

Restoring Public Trust and Ensuring Transparency

Prompt: What specific steps will you take to restore public trust and ensure transparency in local government?

Response:

Public trust is not a talking point; it is the currency of a functional republic. Today, that currency is devalued because our system is built to serve insiders, not the people. To restore trust, we must change the rules. My platform is built on one principle: **No Cronyism, High Accountability**. This is not a "no-cost" platform; it is a "fiscally responsible" one that makes high-value, one-time investments in permanent transparency.

My plan to restore trust is built on four pillars:

1. Personal Accountability: My Pledge to the People

Trust begins with the individual. I cannot demand transparency from the legislature if I do not first practice it myself. My office will be a "glass box."

My pledge is simple:

- I will provide a **daily video update** during the legislative session to explain my work and my votes.
- I will publish a **weekly public list of all meetings** held by my office, including those with lobbyists, constituents, and state officials.

These two commitments are non-negotiable. You have a right to know who is talking to me and what I am doing in your name.

2. Process Accountability: Ending the "Back Room" Bill

We must fix the broken *process* that is designed to empower lobbyists and disempower the public.

- **Mandate a 72-Hour "Public Review" Period:** The public cannot hold government accountable if they cannot keep up. The practice of dropping a 100-page bill at 10:00 p.m. and voting on it at 10:30 p.m. is an indefensible act of legislative malpractice, *designed* to prevent public scrutiny. I will champion a "no-cost" law that requires all legislation to be public for a minimum of 72 hours before a final vote.
- **Ban "Model Legislation":** The "lobbyist-to-lawmaker pipeline" is one of the most corrupting forces in our system. Special interests should not be writing our laws. I will introduce a bill to ban this practice, making it illegal for legislators to introduce "model legislation" written by outside groups. This "no-cost" reform restores the independence of the office by requiring all bills to be drafted by neutral, non-partisan staff.

3. Financial Accountability: A "Radical Transparency Portal"

The fastest way to end cronyism is to follow the money. Utah's \$30 billion budget is currently a black box; I will make it transparent. My "Fiscal Responsibility" platform has two key investments in accountability:

- **Create the "Radical Transparency Portal":** I will champion a one-time, high-value investment to create a single, searchable public database for *every single* state expenditure. This portal will allow any citizen to see how every dollar is spent, which vendors are getting contracts, and how much is being lost to administrative bloat.
- **Mandate "Top 3 Donors" on Ads:** We will end the power of shadowy PACs. I will pass a "no-cost" law requiring all political ads; TV, web, or mail, to clearly list the top three donors funding the message.
- **Real-Time Disclosure:** To power this, I will champion a real-time disclosure law. This will require 48-hour electronic reporting for any donation over \$1,000, and it will *aggregate "bundled" donations* from a single source. This closes the loophole that allows special interests to hide their influence.

4. The "Zero-Tolerance" Policy: Ending Extortion

Finally, I am not naive. I understand that governance requires good-faith compromise, but our current system is rife with extortion.

There is a critical difference between a "win-win" compromise and a "back room" threat.

- A **"win-win" compromise** is when two districts trade support for the public good: "I will support the dam your district needs if you support the hospital my district needs." I will openly defend those conversations.
- A **"back room" threat** is when one politician pressures another for personal or partisan gain: "You will vote for my bill, or I will 'bury' every bill you try to pass."

My office will have a zero-tolerance policy for this bad-faith pressure. I am making this pledge to my constituents and my colleagues: I will *never* trade my vote for a personal favor. If any legislator or lobbyist attempts to pressure me into a corrupt, bad-faith vote, I will make that threat, the context, and the names involved **public**. My transparency pledge is not a gimmick; it is a shield. It is the only way to protect good-faith compromise from the bad-faith extortion that has defined our politics.

My commitment to transparency is the foundation of my platform. It is not just a policy; it is the *only* way to restore public trust. The 'No Cronyism, High Accountability' platform I've detailed here is *how* I will do the job.

But I must also be transparent with you about the political realities on Capitol Hill.

The Utah Forward Party has put forth an ambitious and comprehensive set of priorities, all of which I support. However, a state senator is only given **a limited number of "priority bill" slots** per legislative session. This procedural limit forces a legislator to be strategic, and I will not make the false promise that I can fix every broken system in my first term.

Therefore, my focus must be surgical. My platform is built on two strategic pillars:

1. **Fixing the System:** My first priority will be the systemic 'No Cronyism, High Accountability' package I've detailed in this response.
2. **Fixing Our Health:** My second priority will be my 'Priority Bill' to fix our broken healthcare system: the 'no-cost' deregulation of Direct Primary Care.

My promise is to use these high-impact priority slots to attack the *root* of our problems, while using the full power of my office; my vote, my voice, and my transparency, to champion the rest of our party's common-sense goals.