

Charles Kimball – Independent candidate for Utah’s 2nd Congressional District

With the national debt at over \$16 trillion, and no budget passed for the last three years, how do you propose bringing spending under control?

To boost jobs and growth, we first need major, permanent tax reform. I propose we lower our sky-high corporate income and payroll taxes. Once unemployment comes down to 6 percent again, we replace those lost revenues with new taxes on consumption and dirty energy. Establishing a carbon tax with the income going to both deficit reduction and new energy research is one step in that process. Research shows that a \$20 per ton carbon tax could generate \$90 billion in the first year alone. And the additional jobs generated by the new energy research bring more income into the system. Additionally, shifting our energy focus needs to be part of any long term solution that addresses our debt and our economy.

I don’t pretend to have all the answers. I am also aware that neither party possesses the ability or desire to bridge their ideological divide to opening and honestly address this national security problem. I do know that we must.

How do you propose to stimulate job growth in Utah and the nation?

Such are the times where increasing globalization, technological connectivity, ease of information access and the sheer acceleration of innovation highlights the pressing need to invest in research and design on a grand scale. What sufficed for an economic base of yesteryear has changed as the result of a dynamic period of innovation. In order to stay ahead, we too must change. The best approach for moving forward and building the sustainable economic environment each of us seeks begins with education. Education prepares us for the road ahead with confidence that we can meet any challenges.

Fixing the economy is not the sole responsibility of the federal government. That task falls more on us, as individual citizens, as partners, as families and as members of the business community. Government’s role is to ensure that each and every one of us is allowed fair opportunity to achieve. In times of high unemployment, government can create short-term work/ education programs that lay the groundwork for sustainable employment.

One candidate can do little. However, a member of Congress committed to collaboration and cooperation can do much. Strengthening ties between academia and business benefits both the public and the private sectors. If elected, I’d promote a shared investment in science and technology grant program specifically structured to incentivize talent and stimulate innovation. We must take a chance on talent to win innovations’ rewards. I would also support programs that link classrooms with boardrooms that carry students’ daring ideas into the marketplace.

I believe businesses can find the talent and technologies they'll need by participating in the transition. By uniting universities and entrepreneurs we can build partnerships that lead to economic stability for the state and the nation.

The issue of public lands is a sensitive one in southern Utah. Do you support HB 148 and its language telling the federal government to transfer control of public lands to the state? Yes or No, and why?

I do not support HB 148 as I believe it is a short sighted and half step solution to the central question of how to bring sustainable economic prosperity to southern Utah and in particular rural Utah. I have proposed a much more proactive, mutually beneficial relationship between the state, the citizens and the federal government. What I advocate and would support is creating a series of educational bio-campuses that allows the natural beauty; the natural history, and the pristine environment to serve as an educational tool for Utah students and beyond. Imagine students coming from all over the country and maybe the world to study our deserts, our red rock and our dunes. These campuses would blend into the natural beauty of the region. The goal is to create a prosperous community that retains the very ideals and reason that so many have expressed to me their reason for living near these lands.

On matters of foreign policy, facets of the public have both supported and decried military action in other nations, particularly the Middle East. Did you support military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan, and do you believe Iran to be a threat to the national security of the United States?

During the initial few weeks following 9-11 like so many I was angry, I was vengeful, I felt vulnerable. I wanted revenge! When evidence surfaced I supported our actions. So, with respect to engaging Afghanistan, I supported our action because I believed our cause to be just.

Iraq in many regards was the collateral outcropping of the action in Afghanistan. Based upon evidence that we now know to have been erroneous, we engaged in a ten year struggle under the banner of democratization and freedom. I have a close friend who did three tours in Iraq and in every way I applaud his service and his sacrifice, but I have questions to this day. Did we, the United States deserve to hunt down and punish those responsible for such heinous crimes? Absolutely!

Iran is a poses a different dilemma. It is clear that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad poses a threat, not only to the region, the United States and the world but also to his own people. Exactly what the nature of that threat is, we can only hypothesize at this moment. For such a despot to have nuclear capability is untenable. But I also believe that any solution must come in concert with the nations most directly affected by Iran's capability. Additionally, the best counter to

Ahmadinejad's bluster and posturing is for the United States to stay diligent, but also continue to set the example of democracy by continuing to strive towards excellence economically, educationally, and socially.

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