah's population will grow to 5.8 million in 2065. This terrifies me. I am afraid we will trample and extinguish the lungs of our area. Of course we need to pass zoning protections so that these priceless treasures will be preserved and protected for 1,000 years.

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?

Representative Noel and others' attempts to hijack water rights for a chosen few must be rebuffed at all cost.

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?

That is a good question. I don't have all the answers. I look forward to getting input from groups like Save Our Canyons to help craft the ordinances and protections we need. These issues are dynamic and I feel comfortable sharing with you that my broad approach to public land issues is one of respect and reverence for the land.

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?

This is the great question of our age. Will we have the foresight, wisdom and courage to protect the outdoor experience that has brought so many of us to this place to live? Or will we allow it to be frittered away for quick, selfish, short-term profit for a few?

9. Is there anything else people should understand about your vision, plans,

ideas, or policies for the Central Wasatch Mountains?

I am proud of my quiet work in Washington, including three visits in dealing with the top-level Obama administration officials on Bears Ears. I know how Washington works (and doesn't work) it will be an honor and a great burden to bring our Utah sensibility to Washington. I see great potential to create alliances in Washington. Optimistically, I'm predicting more progressive ideas and people in the near future in Washington.

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.